

From: patrick thirkell
Sent: 18 December 2014 11:41
To: Darren Westmacott
Subject: Re: LR112 - Planning Application 1400517/APP Oldmills Watermill, Oldmills Road, Elgin

Categories: MLRB

Dear Mr Westmacott

I have not received the list of the grievances about building a caretakers cottage, but from what I remember the points I wish to make are:

1: It is true that I do not own all the land on which the many buildings of OldMills are or were built, the point was that it has always been inhabited, and has been worked to provide for upkeep and protection from thieves. Presently I grow trees, bushes and watercress as a crop. Even this has suffered from attack. It was inhabited in living memory, I have spoken to someone who actually lived in the nearby cottages, they were moved by the sudden increase in flooding.

2: There is a flood risk report included in the application, it was carried out by Morrisons and covers the dredging of the entire mill lade, the construction of two new sluices and better access roads, there was also a wildlife study made and included, which covers the ongoing work over the entire area. There is no increased risk of flooding by a new cottage, the opposite is true, if it is continually occupied the flood water ingress can be managed.

3: The foul water treatment is marked on the application, it is an existing Klargester 2500, installed by the council in 1986, is fully functioning and easily has enough capacity.

4: Arson has always been a problem at the site, the police have records of attempts made on other buildings there, while the Moray Council were in charge.

5: The planning officer gave 4 conditions that were to be met prior to permission being given, these were all met, and I am unsure why there was a sudden refusal. This site needs funding, there have been no grants approved for repairs over the years, and all work has been done with the generosity of volunteers and donations of materials on an ad hoc basis, the site needs to earn money to pay for quality repairs.

6: The Chamber of Commerce are aware of my plans, and have backed the proposals made as part of their development plan backed by the Moray Council local area plan.

7: The quality of the build will be very high, the contractor is Billy Miller, he can be approached for verification, I have applied to "Grand Designs" to film this highly insulated passive house being built, but they will not start without seeing the planning permission.

If you have any other queries please contact me, this site needs saving from ruin, this plan will fund the regeneration of the important watermill site. My architect is available for further explanations.

P A Thirkell