

Michelle Houghton

From: Norton, Tristan <Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 January 2015 10:18
To: Heather Lealan
Cc: Planning and Development Shared Mailbox; Havant Auto-Reply
Subject: APP/14/01174 1 Hawthorne Close, Hayling Island 14.0860

Dear Heather,

APP/14/01174 | Display of 5 freestanding signs and 7No. flags mounted on 6m high flagpoles | 1 Hawthorne Close, Hayling Island | 14.0860

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

This application is not accompanied by any ecological information but given that the application is for advertising flags and signage I would not expect there to be any bespoke assessment. However, there is clearly some (albeit limited) potential for visual and noise impacts which needs to be considered. Given the proximity of the field to the east, which is used by brent geese during the winter months, there is clearly sensitivity in terms of avoiding/minimising any potential issues.

From my review of the application documents, in addition to my conversation with you this morning, I understand that you have requested that the height of the flagpoles is reduced to 4m rather than 6m – this seems a sensible approach and would hopefully reduce the potential for disturbance of geese (at least visually). It should be pointed out that geese (and other species) will only be present between October and March and therefore the likelihood of impact is seasonal – I am unsure for how long these flags are required but there is only an issue for the next eight weeks or so.

The issue of noise is one for which I have no specific expertise but I would be surprised if flags catching in the wind would generate sufficient noise to create routine disturbance of birds – Natural England's advice is that levels over 69dB are where issues are significant. Given that the site is an active construction zone it would appear that background noise levels are already high.

One other possible option to further minimise any potential for impact would be to avoid placing flagpoles on the eastern side of the new access road, thereby drawing the flagpoles back from the side of the site nearest the field: this would presumably diminish any noise and visual impacts. Is there really a requirement for seven flags or will a smaller number suffice? Some compromise would seem to be a sensible gesture.

In summary, I do not consider that the issue of flags is an overriding one, provided that effort is made to minimise any potential for undue noise and visual impacts to the adjacent field.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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