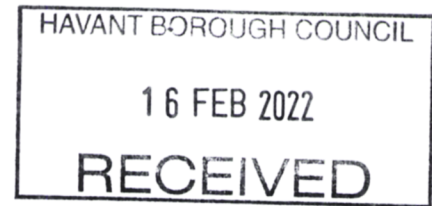


15th February 2022



FAO -

Mr S Weaver - Planning Officer
Havant Borough Council

Dear Mr Weaver,

Ref: Tournerbury wedding venue planning application -

I am writing to you to give my wholehearted endorsement of this application, both professionally and as a local resident.

Since 2000, I have been employed as one of the Hampshire Registrar's as part of the Hampshire County Council Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages service. I retired last year after 21 years of service.

I am also a Havant Borough resident, having lived on Hayling Island for the last fifty years since 1972.

In my capacity as a Hampshire Registrar, I have officiated at numerous weddings at Tournerbury and as you would expect, all other venues that are licenced by Hampshire County Council for legal wedding ceremonies to take place.

Tournerbury is without exception, and without doubt - THE standout venue in our area. I have witnessed nothing but extraordinary joy and happiness at this very beautiful place.

As a team, we are always happy to go to Tournerbury to officiate wedding ceremonies. This is not just because of the natural beauty, but also the warmth of the welcome from Lucy the Venue Manager and her team who conduct themselves in an utterly professional manner. We see a great many different venues as Registrar's and get to see first-hand the way they are run and organised from general maintenance to health and safety etc. Again, Tournerbury is THE standout venue. The management and their team have a complete handle on guests and the happy couple and their immediate family and suppliers and the professionalism with which Tournerbury is run on wedding days that I have witnessed many, many times is honestly second to none.

The wedding industry is not easy, there can be many stresses and emotions and family politics can be involved. It takes real passion and care to be able to oversee weddings and I have never encountered another team such as those that work at Tournerbury who do this so well and with such empathy and thoughtfulness.

I am terribly disheartened to see that there is still vociferous and rather dramatic narrative being promoted to you from less than a handful of objectors, whom seem to be solely focussed on trying to close this remarkable and brilliant venue down. Their motives do not sit well with me, and do not seem to be sincere, nor based in credible fact.

On numerous occasions, over many years, I and my colleagues have travelled into and out of the venue without any sort of conflict arising, without any traffic or Health and Safety issues being apparent and without any sort of incident occurring at all of those that have been presented to you. I was not aware that Tournerbury Farm was actually 'a working farm'! There are occasionally a couple of horses in one of the barns, and it is difficult to describe exactly what else goes on there, but it has never struck me as having any 'farming' activity on my many journeys in and out. I hope that you will take such objecting protestations with considerably more than a pinch of salt.

When a venue becomes licenced for weddings, an extensive exercise is undertaken by Hampshire County Council Registrars Service which includes Fire Risk, Health and Safety etc and onsite inspections. You should be aware Tournerbury has never raised any red flags in this regard, either at the venue or the access to it from the County's perspective.

There are a great many wedding and hospitality venues that I have attended that have shared access routes and that are single width over either most or much of their length with residential buildings alongside. One of the supporting letters I see mentions Hayling Sailing Club as a comparison and this is a good example. It is a licenced wedding venue; it has a single width access over a very long stretch of the initial access with a steep and immediate drop into water when the tide is in on both sides and this is a very heavily used Public right of Way. It isn't lit, there aren't any barriers, there are residential houses present and those brave souls of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution need to have unhindered emergency access along it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. From the time of the club being totally demolished and re-built in the early 2000's, I am not aware of there having been any health and safety issues or accidents here that are so fearfully expressed in the objector's comments as referenced above. The sailing club access has been *proven to be safe and suitable for purpose over the last two decades despite the numbers of users (hundreds of thousands of vehicle and pedestrian and cyclists' movements)*, many with long boats on trailers, large catering supplying lorries etc all using it in harmony. When one looks at that and then looks at the noises in

objection coming from Tournerbury Farm, it is hard to give them any credence at all.

As a Hayling resident, I have also attended a function at the venue and even as a guest, as opposed to being a representative of the County Council, I observed the same passion and professionalism in the staff and the organisation that I have witnessed on a great many occasions in my professional capacity. It was a total joy to be at this stunning place as a guest as opposed to be working, and to see 'the other side of the coin' and it was immediately apparent why it has grown to be a success over the years.

This is such a 'good' (in the purest sense) 'use of land' that does so much more for our Island and our Borough than might at first appear on the surface. It is completely sustainable, wholly positive for our community, extraordinarily beneficial to our small businesses and all those that work in them and the income it generates sustains the ecological management of the rest of the Estate.

I think we should all be really proud that Tournerbury is here, it's a real strength in our hospitality offering as a Borough and a commendable example of good long-term land stewardship. To turn this application down would suggest that something is seriously wrong in the Council's aspirations, duties and commitments for the well-being, health, environmental and economic success of its residents.

I hope you will bear all of the above very squarely in mind when making your deliberations / considerations of this application.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

