



Ponsonby and Calderbridge Parish Council
C/O 59 Meadowfield
Gosforth
Cumbria
CA20 1HU

Monday, October 30, 2023

Cumberland Council
The Market Hall
Market Place
Whitehaven
CA28 7JG

Dear Sirs,

Re: 4/23/2290/0F1 – Change of use of land from Landscaped area to Memorial Garden

As a result of a recent discussion of the proposed planning application, the Parish Chairman has asked for the following comments to be submitted;

This application has been submitted on behalf of CNC and seeks approval for the construction of a small memorial garden. Our Parish council have no objection to the proposal.

However we do have one qualifying comment. The application refers to a previous application 4/15/2251/0F1 which gained approval for the training facility Griffin Park besides, which the garden will be constructed. It notes that the noise assessment for this training facility concluded that the training facility was “unlikely to cause disturbance to the nearest sensitive receptors”; this application suggests that the garden will not prejudice that conclusion, and we agree with that suggestion.

However, on at least three occasions this year low flying (less than 100ft) large military helicopters (chinooks), have circled our villages several times before landing / hovering at Griffin Park to use the training facilities. These have caused both disturbance and concern to some of our residents. Although the noise was very significant, most concerns were raised because Griffin Park is adjacent to Sellafield. Thus, people wondered if something was “happening” as a result of a site emergency and/ or security threat (the residents in question live within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone for Sellafield). These concerns could have been prevented or allayed by more effective communications between CNC and the local population. We have raised this with CNC on several occasions and we feel we have been fobbed off by CNC who have used security as an excuse for limited communications. However, our last discussions with them have raised some hopes that communications between CNC and communities which border the Sellafield site can and will be improved.

If that proves not to be the case, we are likely to request that you review the decision you took on 4/15/2251/0F1. Additionally, our Parish is unlikely to look favourably on any future more significant applications from CNC.



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Kind regards,

Hannah Webb
Ponsonby and Calderbridge Parish Clerk.