

R W Collier Haulage
6 Marsh Road
Sutterton
Lincs
PE20 2LR

Boston Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
West Street
Boston
Lincs
PE21 8QR

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

Dear Sirs,

Supporting Statement

Please find herein my request to vary the conditions attached to planning ref B/11/0449 to remove the number of tractor units and trailers stored at and operating from the property.

It is my understanding from a telephone conversation my wife, Kylie Collier, had with a planning officer some time back that it is unusual for modern applications to have a limit set, other than the natural limit of those able to be parked.

We are currently operating in a time where demand is far outstripping our capacity – we have serviced the Port of Boston for the last 10 years and currently bring back building materials into the area for housing and other developments.

With the driver shortages affecting all sectors our customers are struggling, We are confident however that as a small company we are able to recruit and retain reliable workers to join our team and will create 3 full time jobs within 18 months by adding two further tractor units and trailers; one office based and two driving. I believe this to be in accordance with the guidance in paras 186-187 of the NPPF (2012) in order to seek secure sustainable development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions of the borough.

Routine, preventative maintenance is not performed on site. All of our servicing and the overwhelming majority or repair work is performed off-site – for the tractor units at an Iveco dealership in Birmingham (or Peterborough) as all of the vehicles are covered by a full Repair and maintenance contract meaning that all works are covered and performed by them. The trailers are maintained, serviced and taken for MOT by Andy Cridland and this takes place at his yard at Fosdyke. Of course there is the very occasional exception due to an unforeseen breakdown etc. however we adhere to operating hours for any work that is absolutely necessary to be carried out at our premises. This is to ensure the comfort of ourselves as well as the nearby resident.

We solely run flat bed trailers which do not require power etc. during the night in the way that a fridge / chill trailer would so there is no noise impact of parking extra vehicles at the site. The only exception is in the run up to Christmas time where we often support local food manufactures by stepping in to help with traction work, however it is very rare that we would bring a third party's fridge back to base; on the odd occasion that has happened we have ensured it is the unit parked furthest from the neighbouring residential property.

We are adjoined by agricultural land to the South and the busy A16 and new McDonald's / V8 / HGV parking services development to the rear of the yard. To the east of the property is more agricultural land leading to the A17. To the north of the site is a nursery supplies and wholesale business with HGV and LGV movements and sheds, and one residential property with their associated storage surrounding it in parallel with our bungalow at the front of the site, so furthest position from our yard. The businesses and two homes here are all of a similar disposition and operate broadly along the same hours.

We have tall mature hedging bordering both sides of the yard to ensure the character of the local area is preserved, and to keep our visual presence to a minimum.

The location of the site just off of the strategically important A16 and A17 roads mean that we are ideally placed to continue to service the needs of businesses in the local area and can expand without the need for brining additional traffic through a town or village, in accordance with the Boston Local Plan.

I do not believe that varying the conditions to allow the natural number of tractor units and trailers to be parked at the site would cause harm to the character of the area, highway safety or residential amenity.

I have operated from this site without issue for 10 years, as did my father before me. I have lived here since birth and am now raising my own young family here too so I have a vested interest in making both the business a success and keeping our space looking as tidy and maintained as possible. Over the last 10 years we have grown in a slow and sustainable way offering skilled well paying jobs to local residents and we hope to continue along this trajectory.

Yours Faithfully,

Robert Collier