

Melanie Steadman

From: Nigel Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2022 08:34
To: Melanie Steadman
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Application 21250 Betley Court Farm

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Hi Melanie,

We understand that there has been an application from Betley Court Farm for a license. We are writing as immediate neighbours of Betley Court Farm with a long boundary between Betley Court Farm and Betley Court. Over many years of events at the Farm, we have never had a need to complain about activities on the farm and the Speed Family have always tried to ensure that their activities do not impact their neighbours.

As you probably know, Betley Court was seriously damaged by fire in 2019 and our father, Prof Godfrey Brown, (who was present when the fire broke out) had to move out for a few months. However as soon as possible, he moved back into part of the house that was less damaged as he viewed this as the family house where he had lived with his family since 1978. Unfortunately, he passed away last year and since the fire, all three of his sons and their families have subsequently spent time living at Betley Court whilst it is being renovated.

We understand that a flyer has been posted through letter boxes which seems to indicate a misunderstanding of the use of type of events that will be held in the Tea Room and Farm and this flyer is trying to get the application rejected on the grounds of noise, traffic increase and nuisance to village life and amenities. It appears that the intent of the flyer is to create fear through suggesting a large invasion of people 365 days a year.

We understand from Betley Court Farm that the application is intended to provide the ability for the Tea Room to provide wine for people to enjoy whilst having tea and meals within the Tea Room and a facility for alcohol to be supplied to the holiday cottages as a service to visitors. In addition, Betley Court Farm look to expand the number of events held at the farm to 10, with the possibility of increasing the numbers attending. This application will encourage new activities in the villager, including, we understand, plays, films, music and dance – all things which will be of benefit to the village.

We would like to address the concerns raised separately:

1. Noise – as one of the closest neighbours, we do not plan to object on the grounds of noise as we have not found this to be a significant issue over the last 44 years.
2. Traffic increase – most of the traffic that goes to the Tea Rooms is local and the ability to have a glass of wine with an afternoon tea would actually be of benefit to the residents of the village. They type of villagers going out for afternoon teas or a bite to eat are not the sort to create nuisance within the village. Events in the village will bring new activities to the villagers. The Speeds have extensive experience of holding events, having held both the Betley Bonfire and Show on their property for many, many years. It is understood that the new events proposed will be on a significantly smaller scale than these two events and we do not believe they will cause a problem through significantly increased traffic.
3. Nuisance to village Life and amenities – as you will note from the point above, we believe that this will enhance village life and amenities rather than create problems.

Strong rural business provide much of the local employment within rural settings.

Based on our understanding of Betley Court Farm's plans we support this application on the basis of benefits to the village and look forward to being able to take advantage of a successful application by enjoying a glass of wine with an afternoon tea, and then attending a new event in the village before walking the short distance home.

On behalf of the Brown Family, owners of Betley Court

Dr Nigel Brown & Ms Susan Hurrell
Mr Denton Brown & Ms Bridget Kosla-Brown
Mr Martin Brown & Mrs Fong Kit Doris Brown

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