

Ref APP/2021/1293

Formation of 20m x 20m Concrete Slab for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Training and Installation of 2 Storage Containers,

Fire Training Centre Portlethen Aberdeenshire AB12 4RR

Dear Planning colleague,

While supportive of the enhancement of the facilities in relation the ability of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to deliver the highest levels of training, North Kincardine Rural Community Council (NKRCC) seek to raise a concern regarding APP/2021/1293 in relation to what appears to be an omission in the proposed application to address the visual impact of the site through landscaping and planting. We also have some concerns in relation to the mitigation of light pollution associated with the proposed floodlighting.

Some residents in the NKRCC area face directly onto the proposed site, while the new facilities will erode the landscape for others enjoying the amenity of the rural environment. The elevation of parts of the existing Fire Training Centre facilities are visible on the skyline and it should also be noted that the wall at the adjacent land leased to Police Scotland for the firearms range considerably disrupts the rural skyline. Given that the proposed new facilities and the land leased to Police Scotland already encroach beyond the boundary of the green belt, it is not unreasonable to expect that measures should also be required to restore the visual boundary to the green belt in the context of it's spatial form as set out in clause 51 of Scottish Planning Policy (Dec 2020).

NKRCC request that conditions be imposed, should the application be granted, requiring suitable landscaping and/or planting measures (fast growing tree cover around the boundary of the site) to ameliorate the negative visual impact of the additional facilities to be constructed. This may also provide an opportunity to restore the visual boundary to the green belt if extended as a goodwill gesture to the land leased by the Fire Service to Police Scotland. There may be an opportunity to incorporate suitable planting that would be consistent with supporting the "Queen's Green Canopy" initiative. NKRCC would be happy to engage in discussion with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to explore ways we could support such an effort.

NKRCC also request that consideration be given to conditions required to ensure that the selection of external lighting minimises light pollution as far as reasonably practicable for the safe operation of the facilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Farquhar', written in a cursive style.

Rod Farquhar

NKRCC Planning