

Supporting Statement for the Planning Department CIOS

We would like to apply for a change of use of part of the western end of the recreational area known as Holgate's Green in Hugh Town, St. Mary's with effect from March 2023. We wish to use this site to run our mobile hot food takeaway unit (**Lily's**) in the form of a catering trailer towed by a short-wheeled base Landrover, having previously used this site on a temporary street trading basis in agreement with the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

There is an evermore urgent need for more food outlets on St. Mary's, particularly given the recent reduced offer and, in some cases, closure of some restaurants in recent times combined with increasing visitor numbers. Demand far outstrips supply, which is causing significant reputational damage to the islands as a tourist destination. Many visitors complain (locally and via social media platforms) that they cannot get food, especially in the evenings, even when they attempt to book many weeks in advance. Holidaymakers who are unaware of the situation and who, therefore, have not made advance table bookings, complain that even the local supermarket has run out of sandwiches by evening and that food is unavailable. Tourism in Scilly is suffering potentially irreparable damage as a result. Visitors are heard to say that they will not return due to these difficulties. It is often said that tourism accounts for approximately 85% of the islands' revenue. Our proposal, if accepted, would merely help to mitigate this situation.

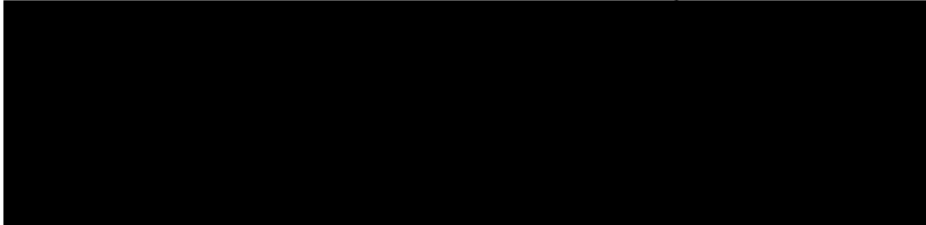
Holgate's Green is a large, open area with picnic benches and easy access to public conveniences. It is an ideal location for our proposal. The grassy area is roughly 60 metres long and 24 metres wide. Given the size of our vehicles relative to the size of the whole area, any visually negative impact would be minimal. The towable catering trailer is 3 metre long, 1.65 metres wide and 2.3 metres high. The Landrover is less than 4 metres long, 1.6 metres wide and 1.9 metres high. It would be positioned behind the catering trailer, under the large hedge, to reduce any visual impact when viewed from the Green. The Landrover has been customised to house a generator supplying electric power to the catering trailer. Much research has gone into finding a very quiet generator in order to avoid noise pollution and disturbance for local residents during operating hours. The rear of the Landrover has been insulated and compartmentalised to further reduce noise levels. At the July 11th site meeting, attendees agreed that the noise levels during the simulation of trading were reasonable and, indeed, quieter than the passing traffic. Most of the cooking equipment is gas-powered and, therefore, silent. We do not anticipate strong food odours or atmospheric pollution due to the type of food on offer. It is proposed that all waste produced within the trailer be removed from the site at the end of each day's trading. The site will be inspected on a daily basis and any discarded waste in the immediate area of trading will be collected and removed. Customers will be discouraged from feeding gulls and from leaving food waste on the ground.

In order to access the site, it is necessary to cross a footpath to get from the highway onto the Green. To facilitate this manoeuvre, we propose always to have two persons present in the interests of public safety. One person would stand on the footpath to advise pedestrians. The Green is used for large public events at various times throughout the year, so this type of manoeuvre is accepted practice locally. We would also use a timber ramp to protect the low kerb edge during manoeuvring onto and off the Green.

Our trailer has no external lighting. Light would only be emitted when the trading hatch is open during business hours. Ideally, we would like to trade on 6 evenings and 4 or 5 lunchtimes per week during the tourist season with the possibility of occasional trading in the winter, if there is sufficient local demand.

In summary, our proposal is to provide a much-needed food outlet on a wide, open space in Hugh Town, where there are adequate facilities. The fully mobile unit would be removed from the site at the end of each day's trading. It is our opinion that this venture would enhance the tourist provision and contribute to improving the visitor experience.

Martyn and Ammarawadee Smalley



11/8/22.