

RECEIVED

By Liv Rickman at 10:09 am, Oct 21, 2022

Why we need it

As you will no doubt know from the news, fish & chip shops have been hit particularly hard, first from the pandemic and then the Ukraine conflict which has seen the cost of marine fuel double over the past year, Electricity prices double, and cooking oil almost treble in cost. Obviously in the islands we see the costs yet higher with the addition of freight. Add these to the existing problems of record inflation, the VAT threshold not rising & a nonexistent workforce. We have remained busy but only because we can't pass on the true increase in cost to the customer so it comes out of our earnings!

Some may say we have had a lot of planning proposals over the years but I would point out they still don't equate to the facilities & structures enjoyed by other businesses on the island- certainly not in earning potential! We have had to start from scratch as a new business to acquire the assets necessary to operate as there are none for sale or rent.

The planning committee recently granted consent to an 11m long shepherds hut right outside our bedroom window and in full view of higher town bay despite our concerns of overlooking. Also three shepherd's huts in Lower town clearly visible all the way down middle town hill. These are both to businesses already enjoying multiple holiday lets. Consent was given to two more huts only around 100m away from our proposed site as the previous owner had retired but retained the letting accommodation that went with the farm. I believe my proposal will have no more impact on the landscape than some of the above mentioned. It is also very much in line with the development permitted on Bryher where a similar business has also acquired staff accommodation and a pod for letting.

Adams fish and chips has been operating for 19 years now and will continue as long as possible but all the ancillary facilities & services such as fishing boats, water supplies, staff housing etc etc soak up most of our earnings and all of our time. We can't keep up the workload & investment forever without something to subsidize it/us a bit more. I think this to be in line with the local plan policy section 302 with a rise in our income with a sustainable development. It also supports our restaurant & fishing business with local food production section 305. The design of this development is also in line with developing the environmentally friendly holiday market section 306 & 313.

The pod /hut we have applied for is wider than most to give a better surface to volume ratio and use the extra space to target the family market rather than the couples all the units to date are suited for. This adds more choice for the so called "glamping market" on St.Martins (plan section 316) The most reliable source for customers for our fish & chips shop are the holiday lets in surrounding higher town. As soon as poor weather arrives, orders from the campsite or lower town cancel or stay away. We hope this will also help our customer numbers with perhaps another 300 meal/ nights a year or so.

Adam Morton