

Dear Council,

I am writing with regards to the Section 78 Appeal at Land South of Llay Road, Cefn y Bedd, Wrexham.

Last year I was delighted that the committee had refused permission for planning application P/2022/0681. However, as the application is now under appeal, I would like to state my opposition to the proposals, on the following grounds:

Biodiversity will be threatened, and manure run-off will likely cause pollution. Phosphate pollution is an increasing problem, and farming herds of large mammals for recreational purposes is not an acceptable reason to risk exacerbating that problem.

The site already suffers from a lack of water, and with continuing climate change this will only worsen in future. The water available on the site should be left for wild native species.

This development does not offer anything new to the area, being less than fifteen minutes' drive from 'Reindeer Lodge'. The applicants also own a reindeer centre only fifteen miles from this site.

The site will create unnecessary seasonal traffic from visitors and pose a risk to pedestrians.

The site is far too small to provide an adequate environment for reindeer, who can migrate thousands of miles in large herds, sometimes tens of thousands, in the wild. It is not possible for this site to accommodate the optimum herd size and conditions for reindeer to thrive.

Reindeer physiology is adapted to cold, snowy environments, and their ideal climate is that of the arctic circle, which cannot be replicated in Wales. With rising temperatures due to climate change, the keeping of reindeer in the UK will become less humane each year it continues.

Reindeer hire and display is increasingly met with ethical concerns in the UK and is opposed by a number of charities, including the RSPCA, as well as an increasing proportion of the general public. There is growing concern that animals used in these events suffer as a result of the stress of transit, exposure to crowds, and confinement to small enclosures.

I hope that the council will again refuse permission for this development, and I would be grateful to receive a copy of the appeal decision letter when it is circulated.

Kind Regards,
Anne-Marie Hewitt

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