

020/0

Implementation Date: 01 September 2023

Template for Requesting Speaking Rights at the Planning Committee

The Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee provides for interested person(s) to register to speak on a planning application that is scheduled to be determined at the next meeting of the Planning Committee. This request must be received by the Planning Department no later than 10am on the Monday before the Planning Committee meeting via email account planning@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk.

Planning Reference	LA01/2020/0957/F
Name	LINSEY LYONS
Contact Details	Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
Support or Objection – please tick relevant box	Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Objection <input type="checkbox"/>

Written representation summarising key points to be addressed and supplementary information in support of your case (minimum font size 10 and maximum length two sides of A4 page).

We are a family run business and lifetime residents of Castlerock, so we care greatly about our impact and our reputation in our local community. We intend to fully comply will all planning conditions placed on the recommended approval.

My siblings Leanne, Linsey and I would like to address some points made by one, Ursula Nutt during your committee meeting on the 27th September. We believe her statements to be highly misleading and untrue. Please allow me to clarify certain accusations she made.

This is a business run from our home and in the past certain allegations made relate to use of areas for our own enjoyment of our home and garden such as private barbeques, etc.

Noise pollution

In reference to noise pollution, Ursula stated that we host dinner evenings **every** weekend and that afterwards our staff congregate in the top deck area of the café and play music loudly until the small hours of the morning. We were actually shocked to hear this as her statement is incredibly dishonest. On one occasion, in May I believe, we had a small BBQ with some friends and family to celebrate the beginning of another summer season. We utilised our top deck space as our own private garden. This area is adjacent to the neighbouring bottom flat number 13. At around 8pm, Ursula's daughter (who is the only resident of the neighbouring bottom apartment) came out and asked us to turn our music down, to which we apologised and turned off our small Bluetooth speaker. This was the last evening we used

the top deck for any occasion, in respect for our neighbour. If needs be I'd be more than happy to support this with CCTV footage of any given night there claims to be a party.

Over the course of Summer, we actually only hosted 3 dinner evenings on the 22nd July, 19th August and 23rd September - all Saturdays. These events would involve local Coleraine restaurant 'Whoosh' to come to the surf shack and cater a meal for a set number of guests. A restricted number of tickets would be sold online. On each occasion, these evenings were always contained to the lower section of the café, out of sight of our neighbours. In fact, all 3 of these nights were terribly wet and so the top deck was most definitely not in use as there is no cover from the rain up there.

Cooking odours

During the day we have a small menu of light bites which consist of toasted sandwiches and sausage rolls. These would be heated in a merrychef oven located in the top shed. We do not produce extravagant meals here - to say these are producing strong kitchen odours is absurd.

Wedding party

On the 2nd of September we closed the café to the public and hosted a wedding reception – the bride being an old family friend of ours. Due to the nature of our relationship, we accepted this as a one-off event and allowed them private hire of our space from 1pm to 6pm. Ursula stated that there were over 100 guests and alcohol was being consumed in mass, and that there was alcohol being brought across from Bertha's bar. I can confirm both statements to be untrue. We had pre-agreed with the bride that her party consisted of no more than 50 people. All drinks being consumed on the premise was self-supplied by the party and surf shack was not responsible for any serving of alcohol. They actually ordered their own Tesco delivery of beverages to the shack that morning. I would also like to confirm the top deck area was off limits to guests. The event had completely disbanded shortly after 6pm.

The party had also organised their own entertainment - A singer with a guitar. He played for two hours and all music ceased by 4pm. We do not believe it to have been disruptive. I have since been informed by licensing officer Tom Keogh of the Causeway council that such entertainment requires a license, to which I wasn't aware. It was my belief that a license would only be required for events open to the public. As this was a private event, we were unsure if it was necessary. In this case, this is our mistake. Tom has since supplied me with the application form for an entertainment license and we will be sure to take the necessary steps to keep our entertainment above board for the future.

I would also personally like to add, that on this day Ursula actually made her way into our café uninvited during the private event. She would approach my sister and I being highly confrontational, threatening to close us down. This happened on several occasions that day. As you can imagine this made us both feel extremely uncomfortable. A week later she returned to the café during our opening hours and proceeded to confront my own mother and father who were sat trying to enjoy a coffee.

As a family we have worked very hard on our business which we are so passionate about. We feel like over the years we have become a staple within our Castlerock community, giving people a place to relax by the sea and even giving the kids the opportunity to learn surfing during the summers. What we do here really matters to us and we are constantly supported by our customers who tell us that Castlerock really needed a place like Surf Shack, to breathe some life back into our quiet corner of the world. By no means do we believe we are a nuisance to Castlerock. We hope that you too can see our potential as a thriving seaside business.