

**Adam Millar**

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**From:** Gemma McAuley on behalf of Planning  
**Sent:** 24 October 2022 09:30  
**To:** Debbie Shirley  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent\*\* Letter to Head of Planning for consideration at Planning Committee...

Ms Shirley

I acknowledge receipt of below e-mail which will be actioned accordingly.

Regards  
Gemma McAuley  
Business Support Officer  
Planning Office  
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Cloonavin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY

Tel: (028) 7034 7100

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Debbie Shirley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 24 October 2022 09:18  
**To:** Planning <Planning@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Urgent\*\* Letter to Head of Planning for consideration at Planning Committee...

Letter to Head of Planning for consideration at Planning Committee meeting on  
26 October 202

October 24, 2022

Planning Department  
Causeway Coast And Glens Borough Council  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY

Dear Mrs Dickson,

Re: LA01/2022/0735/F

I am the applicant in the above case.

I am greatly distressed by the letter from Council's Mr Richardson which appeared as an objection on the planning portal at the late date of 19 October 2022.

I am a young woman seeking to build a coffee outlet business into which I have invested all I have. I bid for and secured the trading site at West Strand, Portrush, paying to Causeway Council, what to me is a large amount of money [REDACTED] per annum for three years up to March 2024.

This time last year being anxious to have the flexibility to expand my business, I wished to make use of the converted horsebox, which was originally sited at West Strand, elsewhere from time to time. I therefore explored putting the present container structure at West Strand.

Before I did anything I advised [REDACTED] (who deals with the concessionary traders) of Mr Richardson's department by email on 8 November 2021 of my intention to change to a container type structure. I have and can provide his What's App response, advising the only restraint was what planning might require. This is what he said "I told u and stand over that I have no problems with a vehicle/trailer/container etc..."

In good faith and with full reliance on [REDACTED] assurance I proceeded with the 'container' and the expenditure to convert it and now I seek planning permission for same.

I, therefore, am very distressed that with this background and council endorsement through [REDACTED] that the Council, through Mr Richardson, now seeks to thwart my planning application. I would not have gone to the expense of acquiring and adapting the container and placing it at West Strand without [REDACTED] go ahead.

I have been through a tortuous year with the council, including threats to revoke my licence, demands to move my container for the 'Mini weekend' (despite the tender offer to other traders for that weekend expressly saying the existing traders would be on site), refusal to meet with me and my MLA to seek a solution and the council engaging outside solicitors to try and force me off site.

Council prides itself on supporting local business, but, sadly, my experience has been very different.

I appeal to the planning committee to bring some semblance of fairness to this situation by granting me temporary planning permission to the end of my licence term in March 2024. Such will not impede anyone's longterm plans for the car park, nor make any ascetic or adverse impact - what is the difference between a horsebox sitting there visible throughout daylight hours and an adapted container which can't be seen after dark?

In regards to other traders in the council area, their trailers are situated within carparks never moved for months on end, but because mine simply has no wheels though it is still a semi perm moveable structure I'm being challenged.

Please, let common sense prevail.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Shirley

6 Mountview Crescent  
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Ballymoney  
BT53 6TR