

Pablo Mascarenhas
Community and Democratic Engagement Manager
The Highland Council
Inverness
IV3 5NX
2nd October 2018

Re: Land/Building at Coupers Yard, Shore Street Helmsdale

Dear Sir

I am writing with regards to the proposal made by Helmsdale & District Development Trust for Coupers Yard, Shore Street Helmsdale. I have some concerns regarding the proposal, mainly the campervan site and glamping pods. I am well aware that an area for such amenities is greatly needed in the village, but should be out with residential areas. Coupers Yard is also on a flood risk area and any development should have this in mind.

The harbour carpark is becoming a big issue for residents of that area, rubbish bins overflowing, rubbish left on the floor. Campervan owners emptying the waste water on the carpark and the roads when leaving the village, also emptying their toilet facilities over the wall into the sea. Leaving the carpark and going the wrong way out of the village, using the no exit road Dunrobin Street out on to the A9 or driving up through the estate and out that way, which is very dangerous with the amount of children that live on the estate. But having said all this to put such an amenity right in the village below a large number of houses is not acceptable. The amount of noise that can be heard from the campervans over the summer months is not pleasant, dogs barking all day, children screaming and crying, loud music etc, would you really want that for the residents of Helmsdale.

There are other sites I know that have been suggested one being The Ponds and I am sure this would be a more suitable area away from residents.

But one of the reasons that the campervans stay on the harbour is that they don't have to pay for the parking, which even if a site was provided they would still park at the harbour. Campervan owners bring nothing into the village as they rarely use the shops for food or the pubs. As for the glamping this could possibly be more of a noise issue for residents as they would mostly be used by the younger generations.

I totally understand that something needs to be done with the land, but it needs to be helping the community not hindering it and making more problems, it should have a scheme to create more jobs in the area or at least benefit the community or help businesses in Helmsdale.

So I oppose such a site made for campervans and glamping pods on Coupers Yard but I do welcome the help for two businesses in the area to grow and hopefully create more employment.