



The Chair and Vice Chair
Central Sub- Area Planning Committee
County Hall
Treyew Rd
Truro
TR1 3AY

6th May 2020

Re: Committee Notification PA19/06196 Gilbert and Goode, Land off St Mewan Lane

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

On behalf of St Mewan Parish Council, I write in response to your communication regarding the above-mentioned planning application.

This Council fully understands the problems associated with planning applications during the current Covid-19 crisis and has no difficulty in supporting the new process in decision making for the majority of straightforward applications as has been demonstrated by our recent responses.

However, in the case of the above-mentioned application, for 19 houses in St Mewan Lane Trewoon, we are unable to support the process proposed. As you are aware, we lodged a formal complaint with Cornwall Council concerning the previous committee meeting. Subsequently this Council also challenged the minutes of that Planning Committee.

While we were considering the next step to take, Cornwall Council decided that the application would be heard again at a full committee meeting (see attached email from Cornwall Council).

Unfortunately, at this stage of the proceedings the United Kingdom, like the rest of the world, was caught up in the Covid-19 pandemic which has created a situation which brought everything to a standstill.

This application generated considerable public interest with around fifty objections plus an action group which was formed to fight the application and although St Mewan Parish Council understands that you wish to clear any backlog of planning applications, for all the reasons set out above we feel that this is a contentious application which falls within point 6 of your temporary protocol on planning during the Covid-19 emergency and should therefore be held over until after the emergency and can be considered at a full committee meeting which can be attended by members of the public in person. Quoting from the Cornwall Council protocol this is " a contentious

application where a decision would not be in the public interest until a full hearing can take place”.

If this crisis has taught us anything it has clearly shown how many people do not have access to technology so could not participate in remote meetings. It could also be considered divisive and discriminatory to make decisions which exclude public participation for any reason whatsoever.

Currently St Mewan Parish Council is without a divisional member and we have therefore asked Cornwall Cllr Dick Cole to represent us on this matter.

Yours faithfully
Chairman of St Mewan Parish Council Planning Committee

G P Tarbox (Mrs)
BA (hons); Dip.Eur. Hum (Open); PGCE(PCE)(Exon)

cc. Louise Wood (Interim) Service Director – Planning and Sustainable Development
Michelle Billing
Cornwall Cllr Dick Cole