

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Development and Conservation
Control Committee

7th July 2004

AUTHOR/S: Director of Development Services

S/0607/90/F – Little Gransden Regional Gliding Competition, Gransden Lodge Airfield For Cambridge Gliding Club

Recommendation: Delegated Approval

Site and Proposal

1. Gransden Lodge Airfield straddles the boundary between South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Districts. Access is gained via the B1046 opposite Gransden Lodge.
2. The Cambridge Gliding Club has written to request approval of its annual regional competition which will be run from Saturday 7th August to Sunday 15th August. A copy of that letter is attached as Appendix 1

Planning History

3. Planning permission was granted for the use of the site as a gliding club in 1990 (**Ref: S/0607/90/F**). One of the conditions attached to that consent limits the number of aerotows (launching of gliders by 'tug' aircraft) to 40 per day to protect nearby residents from noise. However, each year, this Council has allowed a temporary variation of this condition during the annual competition week to enable up to 80 aerotows per day.

Consultation

4. **Croydon Parish Council** has no objections.
5. **Little Gransden Parish Council** has no objections. However bearing in mind the desirability of minimising inconvenience and nuisance to residents, the Parish Council hopes that pilots would continue to exercise the utmost consideration to ensure that wherever possible properties in the village were not overflowed and that visiting pilots should be made aware of these concerns.
6. The comments of **Abbotsley, Arrington, Bourn, Caxton, Croxton, Eltisley, Gamlingay, Gt Gransden, Hatley, Longstowe and Waresley Parish Councils** will be reported verbally.
7. The comments of the **Chief Environmental Health Officer** and **Huntingdon District Council** will be reported verbally.

Planning Comments

8. Consent has been given for a temporary variation of condition in previous years to allow up to 80 aerotows during the competition week. Unfortunately insufficient formal notification of last year's competition was given by the Gliding Club to allow for the usual local consultation with Parish Councils to take place.

9. I am aware that the Gliding Club received a number of complaints in respect of last year's competition. The nature of the event means that the Club will launch a large number of gliders in a short space of time resulting in a fairly intensive period of activity and it is this which tends to give rise to complaints, particularly if this activity is centred on one area. Once the gliders are in the air they can be away from the airfield for the majority of the day.
10. The Gliding Club is aware of this concern and will try and disperse activity as much as possible although the ability to do this is largely dependant on weather conditions at the time. There was concern last year that direct contact with the Gliding Club by phone to register complaints was difficult and this year it has undertaken to have a separate line available for this.
11. I will report the views of outstanding consultees but hope to be able to recommend that the usual dispensation is given to allow up to 80 aerotows a day during competition week

Recommendations

12. That, subject to the response of outstanding consultees, no objections be raised to a temporary variation of Condition 4 to allow up to 80 aerotows a day during the period Saturday 7th August to Sunday 15th August 2004. In addition a letter to be sent to the Gliding Club advising that consideration of any future proposed relaxation of Condition 4 will take account of experience and comments made following this year's competition

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Application File – S/0607/90/F

Contact Officer: Paul Sexton – Area Planning Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713255