

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Development and Conservation Control Committee 1st December 2004
AUTHOR/S: Director of Development Services

S/1172/04/Circular 18/84 - Longstanton
Continuation of Use of Land and Buildings as an Immigration Centre for Further Temporary Period to 31st December 2006, Oakington Barracks, for The Home Office

Recommendation: No objections to a further temporary period of use.

Background

1. This notification under Circular 18/84 was considered by Committee at its meetings on 4th August 2004 (see agenda report Appendix 1) and 3rd November 2004.
2. Committee resolved at the August meeting that subject to no new material adverse comments being made by Longstanton Parish Council, officers be authorised to inform the Home Office that the Council has no objections to the continuation of use for an additional period up to 31st December 2006 subject to the conditions stated in the above report.
3. At the November meeting consideration was deferred pending further consideration by Longstanton Parish Council.
4. Longstanton Parish re-visited the application on Monday 8th November and noted the following:
 - “
 - Communications between the Immigration Centre and the Parish Council have improved over the past months
 - There have been fewer incidents at the Immigration Centre, and in October there were no incidents.”
5. The Parish Clerk has subsequently confirmed that this should be until 31st December 2006.

Recommendation

6. No objections be raised to the use of Oakington Barracks for an Immigration Centre for a further period until 31st December 2006, subject to conditions suggested with the 1999 application.
 1. There shall not be accommodated at the Centre any persons known to have committed within the last five years any criminal offence which if committed in England or Wales would be an imprisonable offence.

(Reason – To allay public concern and prevent the character of the Centre changing from reception/assessment to custodial.)

2. There shall not be accommodated at the Centre any persons known to have an infectious, notifiable disease.
(Reason – To preserve as far as possible the health of the indigenous community and other detainees and to minimise the possibility of overextending existing local medical resources.)
3. No detainee shall be allowed to leave the Centre other than under escort.
(Reason – To minimise the risk of prejudicing public order and to allay public concern about the possible effect of significant numbers of strangers without support within the local community.)
4. The site of the Centre shall not be extended nor anything built thereon without further consultation under Circular 18/84: Crown Land and Crown Development.
(Reason – To secure the proper planning of the area.)
5. Detainees not deported will not be placed in South Cambridgeshire District.
(Reason – To avoid difficulties in integration, there being no identifiable equivalent local ethnic community.)
6. The number of detainees shall not materially exceed 400.
(Reason – To avoid pressure to increase the Centre site area and infrastructure.)

Informatives

Reasons for Approval

1. The development is considered generally to accord with the Development Plan and particularly the following policies:
 - **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003:
P1/2 – Environmental Restrictions on Development**
 - **South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004:
EM10 – Employment in the Countryside**
2. The development is not considered to be significantly detrimental to the following material planning considerations which have been raised during the consultation exercise:
 - Residential amenity including noise disturbance and overlooking issues
 - Highway safety
 - Visual impact on the locality
 - Impact upon setting of adjacent Conservation Area
3. All other material planning considerations have been taken into account. None is of such significance as to outweigh the reason for not objecting to a renewal of the use for a further temporary period expiring on 31st December 2006.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004

Notification File: S/1172/04/Circ. 18/84

Contact Officer: David Rush, Development Control Quality Manager
Telephone: (01954) 713153