

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Development and Conservation Control Committee 6th July 2005
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 will be run from Saturday 20th August to Sunday 28th 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. **Little Gransden Parish Council** has no objections, however, the Parish Council repeats its concerns of last year, that bearing in mind the desirability of minimising inconvenience and nuisance to residents, it is hoped that pilots will continue to exercise consideration to avoid overflying properties in the village and that visiting pilots are made aware of these concerns.
5. **Abbotsley Parish Council** has no objections or comments to make.
6. The comments of **Arrington, Bourn, Cambourne, 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** 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.
9. I am not aware of any complaints received by this Council 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 in the air they can be away from the airfield for the majority of the day.

10. The Gliding Club has always said that it 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 previously that direct contact with the Gliding Club by phone to register complaints was difficult but I understand that this was rectified for last years' event.
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. Any comments received will be forwarded to the Gliding Club

Recommendation

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 20th August 2005 to Sunday 28th August. 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

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