

Mrs Y J Prichard
Planning Department,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Docks Offices,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Councillor Michael Philip Garland
3 Plover Way,
Lavernock Park,
Lavernock
CF64 5FU

16th June 2017

Re: Planning Application

2016/01441/FUL

Cosmeston Lakes Cosmeston Country Park, Lavernock Road, Penarth

A new wakeboarding sporting facility at Cosmeston Lakes Country Park. New installation of electric cable wakeboarding system equipment and a mechanical store. New installation of male changing facilities and the wake park reception. Conversion of parks store room to house female changing area located at Cosmeston visitor centre.

Dear Ms Prichard,

I wish to object to the proposed development for the following reasons:-

1. The proposed development will have an adverse effect on the conservation value of the site and is likely to damage the qualifying features of this site as a site of Special Scientific Interest and also a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, i.e. the wildlife and plant life that inhabits the Country Park and Lakes which would be disturbed by the wash and the noise generated from wakeboarding.

Cosmeston Lakes Country Park is an extensive country park supporting a mosaic of habitats including species-rich calcareous and neutral grasslands, scrub, hedgerows, woodland, streams and ponds which all support a wide assemblage of species and is designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest (0518) and also a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (301). The Country Park supports a resident population of Mute Swans, Canada Geese, Gulls and Coot, Moorhen, Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting, Mallard and other wildfowl and also supports and protects a rare plant called Starry stonewort.

2. The noise / nuisance from what is regarded as a noisy water activity will scare off many if not all the visiting and resident wildlife.
3. Developments requiring the erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling or the laying, maintenance or removal of cables, above or below ground, are likely to damage the qualifying features of this site and should not be permitted.
4. Developments requiring the use of vehicles or craft, and, recreational facilities that are likely to damage the qualifying features should not be permitted at such sites

5. The proposed development will have an adverse effect on the countryside's intrinsic character and beauty.
6. The proposed development will have an adverse effect on the peace and tranquillity valued by visitors to the Country Park by virtue of the noise / nuisance generated from such a development.
7. The proposed development will have an unacceptable effect on the amenity and character of neighbouring environments by virtue of noise, traffic congestion, and exacerbation of parking problems.

Users of the Wakeboarding facility will increase traffic flows to and from the Country Park causing increased noise, congestion and pollution not only for residents in the vicinity of the Country Park but all along the B4267 corridor between Barry and Cardiff.

The proposed development will also have an adverse effect on car / vehicle parking at the Country Park with extra vehicles attempting to use the facility. Car parking at the Country Park is severely limited, with only approximately 192 spaces available in the car parking area, although this is severely reduced due to larger car / vehicles being in current use, lack of individually marked car parking bays and sections of the car parking area being 'blocked-off' either for the film crews that regularly use the Country Park (nearly a third of the car parking area), or for the proposed wedding venue (50 spaces).

The overflow car parking areas, consist of grassed areas, situated alongside Sully Brook are weather dependent and are 25% susceptible to groundwater flooding (LDP Flooding Background Paper) and cannot be used during inclement weather periods and for periods after to allow it to dry out. Therefore these overflow parking areas should not be included in total parking spaces available at the Country Park

The limited car parking usually results in Country Park visitors using the nearby local housing estates for parking which causes accessibility problems on the estates not only for residents but for the emergency services too.

8. It is also noted from the Vale of Glamorgan Council web site and signage around the Lakes that swimming is prohibited in Cosmeston Lakes, due to the cold temperature of the water, the steep sides and depth of the Lakes and also there is a danger of coming into contact with hazardous equipment left in the water from it's quarrying days.

Councillor Michael Garland
(Lavernock Ward -Sully and Lavernock Community Council)
3 Plover Way, Lavernock Park, Lavernock. CF64 5FU