

16<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Gordon,

**Re: 21/00836/FUL | Siting of mobile catering truck and alterations to existing access | Land At Station Yard Traquair Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders**

I am happy to personally support your application for the provision of outside catering within the level grassed curtilage bordering your industrial unit.

Whilst there are a number of eateries throughout the town, there is limited outdoor provision (at the risk of obstruction on the High Street pavements). The ground you own lends itself to al fresco eating with far views along the Tweed Valley. I do not see that your proposal would add to the existing parking problems. My understanding is that what is proposed is catering for the existing resident and visiting populations; I do not perceive a destination-type facility.

I would expect the appropriate authorities to put constraints around emissions from any catering wagon as necessary. There are local precedents in mobile catering facilities, Meatissimo and the Fish and Chip van (both popular). I would similarly expect adequate provision be required for resulting litter disposal.

The culture of Innerleithen is increasingly of an outdoor nature; evidence bistro-type tables and chairs peppering the High Street pavements and the use of garden space at Caddon View hotel. The Traquair Arms Hotel has outside tables and chairs (with alcoholic beverages on offer) which seems to happily co-exist in a residential area. Whilst not on the High Street, I would see this as a complementary extension to it, adding to, not displacing, provision.

There are both mountain bikers and road cyclists to be catered for all the year round, along with other motorists passing through and those working locally. There are numerous dog walkers who could be sensibly accommodated by your proposal. Residents and visitors need choice which you would be providing.

The repeated references to disrespect of those buried in the neighbouring cemetery seem to be overstated. I am not aware of an exclusion zone around any cemetery and the generous footprint of the Traquair Road Cemetery takes visitors behind a wall within which a peaceful setting is maintained.

It would be good to see the Planning department support, rather than stifle, enterprise. We need people such as yourself to take the initiative and add to the town's provisions in support of the organic tourist growth.

I am sending this in a personal capacity, but have copied in my fellow Community Councillors for their consideration. I understand that you intend to attend Monday's Innerleithen & District Community Council meeting which I'm unable to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Couchman