

P0358/23/FUL

This is yet another application which follows the principal of ignore extant planning conditions until either the regulations are changed or precedent from other cases can be cited as a reason for it to be approved. Indeed, even the title of the application is somewhat misleading as it asks for "continued use (retrospective) " which suggests at some time previously such permission existed when, which to the best of our knowledge, it never has.

While the planning statement includes quotes from a variety of sources these are selective and without ready access to the full documents make it difficult to confirm their relevance to this application. However, we would point out one significant difference between this application and that of the other property in the parish that the application refers to: Brookfield Cottage. Unlike the owner of Boxbush Barns the owners of Brookfield Cottage did not ignore that it was a holiday let and left it vacant until a change of use was approved, and the property sold. In contrast, Boxbush Barns has been occupied by long term tenants for most of the time and therefore not meeting the conditions of the planning permission for the site. Evidence of further deliberate disregard of the extant planning permission is that despite the owner being well aware of the current restrictions, as evidenced by this application, the property has already been let to occupants who are running a business from the property.

While changes to the planning regulations may support the grant of this application it is invidious that when other parishioners have had planning applications turned down someone who has flagrantly breached the regulations over a number of years gets what they want without sanction. This case also demonstrates, given that the Parish Council has been under the impression that enforcement action has been in progress for at least the past 9 years, the ineffectiveness of FODDC's planning enforcement organisation.