

LOWES LANE SHOOT

SUNDAY SHOOTING PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED

South Derbyshire's Development Control Committee have rejected an application from the owners of the Lowes Lane Shoot in Swarkestone to allow shooting on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. as well as the other 6 days a week, on a 12 month temporary basis.

The CRA opposed the application on the grounds that:

- The noise is a nuisance because of its intermittent nature
- The noise can be heard all over Chellaston , especially on still days
- The applicants have not submitted an environmental impact assessment
- Guidelines for planners written by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) state that:
 - (a) The shoot should not be located within 1000 metres of residential properties (measured in a rearward direction from the direction of shooting)
 - (b) Shoot organisers should maintain a positive relationship with immediate neighbours
 - (c) If (a) and (b) are satisfied, Sunday shooting should be confined to 3 hours or less.

The 1000 metre "buffer zone" now encloses an estimated 100-plus properties on the west Chellaston development. So, according to the guidelines, the shoot should be further away. Also, to our knowledge, the shoot has made no attempt to consult with any of these residents (nor with the CRA) as they are recommended to do. They have only asked their immediate neighbours on Lowes Lane. Finally, they applied to shoot between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays, a total of 6 hours. These are three breaches of the CIEH guidelines to start with.

The CRA argued that when planning permission was originally granted for 6 days a week, the houses on west Chellaston did not exist. However, now they do, they have a right to be taken in to account.

The South Derbyshire Planning Officer largely agreed with us that the new housing should be taken in to account and stated "that the use of the site for shooting on Sundays would likely result in unacceptable disturbance to residents in a variety of locations around the site. In the absence of firm evidence from the applicant to justify the activity against the CIEH guidelines,

and previous records of noise emanating from the site, the proposal is thus contrary to the development plan”.

At the meeting on 20 April, the CRA was able to make a representation in which the above points were put before the meeting. This was felt to be necessary because the council is made up of representatives from South Derbyshire, not from Chellaston. The CRA would like to thank SDDC for this opportunity.

This may not be the end of the matter. The shoot has regularly applied for permission to shoot on Sundays over the years, so we need to be vigilant. Residents, especially those within the 1000 metre “buffer zone” should note when the noise becomes intrusive and spoils the amenity of their own gardens. Complain to the SDDC Environmental Health department if it is really bad as they do keep records which can be used against any future application.

Be assured that the CRA will oppose any proposed extension of shooting hours in the future. Please help us by keeping us informed and by keeping an eye on the website for any developments.