

Implementation Date: 01 September 2023

Template for Requesting Speaking Rights at the Planning Committee

The Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee provides for interested person(s) to register to speak on a planning application that is scheduled to be determined at the next meeting of the Planning Committee. This request must be received by the Planning Department no later than 10am on the Monday before the Planning Committee meeting via email account planning@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk.

Planning Reference	LA01/2025/0573/O
Name	Lee Kennedy & Laura Feeney McGarrigle.
Contact Details	Tel: Email:
Support or Objection – please tick relevant box	Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Objection <input type="checkbox"/>

Written representation summarising key points to be addressed and supplementary information in support of your case (minimum font size 10 and maximum length two sides of A4 page).

I wish to formally request speaking rights for both the applicant and myself to address the Planning Committee in respect of application **LA01/2025/0573/O**.

This proposal is not simply a rural dwelling application — it represents the **continued establishment of a genuine, independent farming enterprise** and the long-term sustainability of rural life in this area for a young farmer and her family.

At its core, this application is about supporting a new generation of farmers who have demonstrably committed to agriculture over a sustained period and are now seeking to consolidate that commitment through the provision of a permanent home on their land.

The planning policy framework, particularly PPS21, was expressly designed to facilitate this type of development — to encourage generational renewal, strengthen rural communities, and sustain active farming businesses. It is respectfully submitted that this application aligns fully with those overarching objectives.

In this context:

- The applicant's farming activity since 2017/18 is not incidental — it reflects a **clear trajectory from involvement to independence**, evidencing a genuine and ongoing agricultural enterprise that merits policy support.
- The interpretation applied under **Policy CTY10** risks reducing a fundamentally **qualitative assessment of farming activity** to a narrow administrative test. A more holistic view demonstrates that the applicant meets the intent of the policy, having been actively and continuously engaged in farming over a number of years.
- In respect of **Policy CTY13**, the site offers a realistic and achievable opportunity for integration. This is not a case of inappropriate intrusion into the landscape, but rather a **modest and capable site** where design and landscaping can ensure a development that sits comfortably within its rural context.

Ultimately, this application presents the Committee with an opportunity to support:

- A bona fide rural enterprise
- A young farmer seeking to establish permanence in her rural community.
- And the long-term vitality of the countryside, in line with regional planning policy.

These are precisely the outcomes that PPS21 seeks to deliver.

Given the above, it is considered that the application raises important matters of **policy interpretation, balance, and intent**, which would benefit from direct engagement with Members.

I would therefore respectfully request the opportunity to address the Committee.