



Tuesday 20th August 2024

Planning Department
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

By email: planning@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Support for Planning Application for New Hotel & Spa in (planning reference number: LA01/2016/1328/F)

I am writing on behalf of Riada Resourcing, a recruitment agency that has been active in the Causeway area and further afield for almost 25 years, to express our strong support for the proposed Merrow Hotel & Spa development, referenced above. This letter comes in addition to our initial letter of support of 26/9/2017 when we first met with the development team to discuss the employment market of the area and initiate the hotel training program.

As a recruitment company, we are acutely aware of the positive impact that new businesses can have on the local economy, particularly in terms of job creation and skill development. The establishment of the Merrow Hotel & Spa will not only enhance the hospitality and tourism offerings in our area but will also create a significant number of employment and training opportunities across various sectors, including hospitality, management, customer service, and maintenance, we recognise that there are very few sources of employment on the North Coast that has such a diverse range of jobs, career opportunities and training all in the one place.

Many of these opportunities require specific skills which can be provided by our local colleges and training programmes. The hotel will especially be beneficial for chef student placements and we welcome the inclusion of the training kitchen in the proposed hotel, meaning important training can be provided within the facility itself whilst working in partnership with local organisations.

If developed, the Merrow Hotel & Spa will be strategically located, with strong bus and rail connectivity which will be of benefit not only to guests and visitors, but also to staff as they travel to and from work. Staff wellbeing is a constant theme with the applicant, and we are supportive of their stance against the use of zero-hour contracts.

Figures show that Causeway Coast and Glens has the lowest employment rate of any council area in Northern Ireland; whilst the Borough has the highest proportion of working age people with no qualifications in Northern Ireland.

Riada Resourcing

Proposals such as the Merrow Hotel & Spa development are key to addressing these challenges and to providing opportunities for employment and training that are badly needed.

In addition to job creation, the new hotel and spa will serve as a cornerstone for attracting tourists, further enhancing the area's reputation as a desirable destination. These visitors will support local retail, dining, and service industries, contributing to a vibrant and sustainable local economy and hospitality sector.

We believe that this development is aligned with the broader goals of economic growth and community development that our local council has consistently supported. For these reasons, Riada Resourcing fully endorses the planning application and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on our community.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this letter of support in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Lundy
CEO