

AGENDA ITEM 6

APPENDIX 4

2014/0232/DET

REPRESENTATION
MR & MRS DANIELS

Ivanhoe
Glenlivet
Moray
AB37 9DB
15/8/14

Comments for Planning Application by Glenlivet Distillery

I write in response to the planning application, reference number 14/01488/EIA for the expansion of Glenlivet Distillery.

I wish to make comments on the following planning matters:

1. Residential amenity

Our main concern for the planned expansion and alteration is the increased noise we believe this will cause.

We have had ongoing issues regarding current excessive noise levels, largely from the animal feed plant part of the distillery, and have involved environmental health again recently as the noise level is now disturbing our sleep, as well as making normal daily living especially being outdoors in our garden in the day, unpleasant.

The constant vibration noise as well as a higher pitched alarm noise keep us up awake and prevent return to sleep later in the night if we waken. The resounding aeroplane like noise is now obtrusively audible all the way walking up the hill to Gallowhill, spoiling the rural beautiful landscape in which we live, and which many people come to visit and walk in the Glenlivet estate.

The noise levels were monitored by environmental health 18 months ago and found to be excessive at night. Modifications were made with some improvement, but the level is significantly worse again.

I had spoken to the deputy manager regarding the noise and that all the new still doors as well as a door to the older part of the still house and a side door of the animal feed plant were open constantly for several weeks, and several are still open, blatantly increasing the noise pollution further.

I was assured they would be closed and they would look in to the excessive noise, but several remain open.

I have therefore written formally to the distillery manager regarding this, and am disappointed that I have had no acknowledgement or reply to this. I am therefore left disillusioned that any local concerns are not being listened to or taken seriously, so change will never happen.

We also feel doubly annoyed as we are subject to so much light pollution from bright lights supposedly for security reasons, which will worsen with the proposed expansion, yet doors are left wide open with no regard for security, meaning we have more noise and light pollution than is needed.

We note the planned cladding and alterations to the animal feed plant area, but remain very concerned the building is completely unfit for purpose, as metal conducts noise so much.

The cooling towers are also excessively noisy, and more are planned which will be actively discharging much more often as production increases so much. The pitch of the noise is very harsh and high pitched, and again, the design seems unsuitable for a

residential area as it is so noisy. We moved 10years ago, well aware of the industrial plant and the old cooling towers were much nearer our house, and caused no problem. The noise is now awful with the newer ones seeming to emit steam under a much higher pressure and therefore noise. They are now in action much of the day, and the proposals have more of them, and given the size of increase of the distillery, we fear they will be discharging steam and noise most of every 24hrs.

2. Traffic

We are also very concerned by the phenomenal increase in the numbers of lorries which will service the distillery and feed plant.

In the 10years we have lived here, every winter we have had regular issues with lorries stuck on the Craggan Hill bend on the B9008, then again on the hill up from the primary school to the distillery. They get stuck in ice as well as snow, and often end up lining up and getting stuck, or trying persistently to get up the hills. These are not recorded in accident figures, but cause increased risk of accidents with lorries swerving then sticking, often ending up across the road, and blocking us getting in and out. We have several times had to make the 25 mile diversion round via Dufftown when Craggan Hill is blocked with lorries waiting more grit or help. As a GP and police officer, we must be able to get to work 24hrs a day, and have struggled because of lorries for many years. This would be dramatically worse with the planned enormous increase in numbers, with an increased risk of accidents and delays.

A lorry tipped off the side of the B9008 this year, shutting the road for many hours. The gas pipe work has weakened the edges of the road, and such an increase in volume of heavy traffic will be frightening – we often meet fast moving lorries right in the middle of the road, round several tight bends, as they do not seem confident enough to be further on to their side – the road is also not wide enough to keep the lorries exclusively on their side of the road. The reports make comment that there will only be a couple of times when lorries may cross, but there are also non distillery agricultural lorries, lorries serving other distilleries and other traffic which will mean this does happen, with increased risk of accidents, much more frequently.

There were also no numbers for Sunday lorries, but lorries do come to the distillery on a Sunday, so this has not been taken into account.

We are concerned the impact of the increased volume of heavy traffic will have on the fabric and condition of the road, again increasing the risk of accidents. The school brae has been very poorly patched recently, and is already starting to break down. This will be accelerated enormously with the heavy traffic.

In summary, we have major concerns about the noise levels of the planned expansion, especially as we already have ongoing issues and involvement of environmental health due to unprecedented levels of noise impacting on our daily lives. At least 30 properties are directly affected with increased noise levels.

We would politely request the planning committee perform a site visit and experience this, then factor in a large expansion with constant increased cooling tower and boiler noise, onto households who couldn't have anticipated such a phenomenal increase in

size of the distillery a couple of years ago and then now. The previous expansion seems to have occurred with no planning consultation.

We fear for our access and safety on the roads, especially in winter, and ask that these concerns are taken into consideration when the planning application is being assessed.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth and Stephen Daniels