



**Gullane Area Community Council**  
Serving the communities of Gullane, Aberlady,  
Dirleton, Drem and surrounding rural areas



[www.gaddabout.org.uk](http://www.gaddabout.org.uk)

12 August 2021

Environment  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
Brewery Park  
Haddington  
EH41 3HA

Email [environment@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:environment@eastlothian.gov.uk)

Dear Sirs,

**The Renaissance Club**

**Planning Application Ref. No: 19/00087/P**

**Erection of 6 Cottages and 10 Cabins for holiday accommodation and associated works**   
**Cowden Hill Drive, Archerfield, Dirleton**

We refer to the above planning application and to the additional documents relating to it which have recently been publicised. The subjects lie within our community council area. We do not object to the application in principle as it now stands but we have the following comments on it.

We note that the arboricultural report concludes that the trees to be removed as a result of the proposed development are in the majority of cases not in great condition. We consider this report to be thorough and fair in its assessment of the affected woodland areas. The report concludes that poor woodland condition is due mainly to a lack of, or previous, poor management and unsuitable species selected for the local conditions of soil and climate. However we consider that the suggested replacement planting associated with the new cottages and lodges, while being more suitable in species selection, is not particularly imaginative or generous, considering the amount of woodland proposed or necessary for removal to enable the development. This we suspect is primarily intended to maintain clear outlooks to the golf course.

It seems to us that the large scale of the proposed cottages (apparently in fact large houses) and lodges is likely to lead to a significant increase in the overall positive impact of the built elements in what is essentially still a rural setting. We suggest that the impact of this could be reduced through more imaginative planting than appears to be proposed, without losing or compromising the visual opportunities and qualities of the areas of the two sites.

We would ask you to raise these concerns with the applicants and, if you are minded to grant the application, to impose conditions which address them.

Yours faithfully

Tom Drysdale  
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Gullane Area Community Council  
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