

Dear Residents of Potter Heigham

On July 24th two members of the Parish Council, Sheridan Turner, and Stan Chapman along with a member of the community, Louisa Sharpless attended the Planning Committee meeting of the North Norfolk District Council. Our purpose was to present our objection to the most recent retrospective planning application submitted by the Hut Gym to extend their hours of operation to 0615 to 2000 hours Monday to Friday and 0800 to 12 noon on Saturdays. An enormous amount of time and effort was dedicated to compiling two three-minute presentations made by Cllr Turner and Ms. Sharpless. (The presentations can be viewed on the Councils website <https://potterheighamparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>)

Our emphasis was based on facts: the narrowness of Marsh Rd and much of Church Rd being single track with no passing places or streetlights; deviation by the Hut Gym from the Conditions granted them in 2019 which was to operate from 0615 to 1730 hours Monday to Friday and no weekends; the volume of traffic generated by the gym that currently operates seven days a week; the detrimental effects on the environment and mental well being of the community; and the position of Highways provided in 2023 that this location could not be considered as suitable for a Fitness Studio. Unfortunately, Highways did not offer the same opinion this time instead stated no objection. District Councillor Harry Blathwayt also voiced his objection and asked the Committee to refuse the application.

Concern was raised by the Committee about why there had been no enforcement action taken and one member showed disdain for the process as it was suggested that the application would likely get approved in appeal if refused.

It was not a quick decision, and members acknowledged the difficulty taking note of the points we raised. The result was four members in favour, two reluctantly in favour and four against with a condition that enforcement be notified and observation be diligent to ensure that the hours approved are followed. We will be paying attention and putting up more signs encouraging drivers to SLOW DOWN.

On a different note, the Parish Council is making every effort to determine what body has given permission for buses to use the Potter Heigham Bridge.

Finally, if you are the victim of unsociable behaviour, rude signs, or verbal abuse from anyone in a public place, please report it to the police. If you don't the police have no cause upon which to act.

Thank you,

Potter Heigham Parish Council