

From: [Barbara Elborn](#)
To: [McAteer, Watson](#); [Cox, Jane](#); [Smart, Annette](#)
Cc: [Jain Crosbie](#); [KEITH BROUGH](#); [Lyndsay Patterson](#); [rob1.irwin@gmail.com](#); [Newcastleton CC Jim Lewis](#); [L M Rogers](#); [irnichol@hotmail.com](#)
Subject: Rock UK Planning application
Date: 16 February 2023 16:43:00

Dear Elected members

Newcastleton CC were pleased to welcome Lee Musson, Centre Director, of Rock UK to the monthly meeting last night, he updated us on the plans to replace the burnt-out chalet housing their kitchen hub over the Christmas period. He sought CC support to progress advising that Rock UK need to proceed urgently with the replacement to accommodate bookings and provide facilities for young people and service bookings which commence in earnest mid-April. He explained that the footprint was slightly larger, incorporating the balcony which had proven to be a maintenance issue over time and therefore not be replaced. The larger footprint would be used to provide greater interior space.

He advised they were proceeding at haste now insurance had been agreed, to have a new kitchen/dining room in place in time for Calside Primary School P7 residential who arrive on Wed 19th April. The purpose-built replacement chalet was being manufactured and would be delivered to site and installed in all likelihood ahead of the necessary planning and building control conditions being granted. He was in the process of preparing drawings for urgent application to be submitted and was committed to adhere to these as part of the process, but his business would not function without the installation being operational. He explained that to preserve his seasonal income and ensure that the school children of Dumfries and Borders get their outdoor residential, they have no option but to proceed without the necessary permissions.

This is an unusual request but one the CC supported unanimously given the financial implications to Rock UK. They, like our many other businesses are continuing to struggle to regain revenues lost due to covid and current local amenities closures (Newcastleton Forest and 7Stanes trails have been closed either totally or in part since Storm Arwen in Nov 2021) This, as well as the current cost of living crisis, is having a huge impact on our local economy with 3 businesses up for sale.

We write to advise of the CC support to this application and ask that every effort be made to process it as speedily as possible to ensure that he is able to operate the new building in time for the mid-April bookings. We understand that Rock UK are providing detailed application in the week commencing 20th Feb now that drawings etc can be created to support the planning request.

The CC would be grateful if you would extend your support for this application and do what is necessary to expediate the process when the appropriate paperwork is confirmed next week.

Thank you for your support.

Regards

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Barbara Elborn BEM, Secretary & Treasurer

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