

ABBEY VETERINARY GROUP

71 Canal Street
PAISLEY PA1 2HP
Tel: 0141-887 4111
Fax: 0141-887 0813

54 Murdieston Street
GREENOCK PA15 4HU
Tel: 01475 721155
Fax: 01475 787511

17/11/23

Re: Undercraig Farm Planning Application, 23/0158/PP

Dear James Weir,

I am the vet involved in the care of the alpacas at Undercraig Farm, and am writing to support Linsay's application for living accommodation on site to allow for her to care for her alpacas efficiently.

Looking after alpacas can require a lot of monitoring and potential intervention to take care of the alpacas properly. As Linsay breeds her alpacas, this can require even more time, especially the new born crias. Some examples of these requirements include:

- the careful monitoring of the mother alpacas for signs that they are getting close to birth so any complications can be noticed and acted upon promptly
- monitoring the mothers after birth for early signs of illness
- checking the new born crias regularly, and giving any medication or assistance to ill crias. This needs to be done around the clock at regular intervals. Over the past 2 breeding seasons there have been ill crias which have required round the clock supervision – living on site would allow for this to be done effectively
- Minimising stress on pregnant alpacas is important to support the pregnancy. Female alpacas become aggressive towards male alpacas, so these need to be kept separately. As Linsay has an established alpaca trekking business (with male alpacas used for the treks), it is important for the females to be housed away from the males, and this area should be safely away from the established routes used for the treks.
- From a safety point of view, having the farmer living on site near to the housed animals acts as a deterrent for members of the public coming to look at the animals and potentially stressing them. Also, the farmer will often hear if any disturbances occurring within the sheds and be able to intervene quickly ensuring the safety of the animals

I believe Linsay living on site will allow her to take care of her alpacas to the standards required of her. If she had to live elsewhere, the above points would become impractical, and cause stress to Linsay to try to provide adequate care as she would, understandably, be concerned about the welfare of the animals under her care.

I hope this helps you process the application,
Yours sincerely,



Camilla McNutt BVMS MRCVS