



Dear Inspector

26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

We note that a number of interested parties have submitted representations to the Appeal, citing concerns that the proposals are simply a relocation of existing facilities. To refer to the 'relocation' of the FSC is a misnomer. The existing field-study centre will continue to provide the mainstay of our formal education programme, particularly for younger children. This allows for the new Field-study centre to be made available for life-long learning and for wider community use, such as; space to hold evening lectures, hold meetings, hold leisure activities, etc. During the day the space will be used for visiting education providers, like Winchester University who will be delivering some of their undergraduate teaching programmes and The Natural History Museum who will be delivering part of their new adult natural history learning programme with us. Increasing the use of the space in this way brings wider economic benefit to the village and puts Selborne, as a destination, on the map for places to visit in the future. Likewise, the guests coming to the accommodation, who will stay for minimum 3 nights, will need to eat and drink and explore within the locale; this is a great opportunity for The Selborne Arms, White's, La Luna, The Pottery, the Church, Maia's Flowers and Candy Tours. This will also provide customers for the village shop, presently in White's.

Since the last planning refusal we have further developed the plans for the Tap Room to make it more robust and offer the village/wider community a place to come and try Gilbert White's beer together with guest ales from local small breweries. Our opening hours will be limited to start off and if there is sufficient demand will grow as we grow the business which is a far better way to develop than putting in a full time pub, and staff, when no one knows the demand.

It must be understood that Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is a small private charitable trust with a commercial arm, not a commercial charity as one objector stated, and as such needs to diversify to survive particularly now in these uncertain times. The charity has limited reserves and has to earn every penny to remain open. Should the charity be unsuccessful in its bid to survive there will be no museum in village, which would reduce visitors to almost zero, have a devastating effect economically on all the other businesses in the village and, as the main employer in the village, a number of villagers will be without jobs.

Recently people local to the village have seen a start to the permitted restoration work and there is a genuine belief that at last something is happening to forge bridges and bring a divided community together again. At long last there seems to be positive light at the end of a seven year tunnel and Selborne might at last move on.

Yours sincerely

Judith

Judith A. Bowles  
Co-Director