

**From:** Chris Abel  
**Sent:** 26 July 2021 11:10  
**To:** Niamh Bonner; Andrew Richardson\_BT  
**Cc:** Simon Richardson; Gary Housden  
**Subject:** RE: 20-00088-FUL BATA

Good morning Niamh,

I hope you are well.

Please find attached our response to the questions raised following the last planning meeting.

If you need any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Kind Regards*

**Chris Abel**

Compliance Manager

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**BATA**

**SUPPLYING FARMS,  
HOMES & BUSINESSES  
SINCE 1894**



Company Registration Number - I&P 3289R | VAT Registration Number – 166813937

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Dear Ms Bonner,

Thank you for sending through the questions that have been raised by Councillor Mason and Ms Raines.

Below is a grouped response to the individual questions asked.

### **Noise Issues**

This appears to be residents' main objection to our application. However, we reiterate that BATA continues to work with the Environmental Health Officers to meet its legal responsibilities. We have a Noise Management plan that has been in operation for the past 5 months and is under constant review. BATA has been dealing with alleged noise nuisance complaints on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Environmental Health Officers and the Council can be assured we will continue to do so.

### **Hours of Operation**

BATA need the flexibility of 24/7 production as we provide an essential service to Farmers, businesses and the public who do not all work Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm. This was recognised by the Government in this time of a pandemic when BATA staff were given Key Worker status and we continued to operate to our current levels. This is to ensure the country along with other manufacturers do not run out of feed for the food chain along with fuel that people and other businesses need.

24/7 operation allows us to supply essential products through a fast service to the livestock farmer, some of whom have limited capacity to hold feedstuffs. It reduces the need for additional staff, vehicles and traffic movement's through better use of time.

Wherever possible we load vehicles between 6.00am and 6pm but this is not always possible. We need to use driver's time efficiently and within their driving hours regulations. If drivers had to load their own vehicles between these times they would not have enough hours to deliver the feed. We would then need additional vehicles to serve the same number of customers. The new bins applied for go a long way to help alleviate this by reducing the time needed to load our delivery vehicles.

Also breakdowns during the day along with spikes of demand linked to weather and the seasonal demands of the different markets we have to supply also contribute for our needs to a 24/7 reaction. Farmers sometimes run out of feed for a variety of reasons. For example feed bin equipment fails, animals have to stay on farm longer than planned due to transport issues or reduced demand, bad weather conditions and also road accidents. All these factors lead to the need to have the flexibility of 24/7 operation. The services we offer are critical for animal welfare and when necessary we have to operate outside of the time frames that have been suggested.

The proposed additional storage bins are designed to allow us to operate more efficiently. The new bins will go some way to take away the need to load vehicles from 1 tonne tote bins/tote bags. This process involves transporting the bags/bins using Fork Lift Trucks then placing the contents onto a conveyor one at a time onto the a vehicle which is very time consuming when loading a vehicle. Loading vehicles from the proposed fixed bins is much quicker and uses less fuel and produces less plastic waste. It also reduces internal vehicle movements and noise.

The new bins will not necessarily be completely filled at all times as suggested by the residents. We offer a wide range of different feed rations for Cattle/Sheep/Pig/Poultry and other species that have to be segregated in different bins/bags. For example in Bin 1 there might be 5 tonne of Cattle feed, Bin 2 might have 8 tonne of Pig feed, Bin 3 might have 4 tonne of Sheep feed etc. this is because we mill to order. As you will see from this explanation it is not just a matter of thinking that as the proposed bins are 10 tonnes that they will be filled to capacity. With the additional bins this will increase the efficiency of the process allowing the 24/7 operation to improve its maintenance and cleaning routines

required as there are other tasks such raw material stock management that need to be carried out within the mill other than producing feed.

The vehicles we operate have up to 5 sections at the back of vehicle which are able to take 5 different products. The new bins will allow us to produce more efficiently which in turn will allow us to fill the vehicles more effectively as more products will be ready to load thus reducing the waiting time of vehicles on site and the total number of vehicle movements required.

### **Emergencies**

It is not practical to consult with residents for its facility to be used in time of emergency, just as the Fire Brigade wouldn't consult with residents before attending a fire. We are willing to consider arrangements for letting residents know when we anticipate a busier period but it has to be recognised that this can also be unpredictable. We are also willing to consider an "out of hours" contact telephone number for the Parish Council and/or residents to let us know if they are experiencing particular or unusual problems. However, 24/7 and 'just in time' management methods due to the nature of the work are very much required to service the needs of the consumers.

### **Permit**

With respect to residents and some Councillors, the permit tonnage is not relevant to our current application.

BATA have actually only increased tonnage by under 10,000 tonnes over the last 9 years. This is very low incremental growth on what is a small production facility. This is sustained and supported by its cooperative status.

To put our size of milling operation into perspective, feed mills, today are built to produce over 1 million tonnes of feed per annum with a great many already producing over 400,000 tonnes. BATA would not be able to produce this on this site and has a different business model.

BATA works well within its allowed permitted tonnage and the introduction of the additional bins is to cater for a continual trend of sales from bags to bulk. This will also help with the splitting of product ranges to meet the nutritional needs of livestock. For example one product may become two or three products (rather than one size fits all) but all with different nutritional values with the overall volume remaining the same. But you do need the additional bins for the additional products to remain competitive and progressive in the market for the customers changing needs.

### **SWLF**

The questions in relation to SWLF are not relevant to this planning application. BATA have supplied SWLF as a customer with small amounts of feed and others goods for over 15 years prior to purchasing the business.

### **Conclusions**

BATA has many Farmers, businesses and the public who rely on the services we offer. We employ many local people and support many local events. We have been in business since 1894 and have worked hard to keep the business going throughout the many challenges that have been thrown at it throughout the years.

We reiterate, BATA will remain being good neighbours and continue to work with the Council and the Residents as we have been doing for many years prior to and including the protracted planning permission period.

We feel this covers all questions asked by Councillor Mason and Ms Raines.

Kind regards

Chris Abel