Your Ref: 24/70090/PREAPP (Application for Pre-application Advice)
Portal Ref: KVSWLWRX

Huntingdonshire District Council
Development Control
Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street Huntingdon. PE29 3TN

To whom it may concern

Planning / Support Statement

Morsafe Limited have been established in Yaxley since 2005 and as well as delivering safe systems of work to our clients, we also deliver a series of Confined Space and Working at Height training courses. We have grown steadily over the years and currently have 6 employees. Having recently been acquired by a larger organisation, SpanSet Ltd, there is potential for further and more rapid expansion of the business in Yaxley with more secure employment prospects.

To enable delivery of accredited working at heights courses, Morsafe must provide an approved structure to demonstrate and test practical elements of tower climbing to training delegates. In order to achieve this, we had a 2.5m x 2.5m x 15m high tower and concrete base designed in 2022 for installation at our established training centre, 13a Imperial Way and was under the impression that this was permitted development.

The structure was installed with assistance from our neighbour, Earls Scaffolding, on a 3m x 3m plot to the rear left-hand side of the training centre (viewed from the front) and certified in October 2022. The tower stands on a concrete pad in a fenced compound and is accessed from the car park via a secure gate and a footpath to the left-hand side of the training centre or via the fire door from the training centre. Whilst the tower can be seen, it has limited visual impact in its chosen location. Since installation, we have had no adverse comments from our neighbours or local businesses. See photos below.

Subsequently, it was discovered that we do need planning consent having completed an “Application for Pre-application Advice” - references above, which indicated that in principle, approval should be given, however a Planning Application should be submitted.

The training tower has no communication systems or radiation hazard installed and is purely for training purposes with its use increasing due to advertising and additional training requirements. It is maintained and certified annually to ensure it is compliant with current UK legislation.

If the tower were to be removed, this would undoubtedly lead to job losses and prevent the potential growth of the business in Yaxley.

Morsafe would be more than happy to host a site visit or provide more details.

Regards

Gerry Morpeth
on behalf of Morsafe Limited

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Photo 1 - Tower viewed from font LH side of training centre from the entrance / footpath (note access gate)



Photo 2 - Tower viewed from front RH side of training centre from the footpath.



Photo 3 - Tower viewed from rear of training taken from inside Earls Scaffolding (taken prior to security fencing installed). Windsor Materials Handling unit to the right.