# Local residents oppose reopening of Kernow Slide amid safety concerns



Residents of Little Downs, a quiet hamlet located near the popular Cardinham Woods in Cornwall, are expressing significant opposition to the reopening of a four-lane water slide named Kernow Slide, scheduled for May 24. This decision comes despite Cornwall Council's rejection of the necessary planning permission, originally denied on February 24 due to concerns over the slide's location and potential noise pollution.

The structure, which stretches 145 metres, has seen scaffolding erected in a nearby field, leading to increased agitation among local residents. Many argue the attraction is inappropriate for the area, which is celebrated for its tranquil environment. They have raised serious concerns regarding safety, citing the narrow road that serves as the slide's access, which is situated on a dangerous bend. One resident highlighted, "The access to the attraction is bang on a dangerous corner, where there have been accidents; it’s a blind spot."

The planning review by Cornwall Council indicated that the site’s rural character would be compromised by the introduction of such a "man-made structure." It stated that the benefits to tourism do not outweigh the detriment to the local landscape and the peace typically enjoyed by residents. Noise impact assessments were also cited, noting substantial noise harm to nearby residential properties and businesses, particularly a campsite in the northwest region of the application site.

James Lance, the owner and operator of Kernow Slide, asserts he is appealing the council's decision and states there were no objections from Cornwall's highways department regarding the slide’s location. He has been vocal about his efforts to ensure accessibility, offering transport options for visitors and suggesting that a local resident has been sabotaging directional signs to the attraction.

In response to the unfolding situation in Little Downs, several residents have voiced their frustrations, stating that the noise generated by the slide detracts from their quality of life. One elderly individual recounted, "The last day of it operating last year was horrendous... All the shouting and screaming... We had to close everything up." Another commented on the community’s collective relief when planning was initially refused, only to discover scaffolding appearing soon after.

Councillor Jenny Cruse, a candidate in the upcoming Cornwall Council elections and a local representative, has acknowledged the value of promoting local businesses but is sceptical about this particular venture's placement, emphasising that Kernow Slide’s presence disrupts the tranquillity expected in Cardinham. She noted, “We encourage businesses... but this is actually harmful.” Her criticism extended to the council's enforcement processes, suggesting they lack robustness.

In a bid to address these ongoing complaints, Cornwall Council has reactivated an enforcement investigation concerning Kernow Slide. They have confirmed they are monitoring the situation closely and will determine the appropriate responses following their investigation, which adheres to the stipulations of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The conversation around Kernow Slide highlights the ongoing tension between local communities and emerging tourist attractions in rural settings. As the May reopening date approaches, Little Downs residents remain apprehensive about the anticipated return of the slide and its effect on their peaceful countryside life.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-planning/planning-enforcement> - This URL provides information on how Cornwall Council handles planning enforcement, which is pertinent to the situation involving Kernow Slide.
* <https://www.kernowadventurepark.com> - Kernow Adventure Park is another outdoor activity center in Cornwall, although it does not directly relate to Kernow Slide. It shows the variety of outdoor activities available in the region.
* <https://www.cardinhamwoods.co.uk> - This URL provides information about Cardinham Woods, a location near where Kernow Slide's reopening is causing concern. It highlights the area's natural beauty and tranquility.
* <https://www.visitcornwall.com/plan-your-visit/tourist-information> - This URL offers general information about visiting Cornwall, including tourist attractions and how they impact local communities.
* <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-planning/planning-policy> - This URL relates to Cornwall Council's planning policy, which would be relevant to decisions regarding the location of tourist attractions like Kernow Slide.