

- **News**

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Business park needs planning permission

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DEVELOPERS have been told to apply for planning permission to repair buildings at a Littleton Upon Severn business park.

Members of South Gloucestershire Council's development control committee ruled last week that the owners of the Whale Wharf Business Park, off Wharf Lane, need permission to make alterations to buildings at the site.

Charlie Tull, developer for the park, had applied for a certificate of lawful development for the business park, so work could be carried out to three buildings, referred to as Pilot, Orca and Grey, without the need for planning permission.

However, planning bosses at the local authority have said the work, which included replacing doors, windows, roofs and walls, was more than basic repairs.

Cllr Pat Hockey, member of the development control committee, said: "I don't consider replacing double doors with windows as repair, it's changing the character and changing the appearance and to me that is development."

The committee granted a certificate of lawful development for one of the buildings, Pilot, but not for work to Orca and Grey.

This decision means Mr Tull will have to add the changes he wants to make to Orca and Grey to an existing planning application, which proposes to turn Whale Wharf Business Park into a residential activity centre for school children.

Plans to create a new activity centre, for up to 400 children, has been met with strong local opposition because of flooding fears, and campaigners have argued the application for the certificate of lawfulness was part of the developer's wider plans for the site.

Mike Hawkins, chairman of Aust Parish Council, said: "Bearing in mind the ongoing planning issues on this site, which involve serious flood risk concerns, as well as

traffic issues, we believe that the work requested constitute re-development rather than the repair of derelict buildings.

"This request is therefore clearly intended to facilitate the major application, which seeks to transform the entire site to a residential adventure school."

Mr Tull, of Tull Properties based in Wiltshire, said: "We are very pleased that they have decided to go with one of the buildings. We are only looking to change the cladding on the buildings, we are not looking to make any material changes to the buildings.

"We are in ongoing discussions with the local authority and we hope to resolve any outstanding issues very soon."

<https://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/8458458.business-park-needs-planning-permission/>