

# Request to delay decision on Blackpool Mill scheme



The Blackpool Mill renovation plan has hit choppy waters and Bluestone has now asked for the decision to be deferred.

PEMBROKESHIRE National Park planners are being asked to defer the Blackpool Mill planning application which was being recommended for refusal at the development management committee today (Wednesday).

The £2.5m development - aimed at restoring the historic mill - has not found favour with National Park officers.

A report to the committee describes the development as "insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape."

It also criticises the proposed narrow gauge railway, considering it as "little more than the creation of a theme park attraction without any real connection to the history of the locality."

Bluestone National Park Resort, which is making the application, has now announced that they have requested deferment "so that the authority and consultees have more time to review all of the submitted information."

Said Bluestone's head of projects, Liz Weedon: "We believe that a deferral of the application gives an opportunity for some of the issues raised recently by PCNPA to be addressed."

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"We appreciate that this is a complex application and we want to ensure that we have answered all concerns and queries that the National Park may have."

"We are fully committed to getting the best possible scheme that we can for the mill."

She added: "We truly believe that the regeneration of the mill will have great benefits for the whole county."

The project is being supported by the Welsh Mills Society, and spokesman John Brandrick said: "This is the only realistic chance that Blackpool Mill has to be saved. If left, it will continue to crumble."

"In our experience, these buildings can only survive and have a new life if there is a viable economic use."