



Webb & son (Combs) Ltd Planning Applications.

Combs Tannery

Established in 1711 as a tannery, a place where hides and skins were transformed into leather, Combs Tannery is now, in 2020, a community of flourishing, supportive businesses.

Combs Tannery is owned by the enterprising Webb family who have now been in business for 307 years. In the 1980s we transformed the site into a business park when tanning became unviable.

Located in the beautiful countryside setting in the village of Combs, Suffolk, it is no more than a five minute drive from the town of Stowmarket, where there are fast, regular rail links to London, Ipswich, Cambridge and Norwich. It is also only five minutes drive to the A14.

The family company Webb and Son (Combs) Ltd is based on site and provides a range of business services, including accounting, manufacturing, consulting and PA services. In 2018 it was announced as the oldest family business still in operation in East Anglia.

At the Tannery site companies occupy both modern and historic buildings including the Nineteenth century Bark Barn, Tannery House, a grand Victorian house, which was formerly the Webb family home and The Clock House, where workers received payment in cash and occasionally beer, brewed in the onsite brewery.

We are now looking to continue the growth on site using our brownfield land to add 20,000 ft² more business space for the growth of local companies and to attract new businesses to Suffolk.

This has the potential to add significant new employment opportunities to the 120 people that already work on site employed by the 16 companies that are based here.

We are also applying for permission for a residential plot on nearby land. The current outline proposes 8 houses on a 2 acre plot in Combs adjacent to the Tannery site.

The application for the residential plot will give Webb & son (Combs) Ltd the investment needed to ensure the go ahead of the planned commercial development. It also ensures that we can continue to grow and enhance the commercial opportunities here and keep Combs Tannery alive and growing.

Details of the 2 proposals can be found here:

<https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

James Portway

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