

Statement in support of our Planning Application 19/01472/FUL

Dear Members,

We would like to thank you for making the unprecedented arrangements necessary to resume meetings of this committee.

If the Corona Virus can teach us anything, it should be to recognise this catalyst, and to make the changes that the environment desperately needs.

Our proposal has environmental profit at its core, while addressing a very local housing need.

Those members who are familiar with Sheepcotes Lane, which links Bradwell and Silverend, will know that the hamlet around Gosling's Farm is characterised by dwellings with agricultural heritage, being either conversions or noticeably altered farm workers homes. The immediate area contains four such residential properties with some 15 or so bedrooms in total. This contradicts the Planning Officers view that our modest proposal would not be in keeping with the rural surroundings. To our knowledge the Officer has not visited the site.

While the lane may not have been designated a "Quiet Lane"; at the time of our application Highways seemed to infer that it was. We find it illogical that the Officers report seems to rule out the use of the lane by non-motorised forms of transport when one of the reasons that Sheepcotes Lane was recommended for Quiet Lane status was precisely because so many local people do precisely that, ourselves included.

The appeal dismissal to which the Officer so often refers in the report, was for a different proposal, and pre-dated the Bradwell Neighbourhood Plan. It is surprising that the Planning officer appears to be calling into question the wisdom of an adopted statutory document, namely the Bradwell Neighbourhood Plan which was "made", unanimously, by the District Council last July.

We have received over 30 supportive statements from local families, neighbours, our Parish Council and the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering committee.

This is an entirely Self-Build project, and we confess to demonstrating inexperience in the field of planning. Certainly, the four similar applications which were approved within the last three years and located within half a mile of us, were handled by established agents.

Within our existing planning consent, we use the former stable block in association with activities at the small holding, we have permission for the alterations already made, and very little in the way of further external alterations are required to

complete the conversion. Certainly nothing which would result in noticeable changes visible from the road or neighbouring properties.

Our Enterprise Plan, which will require that one of us work from the holding full time, is now implemented, and is exceeding targets. It specifies how we will ensure the small holdings viability, and guarantee future benefits well past our own longevity.

We have both gained valuable experience while living in this beautiful parish, consent for this proposal would empower us to improve the vicinity for those who will follow. If the planning system is designed to meet need, then we implore members to permit this proposal to help meet the needs of our family, our community, and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mr. and Mrs. Turner

Rainbows End