

RE: ANNEXE PLANNING APPLICATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing with reference to the planning application for a purpose built annexe at the rear of Beech Cottage, Highfield House, Uxbridge Road, Hillingdon, UB100LF.

As means of background I would like to provide additional information to support this application. The intention is to provide a home for my elderly mother so my family can offer her the support she needs whilst keeping some of her independence.

My mother is nearly 85 years old. She was born in the London Borough of Hillingdon but, mainly due to my father's asthma, her and my father moved to Somerset just over 20 years ago. She is now a widow and living alone.

I teach in a secondary school within the borough. It is a pupil referral school and, as I also have a middle management position within the school, it is very stressful. I would never manage physically or emotionally to go to Somerset every weekend to offer Mum support. I visit every school holiday but she is lonely and, since losing my father, wants to come home to the place where she was born and be with her family. I also have 3 sons living at home, 2 of my sons are under 18 and still need their mother's support. The youngest is at Bishopshalt school opposite my house and I will not consider moving at such an important time in his education, it would be unfair. He still has 4 years to go.

We have looked at retirement flats for Mum but as she is moving from Somerset, she cannot afford one. She would love a sheltered housing flat such as my aunt enjoyed but as she will have some money, the council will not consider her. I have looked at private rental but my mother would be stuck without support in a flat. Also, you cannot rent long-term and it won't be a home if she has to keep moving. I think it would be really bad for her mental health as she is currently struggling emotionally living alone.

My own home is listed; therefore, I cannot build on the side. It is also a really unusual building with neighbours both sides so I can't build on. The downstairs is only a kitchen and a front room so there is no spare room for Mum. My sons have a bedroom each but even if they share, Mum is getting wobbly on the stairs and I am not comfortable going to work leaving her to navigate the stairs. She currently has a stairlift where she is. Due to our unusual building, we cannot get a stairlift that fits our stairs.

Therefore, with absolutely no other option, we looked at an annex. We purchased a piece of land that extended our garden beyond the listed building boundary 22 years ago and that is where we propose building Mum an annex. This would allow Mum to combine living with us but still retaining a degree of independence. It is reasonable to expect that in the future she will need more help and living in the annexe with wide doorways and rooms being on one level would greatly help us to look after her.

Mum will be spending time in the main dwelling socializing, cooking and using existing householder facilities. This would allow her to spend her remaining years with the love and support of her family. She has been such a wonderful Mother we want to look after her, as I believe all old people should be. My three sons will be able to spend time with their grandmother offering her support too. My younger

brother lives a 10-minute walk from me so both him and his wife and daughters will also be able to visit Mum regularly. My oldest brother works at Heathrow so he could also visit Mum regularly.

In light of this I visited the local planning department and got some advice from John Allum . I also spoke to my local councilor Martin Goddard who was very supportive about our decision.

We all feel that if planning permission is granted, this is a good solution allowing my Mum to have her own space and retain a degree of independence but also allowing us to be on hand and support when needed.

I hope you will consider this application is the best solution for our family.

Yours sincerely,