

16/1496

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 1 JUN 2017

PLANNING SECTION

Dover District Council,
Planning Department,
White Cliffs Business Park,
Dover, CT16 3PJ.

Greengage Cottage,
Fleming Road,
Barnsole, Staple,
CANTERBURY, Kent, CT3 1LG

30th May, 2017

Dear Maxine,

re: Planning Application DOV116101496INV

Further to your e-mail of 19th May regarding the Committee Meeting of 27th July, 2017.

I am again laying out the facts of our case from our original request for Change of Use at 1st May 2015.

Piglet Place has been let since 1998 – with a 4 star rating and advertising from the Quality in Tourism no: 64527 – the last inspection being October 2015. We have had a website pigletplace.co.uk from the outset and then another site pigletplacekent.co.uk added in 2010 to try to booster our bookings. These are now both withdrawn the latter in September 2015, when I felt unable to carry on with the letting. I enclose a Fasthost invoice to confirm internet payment. We have also advertised with The Lady magazine and This England.

As most guest require the same weeks, July to September, bookings have been consistently low for some years. Our accountant informs us that we have not let enough to comply with the tax laws for holiday lettings, and we are really working for next to nothing. (see accounts as presented by Mr. N. Blake.)

I have been feeling unwell for some years, which is why our original application enquiry was 2015, and put my symptoms down to ageing. The doctor consistently misdiagnosed my brain tumour, until a scan in January 2016. I had an operation in February 2016 at Kings College Hospital which has de-bulked the mass, however I will be monitored by the Hospital annually and may need further treatment. This explains to me now why I have been unable to carry on with most of the life style I had previously and why I can say with certainty I am unable to organise the letting and running of the holiday cottage.

The cottage will therefore remain empty. We may need to let it on a more permanent basis to get an income to supplement our pensions – or allow a family member to move in. There has never been an option of selling off the cottage on its own.

We will not be moving from Greengage Cottage, as I am not able to cope with such a drastic change.

Our wish is to leave the dwelling and all surrounding areas exactly as they are, with Piglet Place having the option to use the second gate way and/or our drive. We have excellent site lines.

Other properties in our proximity have been given permission for new build and change of use from sheds to dwellings – so we really cannot see the problem with our application.

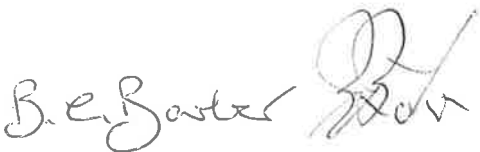
Our property is by no means the last in Barnsole, as can be seen from aerial photographs. There are more properties on the other side of our road, one of which a thatched barn was made into a dwelling since our conversion, and was not part of a farm.

We have asked some of our neighbours to support our application, and hope that you will be hearing from them before the Committee Meeting.

This process has been extremely stressful for me, so Nick Blake and Trevor Bartlett will be at Committee to speak on our behalf. I know there are lots of letters, photographs and emails that will confirm a lot of what has already been said, please bring them to Committee. It is very hard for me to remember all previous enclosures.

I hope that this is the letter and evidence that you need, please let me know if there is anything else.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'B. Barber' and the signature on the right is 'R. Barber'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bronwen Barber - Richard Barber

Encs:

As above + copy of our Brochure