

PERSONAL DECLARATION – Planning Application 21/01859/ELD - Harbour Way PO18 8TG

I, Malcolm Smith of Blue Bell Cottage, Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8TJ do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. I have lived in Chidham from 1999 to the present day and I have regularly walked through Harbour Way using the public right of way which separates the tree lined boundary of the garden to Grey Thatch and Maurice's Field at least once a week/twice a month, and will continue to do so.
2. I have reviewed the CDC Application 21/01859/ELD and the supporting evidence shown on the CDC Planning Portal and have carefully reviewed the plan under consideration, referenced as site plan drawing no. 3020.
3. Over the last 10 years I have not seen any activity on the site which would support its use as a garden or as described 'a residential kitchen garden' in Maurice's Field. It is my observation that Grey Thatch has always had its own kitchen garden being adjacent to the adjoining property, Rithe House. Additionally, in this time, I have not observed either the current owners, or the previous owner of the land (including his extended family – father or sisters) or the gardener attending to this specific parcel of land "on a weekly basis" as asserted by the applicants and the statutory declarants. Additionally, it has been my observation that the cultivated bed has been fallow on numerous occasions, particularly when the property was left empty between November 2016 and November 2019.
4. It has been my observation over the last 10 years that the area described as 'hard standing' in Maurice's Field has not been used in the manner and frequency described. I have not observed the parking of Mr Ken Langley's van every week on the hard standing in this time period. What I have observed is that Mr Langley parks his van either on the driveway or on the roundabout between the entrance way to the Grey Thatch property and the public footpath. There has been the occasional car parked on the hard standing but this has been very infrequent in the last two years, and before this time I have observed no vehicles parked in this area.
5. It has been my observation that the current owners have not been staying at the Grey Thatch property on average weekly. To date in 2021 I have observe them at the property on 4 occasions. I have been informed that they are not resident in the Grey Thatch property, but reside in another county. Additionally, I have not observed any visitors at the property in their absence. My observation is that if there are visitors to the Grey Thatch property that vehicles are parked on the driveway of this dwelling, which is ample in size and capable of taking up to 4 cars. During the time Dennis Body lived at Grey Thatch up until November 2016 he parked his vehicle only on the driveway and nowhere else.
6. It has been my observation that a small boat was once stored on the hard standing albeit for a brief period of time, but this was greater than 10 years ago.

7. I have observed that a trampoline has been sited on the land adjacent to Maurice's Field in late 2019, referenced in the application as "The Land to the South of Harbour Way". And more recently in April 2021 a football goal placed in Maurice's Field. These are a misuse of the land as its status is agricultural, and should be subject to an order from CDC's Enforcement Office to have said trampoline and goal removed.

And I do make this solemn declaration consciously believing the same to be true.

And if required to do so I would be willing to provide a Statutory Declaration as an oath witnessed by a solicitor commissioned to empower oaths.

Signature

*M Smith*

Date

*25/6/21*