

This statement has been prepared in support of a live application (ref H/24/98637) at Barn Court, High Street, Old Burseldon, SO31 8DL. The description of development is “Conversion of existing detached garden store to an annexe ancillary to the host dwelling” and follows a previously approved application for the same building, reference H/22/93123, for the “Construction of a garden store to provide additional storage”. Following a number of unfortunate objection comments, the Local Planning Authority have asked for a further statement to be provided, *“justifying the need, proposed use and occupation of the annexe.”*

The latter store has been built in accordance with the approved plans, the need for it at the time of the original submission was explained, justified, and honest. It was intended for exactly what was applied for, an additional garden store for use by the wife of the applicant, Mr Wright, who had a keen interest in gardening and floristry. This scheme was deemed acceptable with regard to scale, siting, amenity, and policy.

Unfortunately, during the construction phase, Mr Wrights wife fell ill, and passed away before being able to benefit from the new structure. As work was near completion, there was no reasoning for dismantling the structure, nor was there justification in leaving it an empty shell.

The original need for the building has been explained, and the redundancy of that purpose is now clear. It requires a purpose, or it will simply be an empty structure in the grounds, that has involved time and expense to construct, in accordance with the approved plans. The planning officer and enforcement officer have conducted a site visit, and have raised no concern that the building was not erected as approved.

The proposed use is as defined by the new planning application. It will become a residential annexe, associated with the main property.

The intended occupier will be the grandchild of the applicant, who is due to leave university and reside with their grandfather on a semi-permanent basis, but who would also like a source of independent living, whilst still being able to provide a level of support and care to a beloved relative.

If not approved, the structure would simply be an empty building, surplus to any requirement, but with no necessity to be removed.

It is requested that the LPA consider that this is a lawful building, and the initial intentions were honest, as are the current proposals. Excruciating circumstances that were out of the applicant’s control have resulted in the decision to make good use of the structure.

The recorded objections show little sympathy, or acknowledge that the building can exist as it is, there are also a number of assumptions about the intended use. The LPA have the power to confine the use of the building to that as proposed, and the applicant has no intention of doing otherwise.