

Dawson, Kay

From:

Sent: 19 July 2007 14:53

To: Planning

Subject: RE: Planning Application MO/2007/0863 (Grays Lane, Ashtead)

19 JUL 2007
ACK 19-7-07 KDP

Not a problem, thank you for your reply, I just wanted my support to be registered.

Kind regards

Sue Norton

33 Nicolson Close

Innsworth

Gloucester

GL31DN

From: Planning [mailto:Planning@molevalley.gov.uk]

Sent: 19 July 2007 14:45

To: Sue Norton

Subject: RE: Planning Application MO/2007/0863 (Grays Lane, Ashtead)

Dear Mrs Norton

Thank you very much for your email of 19 July 2007. In order for us to consider your representation, you will need to supply us with your address.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Regards.

Kay Dawson

Customer Services Officer

From: Sue Norton

Sent: 19 July 2007 13:50

To: Planning

Subject: FW: Planning Application MO/2007/0863 (Grays Lane, Ashtead)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was concerned that I have not received a confirmation of receipt of my letter in support of the above planning application.

I would be very grateful if you could advise me.

Kind regards

Sue Norton

From: Sue Norton [i

Sent: 17 July 2007 19:08

To: 'clive.smith@molevalley.gov.uk.'

Cc: 'lesley.westphal@molevalley.gov.uk.'

Subject: Planning Application MO/2007/0863 (Grays Lane, Ashtead)

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing you with reference to the above planning application, which I gather has caused a few

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objections.

It relates to an issue very close to my heart and I cannot begin to describe my shock and outrage at these quite frankly absurd objections and if I may I would like to share my reasons for wholeheartedly supporting this application.

My husband, Captain Peter Norton G.C., was very seriously injured in Iraq nearly 2 years ago (on 24 July 2005). Amongst his horrendous injuries he lost his left arm, left leg and suffered major nerve damage to his remaining leg, he is confined to a wheelchair – He spent the first year at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham and the second year in rehabilitation at DMRC Headley Court, and he is still there as I type.

He was awarded The George Cross for his very brave actions in March 2006.

We have 2 young sons and at the time of Peter's accident Toby was 7 months old and Tom was 2 years old.

Peter was initially treated at the American facility at Ramstein in Germany and it was here that I (and our youngest son Toby) experienced The Fisher House. The Fisher House (and there are quite a few in America, gifted by beneficiaries for the specific use of helping the families and injured personnel). They provide a great family environment for visiting relatives that allows self-sufficiency. They also provide facilities for patients not requiring constant in-hospital treatment to be with their families thus creating a wonderfully supportive environment.

Back home in the UK there was NO facility suitable for visiting families with children at either Selly Oak Hospital or Headley Court. Sadly it seems to be a persistent denial on the part of The Armed Forces / Government to recognise the wider impact of Service Personnel being injured. Most families do not live anywhere near either of these facilities; hence the need was and still is very apparent. Rehabilitation takes such a long time, months roll into years, the families basically suffer as a result, and are often very alone and at a distance from their own family support network.

So over the last few years there has been a call to try and raise this issue, and SSAFA came to our aid and raised the money to buy a fantastically suitable house with such wonderful intentions at heart, only now to be faced with the outrageous reaction of neighbours, who frankly haven't the faintest idea what they are talking about.

A house like this would have been so fantastic for families like us. We have been through hell and back in the last two years and the one thing out of all of this is to see something positive happen and to make a difference for the families that are still going through what we have been through, fine it does not help us now, but it WILL help those after us – after all our Service Personnel are still being injured, that is sadly not going to stop for the foreseeable future.

Some of the objections I have heard have made me feel that Service Families are seen to make up some sub-standard class of society –injured Service Personnel could be anyone from a corporal through to a general just serving their country to the best of their ability. One of the lovely touches of the Fisher House at Ramstein, was that the locals would provide cooked meals for all the occupants on a regular basis – It would be lovely to see all the residents of Grays Lane opening their hearts in such a welcoming and supportive manner.

I ask that when you consider this planning application, please bear a thought for all of those affected families and those still to come – you can help make a real difference.

Thank you for your time.
Kind regards
Sue Norton
Gloucester

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