

Letter of Circumstances

For the attention of the Planning Officer reviewing our application for planning permission:

I am writing as the daughter and primary carer of the new owners of 24 Weymouth Drive in Kelvindale, whereby my parents are both in a vulnerable condition, particularly my mother who has severe disabilities that demand an adapted living environment for her to have a minimal quality of life and independence.

With their needs in mind, I made a planning enquiry on 15 July 2020, before committing to the purchase, in order to understand what discretionary measures may be available in the consent application processes for extenuating circumstances that need swift decision. In reply, I was advised by the responder, David McAllister, the following:

*"The target timescale for determining an application for planning permission is 8 weeks, but the aim is to reach a decision within that period. I am not aware of any regulation which would expedite the consideration of applications in special circumstances. **I suggest, however, that when submitting any application for planning permission that you outline the circumstances in a letter accompanying the application.**"*

This letter is, therefore, to explain the circumstances I outlined in my planning enquiry to accompany our application for planning permission in order to not only provide some context to the level of changes we are applying for, but also the urgency in which we require a decision on the application.

In early February My parents had accepted an offer on the sale of their home of 35yrs because my mother was becoming housebound in the high first floor flat with little scope to adapt for other disability needs, which social services are well aware of (Jac Anderson was their social worker). The expectation was that the property market would peak during the months of conveyancing to secure a suitable alternative home for them to move to. This was of course before anyone could anticipate the national lockdown and ongoing disruption due to the pandemic. Not only did the property market freeze, but my parents were placed in the shielding group, which meant that when conveyancing and property registration resumed in June, my parents had no choice but to set an exit date on 26th June in order to ensure their sale didn't fall through whilst still shielding and having no onward property purchased.

To minimise their exposure to coronavirus we had to move them to whatever temporary accommodation we could find under coronavirus restrictions, on a ground floor with an unshared main door for them to continue shielding in, which they have continued to stay in since June with great difficulty because temporary accommodation is invariably never adapted to specific disability needs.

They purchased 24 Weymouth drive because it has the potential to meet the disability needs of both my parents with some significant adaption. However, my father is eighty years old with increasing biological control problems and my mother has both physical and hugely impacting medical conditions, causing a deterioration in mental health as she is unable to have a reasonable independent quality of life. Therefore, it was a difficult decision to undertake a property that would require many months to arrange adaption of, when time is not a luxury that my parents' health allows for. We expect that another four months minimum will be required after planning and building consent is in place for renovation before my parents can move in, given they have respiratory illnesses that would be exasperated by living on a building site.

Therefore, my parents will likely have to struggle for potentially 10-12 months in restricted accommodation having adverse effect on their mental and physical health, and thus I hope it can be

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appreciated the level of urgency needed to reach an application outcome as quickly as possible to enable appropriate adaption in a swift timeframe. I am therefore requesting sympathetic consideration of my parents' time-critical needs when reviewing our application for planning permission.

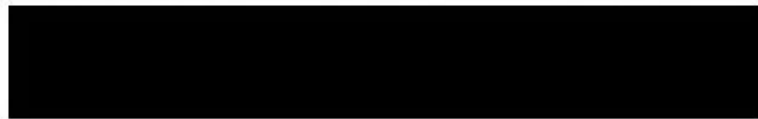
Thank you for your attention and due consideration.

Kind regards,

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Ms. Aliah Chowdhury

(Daughter of Dr Abuzar Chowdhury and Mrs Lutfun Chowdhury)

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