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Dear Panel/whom it may concern

We are writing this letter with our proposed outlined planning, for a plot of ground in West Benhar road, Shotts. I myself have worked in the agricultural trade for many years, and agriculture is very important to me as I see first-hand by visiting and chatting with different farmers how difficult times are and any way I can contribute to this is very important. Currently HGV driver for local company Davidsons brothers and my wife is a Nursing assistant in local area. We first got introduced to Mr and Mrs Tait when we purchased our daughter a horse and had Livery at their farm, we soon became great friends and myself and family love to help out around the farm, I myself am very hands on especially during lambing season, and with anything James and his family need a help with, as we all know the farming trade is a very hard industry and very hands on and keeping up with traditions and seasons and times changing, us as a family feel very strongly about helping any way we can, keeping farms going is very important to us and our climate and local area. We were offered to put a Caravan on sight to live which would have been amazing, but as we don't live too far to commute by car but living near the farm would be a lot easier, we decided to sell our house which was on station road, Shotts and downsize from the main street, we had an accident in 25TH March 2017 where a car crashed through our front window, luckily none of our family was hurt although this did create great strain on myself, and my family, we could not settle back in to our beautiful home and had to sell, hence why we thought that moving in to a caravan onsite would not be the best idea for our kids as they have been through so much already. This opportunity of this amazing piece of land has created a great opportunity for myself and my family to be closer to the farm and to create a small and safe home, be more energy efficient and self-sufficient, showing my family a different way to life, myself and my wife would be so lucky to create for our children and still be of easy access for us and our children to be part of and work in our local Shotts community where we have lived all of our lives

Further supporting information:

In reference to the Local Plan, specifically Policy NBE3 Part B, we wish to further add that our proposal will sit well within the context of NBE3 development in the greenbelt and rural investment area. West Benhar Road is a rural road servicing a small cluster of individual farms and houses between Shotts and Eastfield. The existing plots are well spaced out and are accessed directly off the main road.

The size and spacing of the proposed plot are in keeping with the existing pattern and is not too close to any of the other houses or farms. In fact, our plot fills the gap between two existing houses helping to complete the pattern of farms and houses along this road. And because we are also using an

existing access, which is scaled to match the entrance to the other plots, we think that the plot will enhance and further complement the existing pattern of houses along West Benhar Road.

We have carefully chosen this plot and feel that not only does it integrate well in the existing area but will enhance the rural landscape further without having any detrimental impact. We would further like to add that as part of the proposals, we intend to enhance the existing treeline with new and improved landscaping and happy to take guidance from NLC in this regard.