



**Jerry Stone**  
Planning and Development Consultancy

4 Redisham Close, Lowestoft, Suffolk. NR32 4SS  
E: [jerrystone7@btopenworld.com](mailto:jerrystone7@btopenworld.com) M: 0797 145 7050

# Planning Statement

## INFORMATION

Date of Application	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022
Site Address	Field View, Alby Hill, Alby, NR11 7PJ
Development Description	Use of land for keeping of 4 Rescue Donkeys to include use of existing building as tack equipment room and toilet and erection of Field Shelter/Stables
Local Planning Authority	North Norfolk
Applicant	Karl Barrett
Author	Jerry Stone
Checked By	Penelope Shaw
Report Revision	V1.1



## Contents

1.0	Introduction .....	3
2.0	The Application .....	3
3.0	Access .....	6
6.0	Conclusion .....	6

## **1.0 Introduction**

This 'Planning Supporting Statement' incorporating a 'Design and Access Statement' is Mr. Barrett's application, to retain a building on site for the storage of hay, food, rugs and equipment used for the care of Donkeys as well as a toilet.

There was a previous application for this which was refused because of lack of details so this application is addressing that.

The site has been described as open countryside however it is quite clear that this has been garden land for a period of greater than 20 years and it is only since the property that owned it was sold that it was separated off.

It is acknowledged that whilst it is there are no Permitted rights attached to it is no longer associated with a dwelling.

## **2.0 The Application**

This application should be read in conjunction with the following supporting documents:

Site Plan

Location Plan 2.0

You can see from the picture of the site that it is set within a group of dwellings and is well screened by trees from the associated landscape.

The land has no economic use for agriculture and if it was not put to some useful use it would just become an overgrown eye sore for the neighbouring properties.

The previous planning refusals mean that the land cannot be used for any type of amenity use so the applicant wished to do something that will have a positive impact and is therefore making an application to provide a new home for four Rescue Donkeys, Delia, Domenic, Darcy, and Dillan.

They currently live in Happisburgh on a field that is rented, and the owner of the land is selling it, so the donkeys need to find a new home.

Donkeys do require equipment such as rugs and grooming equipment, they also need Hay and food.

Donkeys are highly intelligent animals and are very capable of breaking into buildings so the structure that is in place being brick built is ideal for this use as they will not be able to break in.

The stable shelter is required for the Donkeys to shelter from both bad weather and good weather.









The Donkeys were originally rescues from Ireland.

During the halcyon days of the Celtic Tiger the donkey as a family pet became a status symbol. According to the economist David McWilliams<sup>1</sup>, writing in 2008, the price of a three-year-old mare tripled between 2005 and 2005 from E500 to between E1200 and E1800 making the donkey ... *the poster-boy of the sophisticated elite*.

Inevitably, the role of the donkey as fashion accessory was not to last. The implosion of the Irish banking system brought an end to the short-lived era of conspicuous consumption and the donkey, along with other pets such as pedigree dogs, horses and even cats were abandoned by their owners in ever increasing numbers. Even a smallish rescue centre for animals, the Skibbereen Animal Rescue in West Cork had 106 dogs, 76 horse's ponies and donkeys and over 80 cats by December 2011<sup>2</sup>. During the same year over 200 donkeys were exported from the Donkey Sanctuary at Liscarrol in Cork to sanctuaries in England. According to the animal welfare officer at Liscarrol, there has been no let-up in the numbers of abandoned donkeys since 2011, now averaging over 400 a year taken in by this sanctuary alone and the numbers are still increasing. There are no accurate figures on the number of donkeys in the country- estimates vary from under 4000 (Department of Agriculture) to 20000. There are also no collated figures on the number of donkeys in animal rescue centres around the country but even a rough calculation makes nonsense of the official figures which are clearly ridiculously low. Given the recent horsemeat scandals, there must be at least a suspicion that at least some donkeys are entering the human food chain.

Ejiao industry, warns report that half global population could be slaughtered in next five years.

---

<sup>1</sup> McWilliams 2008

<sup>2</sup> *Irish Examiner*, 22.12.2011.

Half the world's donkey population could be wiped out in the next five years, as millions are slaughtered for their hides to meet rising demand for a traditional Chinese medicine.

It is estimated that 4.8m donkey hides a year are needed to satisfy demand for a gelatin-based traditional medicine called ejiao, according to a new report from the Donkey Sanctuary. At the current pace, the global donkey population of 44m would be halved over the next five years, the report warns.

Donkey populations in Brazil have declined by 28% since 2007, by 37% in Botswana and by 53% in Kyrgyzstan, and there are fears the populations in Kenya and Ghana could also be decimated by the skin trade.

The report reveals how donkeys – many stolen from communities who rely on the animals for their livelihoods – are transported on long journeys without access to food or water, with up to 20% dying on route.

It said broken legs were commonplace, with sightings of severed hooves and lower legs on the ground at offloading sites, and donkeys are often dragged by their ears and tails.

“The welfare infringements are absolutely horrendous in some of the places that donkeys are being slaughtered for this trade,” said Faith Burden, the director of research and operational support at the Donkey Sanctuary. “The scale is much greater than we were aware of before.”

Demand is so high that even pregnant mares, young foals, and sick and injured donkeys are being rounded up for slaughter, and since injury and illness often do not affect the quality of the hide, traders have little incentive to ensure humane treatment, the report said.

The donkey hides are used to make gelatine, a key ingredient of ejiao, which has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years and is believed to improve blood circulation and treat conditions like anaemia.

Donkey numbers in China have fallen by 76% since 1992, with the country turning to global imports to fill the gap.

(Sourced from the Guardian).

**Article submitted.**

### **3.0 Access**

The access will be using the existing access.

### **6.0 Conclusion**

This is a good use for a small piece of amenity land that is formerly part of a garden.

It is helping to save some Donkeys of which the world population is in severe decline.

This application needs to be judged purely on the application in its current form and not anything that may have been previously considered.

It is a shame that the planning Officer did not request further information or a correction of the drawings on the previous application and I would urge that if further information were required that it is asked for.

These Donkeys, Delia, Dominic, Darcy, and Dillan need a new home. Let's provide them one.