

Additional supporting evidence for proposed changes to front garden of Townsend, Town End, Norton St Philip Somerset BA2 7LQ. Applicants: Jack Beaumont, Meriel Lee

The main applicant Jack Beaumont has mobility/disability issues with regard to his left knee and cannot drive a manual vehicle as he has no control over the clutch pedal and therefore needs an automatic vehicle. Currently the other applicant Meriel Lee is the main driver but has recently been informed that she is in the early stages of cataracts – it is only proper, fair and safe that Jack Beaumont takes over the driving as much as possible.

Both applicants have need to a vehicle as they live in a rural community and both need access to local hospitals and other services (doctors, dentists and food supplies) however the applicants are very keen to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce the emissions of motor vehicles and are very keen to invest in a small electric car that would suit their needs adequately. Access to a car maintains their level of independence and mobility as well as their physical health and mental well-being.

Unfortunately current legislation does not allow for an electric vehicle to be charged while on a public highway and can only be charged off road – this is clearly unfair to home owners who do not have access to off road parking – hence the need to modify the front garden of Townsend to allow for off road charging as well as changes to the public pathway to allow for a drop kerb for access.

The applicants are very keen to minimise any environment or conservation impacts with the proposed work. They have lived at the property for over 20 years and any works that they have undertaken have always been done in accordance with listed requirements and with sensitivity to the rural nature and historical value of the property. They wish to assure the planning department that all works and materials used will be done sympathetically.