

APPLICANTS' STATEMENT ON THE HISTORY OF THEIR RESIDING AT OAK VIEW, THURLESTON LANE, IPSWICH IP1 6TH

Mr Bernard Kirby (78 years old) and Mrs Wendy Kirby (75 years old) lived in the property immediately to the north of Oak View and known as The Bungalow.

In their time living at The Bungalow, they had 3 children:-

Paul aged 53 who has 2 children aged 30 and 28

Michelle aged 44 who has 3 children aged 23, 21 and 13 and also has a 4 year old grandchild

Claire aged 42 who has 1 child aged 17

Bernard formed Speck Felt Roofing in 1976 and Wendy dealt with administration including the book work.

When they moved to The Bungalow, there were outbuildings within its curtilage and in these Bernard used to store materials relating to his business. The business initially was successful but became a victim of the recession in the early 1990s forcing Bernard and Wendy to sell their home in order to pay off their debts.

To enable them to stay on site close to the outbuildings used for storing work materials an area of land south of The Bungalow was retained and in 1994 a mobile home was put on the land for them to live in.

Over the years Bernard built modest extensions on the mobile home making it more comfortable for him and Wendy to live there and for their children and grandchildren to visit.

Due to an increase in property prices any money they still had from the sale of the bungalow was no longer anything like enough to buy a new home.

They have paid Council Tax on their home for the last 26 years and continue to do so today. They also paid a 2 year back payment of Council Tax. They paid business rates on the outbuildings used for storage from 1994 when they moved in until 13 years ago.

Oak View has water supplied via a meter, electricity supplied via a meter and drainage is to a cess pit which is maintained by Binder, the sewage specialists from Claydon.

During their time living at Oak View there have been no visits from the Council and no issues with neighbours, one of whom delivers the daily newspapers to Bernard and Wendy.

As they have got older Bernard and Wendy have realised that their little house is becoming much more difficult in that the heating bills are high and the narrow doors you associate with a mobile home are not wide enough and the steps to get from the outside to the inside are a challenge to say the least.

Bernard has quite recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's' disease and there is every likelihood that he will need a wheelchair in the foreseeable future. Wendy, whilst generally in good health, is beginning to suffer from arthritis.

Bernard's children came up with the idea of a family project to build their Mum and Dad a better, eco-friendly, low level single storey property where they could spend their remaining years and have their children, grandchildren and who knows great grandchild to stay on the odd occasion.