

# Comments for Planning Application 23/01621/CLEUD

## Application Summary

Application Number: 23/01621/CLEUD

Address: Blenheim Cottage The Square Freshwater Isle Of Wight PO40 9QH

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for continued use of property as a permanent residential dwelling

Case Officer: Alexandra Lewis

## Customer Details

Name: Barbara Watson

Address: 5 Makings Close, Freshwater, Isle Of Wight PO40 9RQ

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I support the Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for continued use of the property known as Blenheim Cottage, The Square, Freshwater, as a permanent residential dwelling.

As a resident of Freshwater Bay, I regularly walk past this cottage and was surprised to see a planning application posted outside. I was even more surprised to see that the application was for the continued use of the property as a permanent residential dwelling, when I have never noticed an application posted locally for a residential dwelling to change to a holiday let.

I have now viewed the documents and comments available for this application and can only offer my support to the owner/occupier who has been asked to provide evidence going back ten years to allow their continued residence in the property. This would now appear to have been supplied in the comments provided by the applicant, the previous owner and neighbouring permanent residents.

As a permanent resident with a family in this popular tourist area, I am interested in the rapid changes that have taken place in the last few years to the Island's housing market and am aware that policy changes are needed to move with the changing times and to best serve the local economy and community.

The Island Planning Strategy Evidence Paper - Short term holiday let accommodation (September 2022) states that the Island has had a 44% increase in the number of properties registered as holiday lets for business rates purposes since May 2019.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in its consultation process earlier this year proposed changes to planning laws in England that would give councils greater control in managing the quantity of short-term lets to reduce housing pressures in popular tourist areas. There was also a proposal to permit those premises that are currently short term let use class when the changes are introduced to return to use as a dwelling for purchase or rent without the

need for a planning application.

Surely in this current climate of change, there can be no reason for a property which has been evidenced to have been in use as a permanent residential dwelling for the past ten years to now be forcibly retained as only available as a holiday let, which I assume could be the outcome if this application is refused under the current legal framework, with the subsequent removal of housing stock for future purchase or rental opportunities and the displacement of the current occupier.

I therefore support the Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for continued use of property as a permanent residential dwelling and trust that the Council will take all the supplied evidence into account and grant approval of this application.