

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: Mrs Rebecca Cameron

Address: Willows Hotel, Granville Road, Totland Totland Bay, Isle Of Wight PO39 0AZ

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.

I have been asked to give further information on my tenants that stayed at Blenheim Cottage. The council has been sent all my evidence as required.

As I stated previously, I couldn't obtain the more lucrative holiday cottage bookings as I had a court order that stated the property had to be up for sale and thus, I couldn't take advance holiday bookings. The cottage also had to be available at all times for prospective buyers to view. Mr and Mrs Davy started their tenancy on the 10th November 2012 and they stayed until end October 2013 (tenancy was to 1st November 2013). I was asked to put up this homeless family that were on housing benefit. They were a family of 2 adults and 4 children and when they left the cottage it was in a mess and needed repair and complete redecoration (especially given that the cottage was on the market to sell as well). My next tenant was Mr Urry. He and his partner rented it from 28th December 2013 to August 2014. The cottage then had a new flat roof and works were started to separate the cottage from the main house as an offer was made for the cottage By Mr Davis. My ex-husband, Mr Robson, refused to accept this offer. Mr and Mrs Clark followed from 1st October 2014 to 1st Jan 2015. My last Tenant was Mr Demitress from January 22 January 2015 to March 2015, when he informed me, his mother died. The offer was made by Dr Judith Waine for the cottage on the 2nd March 2015 which I accepted and it went back to court to force Mr Robson accept the offer. The sale went through eventually in July 2015.

All the tenants that stayed in Blenheim Cottage from 2012 until the property was sold were residential tenants with tenancy agreements so cannot be classed as holiday cottage rentals.

Sadly, most of the rental properties locally have all been turned into holiday cottages or Airbnb

leaving very few properties for locals to rent. When I finally sold my house, I had to rent but I found finding a rental property impossible. For every place I looked at there were 20+ other families applying too. In the end I gave up and luckily was offered a place with a friend until I could buy. Having such outdated holiday cottage rules in times when local people are desperate for a roof over their head is ludicrous, especially given that there are no rules to prevent people turning residential properties and rental properties into Airbnbs and second homes. Where are the properties that local people can actually afford to buy or rent? The young families, carers, cleaners, hospitality workers, OAP's on just state pensions and all those on minimum wages? The Island needs its community and also people that support the tourism business! Youngsters are forced to leave and areas become ghost towns that shut down in the winter.

Forcing a very old lady to leave her home, when she has nowhere else to go is morally wrong and actually very distasteful. Let alone putting her through all this stress at her age is so very sad. She will not be able to afford to buy again and won't be able to find rental accommodation. I am a committee member of the Freshwater Bay Residents association (FBRA) and I can see all the local residents desperately trying to support her and help her as she has become a valued member of their community.

The council has been given all the evidence that was required from me, so now this must be resolved both positively and very quickly.

Yours Faithfully

Rebecca Cameron