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To whom it may concern

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Previous owners of the property built an extensive driveway - laid with bricks - to facilitate the parking and manoeuvring of their large motorhome(s) as well as their household vehicles. For all terms and purposes, the existing driveway area resembles that of a multi-level car park with slopes and a layout that is inconvenient and as well as dangerous to people, especially during icy days. As a result, it is not practically possible to use the existing garage for storing a vehicle (previous owners also used the existing garage only as storage). We intend to undo that monstrosity and release substantial parts of the existing non-permeable driveway to nature and wildlife as well as build a working garage and an accessible pathway towards the entrance of the house. We have already transformed the top end of the driveway (an area of approximately 25 m²) into a garden, planted with wild-meadow turf and shrubs.

To continue this transformation, we need planning permission to erect a new (working) garage on the left side of the property (onto an area already built as a driveway and parking area and adjacent to the neighbour's garage). Thus, we would be able to demolish the existing garage and, in its location, design a new garden layout, in harmony with the contours of the ground. Moreover, relocating the existing garage would also have the benefit of allowing more natural light to enter the house from the south-westerly direction. In the current configuration, the existing garage shades half of the front of the house and obscures the view into the garden.

Further, we would like to erect a metal walkway from approximately the beginning of the existing garage to the patio area in front of the house. That would create step-free access to the house (essential for our elderly relatives and without the dangers of the slippery driveway). It is our ambition to lay the walkway with transparent (treated) glass so that walking along it would reveal to the eye the beauty of the natural stone wall (to the right) and the gravel with a few ferns that we would lay underneath. In that vein, we would demolish the existing steps in front of the house and join the two stone walls (left and right of the steps) with grey Sussex stones (see attached panoramic-view picture of the proposed extended stone wall). The metal walkway would be a truly unique feature in the proposed transformation and

in line with our philosophy of working with the existing ground configuration (not against; not covering the ground but letting it “breathe”).

In addition, we propose to have a new fence and a hedgerow in the front aspect; remove the existing unattractive hedge row and replace it with a new hedge of evergreen bushes, growing behind a dwarf stone wall (to retain the soil). On top of the stone wall, we would place an open timber fence of rails and posts. Finally, we would like to install a wooden gate that would match aesthetically the new landscape and protect our privacy (previous owners removed the gate, as it was an inconvenience for manoeuvring their motorhome. As a result, there is now a large gap of around 5m at the front).

We intend to work with nature, not against it, uncover tens of square metres of non-permeable brick-laid driveway and in its place design eco-friendly garden areas that would facilitate absorption of surface water and welcome nature and wildlife.

