Good Morning David

Thank you for your phone call yesterday, following on, please see the paragraphs below highlighting the reasoning behind our application for additional stabling and storage for agricultural equipment.

Horses

It is our love of horses which initially brought us up to the Staffordshire Moorlands as we were struggling to buy a property local to where we were previously living with enough land to accommodate them. Horton Barn is ideal as it has approximately 22 acres.

As a family we take part in many different equestrian activities throughout the year, not all of our horses are suitable to one particular discipline or rider therefore that is why have so many. The majority of our horses are over 17hh as Steve is very tall and a horse of this size is required.

We currently have 5 stables inside the barn, the horses are facing each other with a small narrow passageway in between.

Four of the stables are 12ft x12ft and there is then one larger box , we have 4 horses over 17hh so three of these horses have to be stabled in the 12ft x 12ft boxes which are not large enough , this has resulted on more than one occasion a horse becoming cast in its stable which is a serious and dangerous position to be in.

Also because of the close proximity of the horses to one another when they are in the internal stables and also when we have to lead horses past one another into their stable , the horses kick the back of the stables which causes damage to the horses legs and the stable walls.

I can provide photographic evidence of the damage to the walls.

Due to the recent wet winters we have not been able to turn the horses out onto the land every day in order to protect it.

Please see the list of horses we currently own who are all kept at Horton Barn.

Marcel – 18hh Gelding – 16 yrs old has a condition call stringhalt which means that he requires a large stable to enable him to move around freely.

Jessica – 17hh Mare – 14 yrs old also has a condition where her back legs become stiff so requires room to move

Deano – 18hh – Gelding – 12 years old –He was gifted to us, is a mild shiverer and has behavioural issues where he becomes incredibly stressed in a small stable.

Jacob – 17.2hh – Gelding – 9 yrs old – lame with a condition called ring bone, Jacob cannot be ridden and he cannot be sold on. If we do not keep him the only alternative would be for him to be put to sleep. As Jacob is not in pain when he is not in ridden work and as we are in a position with the amount of land we have, we have decided that Jacob should be retired here.

Derry – 15 hh – Mare 14 yrs – I currently compete Derry and she is a very talented jumper so I would like to breed from her eventually .Derry is not a young horse and I will not be able to compete her for may more years so I would like a son or daughter of hers .

Tommy – 11.2hh – gelding 12 yrs – Our son's pony since he was two years old and he is now 7 yrs old and as he grows up needs a larger pony to continue his keen riding interest and in order for him to

progress we are currently in the process of loaning another pony from a friend . This pony will also be living here.

Topper – 15.2hh – Gelding 27yrs – Retired – I have owned Topper since he was born 27 yrs ago, when we retired him from ridden work he was kept at my parents farm. My parents have since downsized and Topper is now living with us again. Due to his age Topper has to be adequately stabled in the winter.

Lucy – 16hh – Mare – 20 yrs – Lucy is my broodmare who has also been living at my parents but due to the circumstances is now back with us.

As you can see from the above further stabling is essential for our horses welfare, we have more horses than stables. You can also see that three of the horses are retired due to age or injury.

Most of our horses have minor health or behavioural issues and although they meet our needs for the activities we participate in , it would be unlikely they would pass a vet inspection if they were to be sold on, this would deem them low value and not ensure the best of homes therefore we wish for horses we currently have to remain here for life.

Agricultural Equipment

So that we can maintain our land we have several items of equipment which require storage to prevent their condition from deteriorating or from them being stolen. Please see a list of the items below

International Tractor

Sprayer

Topper

Chain Harrows

Roller

Quad Bike

Flat bed trailer

Trailer for Quad

I hope that the above has highlighted our need for further stabling and storage due the welfare of our animals and the upkeep of our property.

We are also currently having to have our hay bales wrapped in plastic as they currently have to be stored outside.

Kind regards

Kat Horton