# Planning Statement

# In respect of

# Erection of an Agricultural Building on Land

# to the South of

# Star Cottage,
# Off Tenford Lane,
# Gorsty Hill,
# Tean,
# Stoke-on-Trent.
# ST10 4EL

# for

# Mr. Kevin Warrington.


**Prepared by:**

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1 The Applicant is operating a bee-keeping business on the site. The bees are a Buckfast Bee, a cross bred species, introduced in 1919 by Brother Adam at Buckfast Abbey in Devon.

2 Bees travel a distance of upto 3 miles from the hive in search of nectar and pollen. The Queen Bee can live upto 8 years and lays upto 2,500 eggs per day. Worker bees have a 6-8 week lifespan, a worker bee will fly the equivalent distance of 1½ times the circumference of the Earth, and are being replaced all the time. Approximately one third of the food we eat is the result of honeybee pollination. It is the Applicant's intention to bring back to the area, indigenous black bees who are declining in Britain at the moment. A single hive can produce anywhere from 10kg to 30kg (22 to 66 pounds) of honey every year. Hives need to be checked constantly. Badgers, mice, mites and wasps can all cause problems. Extensions to hives called Supper are needed when the colony of bees expands. The Applicant currently has 4 hives on site and it is intended to increase the number of hives to 30 initially.

3 Storage for: Farming equipment, tractor, Flay mowers, Hay Harrows, Trailers, and a Horse Box. High value equipment needs to be in a secure building. Storage is also required for PPE equipment, and Spinners for extracting the honey. Space is also required on site for repairs to and replacement Hives and Suppers. Rural theft is at a high. A solid, secure lock up is essential for the Applicant to proceed economically with his business.

4 The applicants Bee keeping business is active during the Summer months and the field will be set to mowing grass for feed.

5 The lane, particularly in the Harvest season is very busy. The active hives need attending to, and if there was a building on site storing equipment, there would be no need to use the lane to attend to the active hives with vehicles as the site is within walking distance to the applicant's home.

6 The applicant proposes a plant out scheme covering approximately 0.75 Acres (0.30 Hectares) for British Wild Flowers and intends to mow only the field perimeter.

7 The ruts on the site have been taken out to make the field level and manageable to work on.

8 No materials will be or have been brought in or removed off site during the groundworks.

9 The applicant's aim is to reduce traffic on the road from himself by approximately 80%