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## **Hosking Family Statement in Support of Planning Applications Submitted on behalf of Tim Hosking and Family**

### **FOREWORD**

This statement reflects the combined views of the Hosking Family – Jan (mother), Neil (brother) and Alison (sister in law) of Tim. It details the discussions had with them to understand their anguish and concerns as well as aspects of the social, physical and mental requirements they wish to put forward on Tim's behalf, not solely as representatives, but as Tim's family and carers.

### **Living Accommodation in Alvechurch for Tim Hosking**

This statement has been prepared to help seek support to secure Planning Consent for purpose designed living accommodation in the Alvechurch area for Tim Hosking following his skiing accident in January 2003.

Tim suffered a severe head injury which has rendered him unable to speak or move and is confined to a wheelchair requiring 24 hour care. The Hosking family have commissioned us to design bespoke living accommodation for Tim on land they own which was originally part of the curtilage of the main farmhouse at the rear of his Mother's barn conversion called The Granary, High House Farm, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SA. This is a complex consisting of a farmhouse and barn conversions close to St. Lawrence Church in the heart of Alvechurch village. In fact, High House Farm was originally the Hosking main family home and the conversion and refurbishment of the barns was carried out by Tim as developer, prior to his accident.

The main reason for seeking your help and written support is that initial discussions with the Planning Authority at Bromsgrove District Council have received a negative response due to current policy on restricting new dwellings and significant extensions within the village. However, we and the family, feel that there are **exceptional** circumstances which hopefully will allow the local Planning Authority to take a more lenient flexible attitude in dealing with this planning application, without setting a precedent. It is our intention to request that our planning applications are considered by the Planning Committee and not dealt with under officer's delegated powers, when we are hoping that Members will support the application, even though this might be contrary to the recommendation made to them by their officers. It is with this in mind that we seek your written support to help achieve this aim.

By way of further background information, we enclose copies of letters from Tim's Occupational Therapist, Consultant and local doctor's surgery. These give a good and unbiased insight into Tim's current medical condition and best describe why this bespoke living accommodation is required for Tim.

It must be made clear that this purpose designed living accommodation is solely to benefit Tim and hopefully improve his chances of rehabilitation and at the same time improve his quality of life. It is certainly not intended for the long term benefit of the family by creating additional living accommodation which could be sold off separately at a later date. In fact, the Hosking family would invite the Planning Authority to impose a suitable restrictive Condition as part of any planning consent if they were mindful to approve the application. It should also be noted that the family have funds available to construct the new accommodation without the requirement for additional finance.

Two suitable designs are to be promoted. These are shown on our drawing numbers **7342-07** and **7342-08**. Both are a variation on the same theme, except that one is being treated as an extension to Tim's mother's house and the other is a '*stand alone*' unit. Both have purpose designed living accommodation for Tim and his full time carer. The family have a preference for the individual unit. This provides Tim with greater independence, as they believe Tim would appreciate not being a burden on his mother. The design allows for Tim to enjoy an aspect over the Worcestershire countryside from the rear of the property. A raised, covered rear terrace is proposed looking out over the family's paddock which houses their four horses. This will allow Tim to feel part of the family, and enjoy seeing the children riding ponies on their frequent visits to ride and groom the horses.

It is clear that both the medical experts and the family feel that for Tim's health to improve it is important that his environment and integration back into the family is enhanced. In addition, this new environment and holistic approach is far more conducive to Tim having regular visits from his 6 year old daughter Maisie, who now lives with her mother in Hereford. It was agreed that where Tim currently resides is not the most suitable of environments for a young child. This has led to a reluctance by Tim's former fiancée to allow their child to visit her father.

An important factor, not to be overlooked, is that of logistics. If Tim lived close to his family, relatives would not need to be restricted to planned visits, nor would they be confined to timetables. Life would inevitably become more 'normal' for everyone. As with all busy families, funny incidents, dramas, even the occasional calamity happens; it is these events that are part of every day life, these precious moments that Tim would be involved with solely because he was there and therefore a participant. This close proximity would automatically give him access to a far more varied and wider spectrum of events that would most definitely provide the stimulus he is missing in his present environment.



He is a relatively young man who, at present, physically cannot involve himself in his family's busy day to day lives. By moving him closer to his family he will be involved mentally although not physically. Family members, and indeed friends, will be able to call in to talk to him and tell him of their own daily experiences. Also, Tim will be able to join the family on short trips out in his specially adapted vehicle. These local journeys would not have been sensible to undertake if Tim lived at a different location, logistically it would turn a quick 'pop to the shops' into a marathon and therefore would not be undertaken. In fact, so many of the small things that physically able people take for granted would suddenly become possible for Tim if he were given the opportunity to live independently and in a more accessible location to those closest to him.

It goes without saying, that the family desperately want their son and brother back in his own home environment surrounded by the people who love him. The new accommodation will enable more regular visits by his family, as well as his mother being his immediate neighbour. However, the proposals also ensure Tim has a new purpose and incentive, and with the help of his full time carer will give him the best chance of securing greater autonomy and less dependability on the state. At the same time, and perhaps most importantly, greatly expand and assist his chances of joining his family in the normality of daily life.

Unfortunately, there are many people who find themselves in a similar situation to that of our clients; they also wish to be in a position to care for their loved ones in an independent home environment, but are unable to provide either the finance or man power required to make it possible. Tim Hosking's family realise they are extremely fortunate in that they are able to provide the necessary finance and care to achieve this happy environment for Tim. It is hoped that we can, with your support and compassion, and on the family's behalf, persuade the Planning Committee to agree to the **exceptional** circumstances, and on this occasion, grant approval to either of the applications, once submitted.

Thank you for your time.