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Statement of Miles Pollard Dip WCF

1. I am Miles Pollard a registered farrier. Once I left school, I went straight to Myerscough College then did an apprenticeship for 5 years training to become a remedial farrier achieving my Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma with honours. My apprenticeship was carried out with a remedial farrier which is where my passion for remedial farriery comes from.
2. I have always had an interest in horses as I was brought up on a stud farm that my mother operated.
3. I started my own business at the application site in 2015 offering remedial farriery services on site after being granted planning to operate my business from Woodfold Forge and Stables.
4. The facilities at WoodFold have been developed over the last four years to suit my bespoke remedial business requirements and I am now in a position to expand my business and to continue improving. The business has grown with my knowledge, passion & determination to succeed. My business at Woodfold stables has already proven to be a good business model being profitable and achieving high levels of demand resulting in me having to turn away business.
5. We require the extension to the existing equestrian building to expand an existing successful and profitable rural business. I have built up my business over the last four years and it is now a niche and unique business that only myself and North West Equine Vets operate in the north west. This is as a result of my in depth knowledge of remedial farriery and my determination to succeed in this field. The demand for my services are high and with the current facilities I cannot meet this demand.
6. The most common type of foot ailment I treat is Laminitis which is increasing significantly on an annual basis due to owners over feeding and over rugging their horses, stress, climate change and fertilisers on the grass becoming too lush and rich together with horses not getting enough exercise. Below is an extract from the Royal Veterinary College on laminitis:
Laminitis is a prevalent, extremely painful condition in horses that has significant welfare implications for owners. It is an inflammatory condition of the tissues (laminae) bonding the hoof wall to pedal bone in the hoof. It is often recurrent for individual horses.

In excess of seven percent of equine deaths are linked to the laminitis, with many animals being euthanased. There are a number of risk factors associated with the development of laminitis including the spring and summer months, obesity, being a pony rather than a horse, older age and hormonal diseases such as equine Cushing's disease (pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction; PPID) and equine metabolic syndrome (EMS).

Because the hoof wall is rigid, the sensitive laminae within hoof cannot expand with swelling and therefore it can become excruciatingly painful and debilitating. The condition can result in the pedal bone sinking or rotating within the hoof under the weight of the horse and in extreme cases this can result in penetration the sole of the foot by the pedal bone.

Laminitis is very painful for horses and ponies a common position for a horse to stand is shown in the image below.



7. So that the planning officers can fully understand what remedial farriery involves, I set out below a step by step example of how a horse is treated for laminitis. Please note this obviously alters on a case by case basis.
 - I. Visit the stables where the horse is kept and diagnose with laminitis.
 - II. Liaise with the clients vet and administer bute
 - III. Transport to Woodfold in my trailer which is specially designed so that horses cannot fall over. The horse will have been given bute before travelling so are not in pain.
 - IV. I put a different types of shoe on the horse to relieve pain. There are different types of remedial shoes that can be applied to a laminitic horse, the old style heart bar shoe which use to be nailed on to the foot to support the horses pedal bone is used in some cases. Over the past couple of years, new materials such as plastic glue on shoes (inprint shoes) are used so that there is less stress to the foot as the shoe does not need to be nailed on. These imprint shoes need to be fitted in a clean dry environment and need at least 2 hours for the glue and plastic to set on the foot. They are purely a box rest remedial shoe and cannot be subject to mud or water. These shoes can only be fitted if trained to do so and I have undertaken this training.
 - V. The horse then has a deep bed and the diet is usually restricted accordingly.
 - VI. Horse is then monitored very closely; I check the pulse and temperature of the hoof on hourly basis, check that they are eating, drinking and not led down too long which could lead to the horse becoming cast or if not eating lead to the horse getting colic all of which are fatal.
 - VII. The horses are stabled here for between approximately two and twelve months depending on each horses specific circumstances. Some horses are stabled at Woodfold for the foreseeable future to the owners work commitments and personal circumstances.

- VIII. The most crucial stage when treating laminitis is the aftercare. The horse needs to be kept stress free and their weight under control. Once a horse has had laminitis, unfortunately it will always have it which is why close supervision is crucial.
8. Another common ailment I treat is tendon and ligament damage where I need put an "egg bar" shoe on the horse. The horse requires box rest for between 6&7 weeks with the legs needing to be kept cool constantly. This is done by either hosing the leg with cool water or ice packs being applied 2-4 times per day. They need to be slowly brought back into work with small but regular exercise regimes. Individual enclosed grazing is required.
9. The benefits of having the horses stabled at Woodfold and monitored by me are as follows:
- Close monitoring on a 24 hour basis
 - Fed the correct amount per day at certain times. This includes feeding soaked hay to reduce calories and ensuring horses are actually eating
 - Grazed in smaller paddocks to prevent over grazing
 - If the horse is usually at a livery stables, when other horses get turned out the ill horse would get stressed stood in alone
 - Drug administration
 - Feet can be looked at on a daily basis and treated as and when required by a qualified remedial farrier to ensure the best outcome.
 - The topography of the land is flat therefore the horses feet are not being jolted if the land was on a hill side.
 - Rehabilitation process is more efficient than been at a "normal" livery yard due to the knowledge and expertise I offer
 - Less stress for the owners of horses knowing a professional is taking care of their horse
 - Bandages, ice packs, shoeing etc can take place as and when required and not just during the day
 - Some owners do not have the facilities ie. Water, light or electricity for me to carry out remedial farriery. If plastic shoes need to be put on, the horses feet need to be thoroughly clean and dry. I cannot do this type of work in a field corner.
 - Horses pulses in feet and temperature can be checked on hourly basis
10. Other "normal" livery yards cannot offer the service I do for the following reasons:
- They are too big and the horses are not treated on an individual basis
 - They do not have specialist knowledge
 - Employees do not notice issues for example if horse is lying down more than usual, not drinking, not eating, change in pulse in the feet
11. The extension to the building will provide space for five additional stables that can accommodate larger horses which I am getting more demand for. I currently have a Clydesdale that I am monitoring at Woodfold. The owner cannot pick up its feet on her own so needs me to do this on a daily basis. A Clydesdale requires a larger stable.
12. Horses that are being kept in on box rest for up to 8 months are more prone to becoming cast therefore having a larger stable reduced this risk.
13. I also accommodate mares and foals. If a mare gets laminitis after it has had its foal, I need to be able to stable both the mare and foal in one stable. The mare will spend a lot of time led down due to its feet hurting and I therefore need to feed the foal regularly as it

cannot suckle from its mother. It is my responsibility to ensure that the foal is fed and I need to be on site over night to fulfil my role that the owner of the horse has employed me to do.

14. The building will also provide space for a work area for me to carry out the remedial shoeing in a safe and clean environment. It will also provide storage which will ensure the property appears tidy. Everything will look tidier. This work area will also allow me to employ an apprentice as a specified work area is required which the proposed development will provide. The extension to the building will therefore provide employment opportunities.
15. Shires and Clydesdale can only be shod at Woodfold and not from my van due to the size of shoe required. There is an increasing demand for the larger horses feet to be managed as not many farriers want to deal with such huge animals. There is becoming an increasing issue with the larger horses feet as they not looked at until they are 3-4 years old and at this point the feet have become cracked which leads to infection when the horses are turned out on to the grass. Veterinary practices recognise that I specialise in this field and therefore refer clients to me to deal with the larger horse and they can be closely managed in my stables. I need to be able to make shoes on site as you cannot buy shoes for larger horses as they are just too big. Making a shoe and then putting the shoe on takes approximately 4-5 hours therefore a lengthy process.
16. We require the temporary rural workers dwelling to ensure that all the horses requiring remedial attention have the highest welfare at all times and are never in distress. I need to be on site to administer medicines, care for sick & injured horses and to supervise the care of the horses in general. Given the nature & management of the enterprise, close supervision of the many aspects of the business at any one time is a common occurrence, thus the on site requirement.
17. ADAS's report prepared on behalf of the Ribble Valley Borough Council recognises the requirement for me to be living on site due to the needs of the horses. A justification for on site presence has therefore been accepted.
18. The planning officers in previous applications have concerns that we have not demonstrated very special circumstances for the development in the Green Belt.
19. I consider the special circumstances to be as follows:
 - I am a unique business that only one other firm offers in the north west
 - Owners of the horses trust me and I have a duty of care to ensure that horses can be monitored on a 24 hour basis.
 - I am turning business away because of a lack of stables
 - The extension to the building will reduce the risk of fire due to it being fire boarded
 - Being on site will reduce the risk of crime
 - I cannot fulfil my job role if I do not live on site. The horses require attention and treatment throughout the day and night.
 - Without the extension my revenue is limited as I cannot treat as many horses
 - The time I spend working will be more efficient as I will not be driving as much
 - Safer working environment with a designated working area
 - ADAS have confirmed there is a requirement for onsite presence
 - Employment opportunities

- Onsite supervision for horses that are prone to becoming cast
- Woodfold stables is easily accessible with easy access to the wider motorway network.
- I have built up a client base in the Ribble Valley over the last 5 years

20. The proposed development is for a temporary dwelling for a period of 3 years and Nicola Hopkins has advised that she would prefer to see a static caravan proposed rather than lodge. We have therefore followed the advise and proposed a static caravan.
21. Please note that although I have described mainly issues associated with laminitis above there are a number of foot ailments that I deal.
22. I hope you will understand the importance of me living on site with the horses at Woodfold and allow me to expand and improve my business.

.....Date.....19/12/2019

Miles Pollard DipWCF

