

Retrospective Planning Application Supporting Statement

- 1) I am David Houghton, the co owner of 1 Talbot Street. I make this statement in support of a retrospective planning application, in the alternative a Certificate of Lawful Development.
- 2) The development in question is what was a hatch in my coal shed at the front of my property, which is now a doorway. I understand from elderly chaps in the village this shed was originally a communal or public toilet. It is believed that the hatch was originally a doorway but was altered later without record
- 3) I have read the council guidelines for supporting evidence such as receipts or engineers reports to provide date of completion of works. As this was only a minor job, I do not have any receipts as the expenditure was probably limited to a door casing. I therefore provide the council with a narrative of the history of the shed since my occupation of the property as my best evidence
- 4) I moved to the property in 2012, I originally used the shed for storage of firewood, then starting in 2014 bulk delivery of coal. In 2014 I bought loose coal, then changed suppliers to bulk order of prepack coal. This required 2 persons to unload 2 or 3 tons of coal off the lorry into the shed.
- 5) In 2016 the coal lorry reversed his lorry into the hatch door and damaged the stone jambs. As I had half planned to change it into a doorway at some point I did not pursue it through his insurance. I propped up the stone lintel with some wood and left it until I had time to make a repair.
- 6) I can not recall the exact date of making the repair, which was changing the hatch to a doorway. This was a diy job of moving out some stones to which the lime mortar had already turned to soil and was within my DIY capabilities.
- 7) I did need assistance to put the stone lintel above the door, for which I used a local builder who had recently moved into [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to the best of my recollection though it could have been earlier.
- 8) I was expecting Mr Harrison to have some builders trestles allowing us to lift the lintel into place. His trestles had been left outside and rusted, so as an alternative we made a stack of bags of coal which we stood on.
- 9) From this I am able to say confidently this would either been Autumn 2017 or Spring 2018 when the job was completed as by summer I would not have had stock of coal. Further it could not have been later as I hardly knew [REDACTED] at that point in time as

it was the first job he did for me. I later got to know him socially and have dated social photographs.

10) As I mentioned earlier the original purpose of the doorway was to enable delivery of coal.

However [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

access is required and it is expected [REDACTED] may be required in the not to distant future as [REDACTED] is already a [REDACTED]

11) Access to the house is only available from the front up some uneven steps, there is insufficient room for a [REDACTED]

12) Protecting the historical character of the property has always been very important to us and we have sought to balance the need for disabled access against the historical appearance of the property.

13) We believe that a doorway through the shed, to a wheelchair lift which can not be seen from the road is the best way of respecting her privacy and protecting the historical character of the property.

14) I apologise for not knowing planning permission was required, but nevertheless claim this application should be granted as it provides the safest possible [REDACTED] access with minimum change to historical character of the property.