

Self-Build Occupancy and Local Connection Statement

Introduction

This statement is submitted in support of the planning application for a proposed self-build dwelling at Twin Brook Barn, Upbrooks, Clitheroe. The purpose of this statement is to explain the intended occupation of the proposed dwelling and the applicants' longstanding connection to Clitheroe and the immediate locality.

Self-Build Occupation

The proposed dwelling is intended solely as a self-build home for occupation by the applicant and the applicant's wife. The proposal is not being promoted for speculative development, investment purposes or onward sale. The dwelling has been specifically designed to meet the applicants' long-term housing needs and to provide suitable accommodation as they prepare for retirement. It is the applicants' intention that, upon completion, the proposed dwelling will become their principal residence and long-term home. In order to further demonstrate the genuine self-build nature of the proposal, the applicant and the applicant's wife are prepared to enter into a formal undertaking confirming their intention to occupy the completed dwelling as their principal residence. This commitment reflects the purpose of the proposal, which is to provide a long-term home for the applicants in preparation for retirement and to enable them to remain within their established community and close to family support networks.

Local Connection

The applicant has lived in Clitheroe for approximately 30 years and has established strong personal, family and community connections within the town. In addition, the applicant's wife was brought up within the immediate vicinity of the application site. The site therefore lies within an area with which both applicants have longstanding personal and family associations. The applicants wish to remain within Clitheroe and continue to participate in the local community in which they have lived for many years.

Support for Elderly Relative

A significant factor influencing the choice of location is the need for the applicants to remain close to an elderly relative who lives nearby and to whom they provide regular support and assistance. The proposed dwelling would enable the applicants to remain within easy reach of that relative whilst continuing to live independently within the local community.

Downsizing, Retirement and Ageing in Place

The proposed bungalow has been specifically designed to provide accommodation suitable for long-term occupation as the applicants prepare for retirement. The single-storey design has been chosen to support independent living and to enable the applicants to remain in their own home as their needs change over time. This approach is consistent with the objectives of national planning policy, which recognises the importance of creating homes that meet the needs of different groups within the community, including older people, and supports the delivery of housing that enables residents to remain independent and age in place within their existing communities. The proposal would allow the applicants to downsize from their existing property whilst remaining within the community in which they have lived for many years, maintaining convenient access to local

services, facilities and family connections, and providing a home capable of meeting their needs throughout later life.

Conclusion

The proposed development represents a genuine self-build project intended to provide a long-term home for the applicant and the applicant's wife. The applicants have longstanding connections to Clitheroe and the immediate locality, wish to remain within the established community in which they have lived for many years, and seek to continue providing support to a nearby elderly relative. The applicants are willing to formalise their intention to occupy the completed dwelling as their principal residence and submit this statement in support of the planning application to demonstrate both the genuine self-build nature of the proposal and their strong local connection to the area.