

On 27 Dec 2020, at 11:15, Carrie-Anne Brackstone wrote:

Dear Member of Council,

Firstly, forgive me for contacting you during the holidays; I appreciate it is a busy time of year but this year being as it is, there rarely seems to be a 'good' time.

I am writing to draw your attention to a planning application that our family have submitted to have a barn/stable in Keldholme converted into a dwelling. The application is not due to come to you formally as a council until the New Year but I thought by writing ahead in person, I may be able to answer any questions or queries you may have, and hopefully, gain some positive support for the project.

In brief, our application's main objective is to find a suitable home for our five year old daughter who has a very rare genetic condition called Cohens Syndrome, of which there are only 1000 diagnoses worldwide. Ruby only learnt to walk last year after intensive therapy; she is non-verbal, severely intellectually-delayed and will never be able to live independently. She also suffers from Retinol Dystrophy which will leave her registered blind by her mid-teens; it is therefore, important that we find her a family home that she can familiarise herself with before her sight deteriorates further.

We have been looking locally for a suitable building for Ruby since receiving her diagnosis, two and a half years ago. However, affordability has proved a stumbling block for us as ground floor space is of a premium in this area and bungalows with the required space (two bedrooms and a wet-room on the ground floor) are out of our budget. The stables in Keldholme are not only affordable but also have several design features, such as wide doorways, that would lend themselves to the adaptations we need. As long-term environmental impact is also of particular concern to us, we have budgeted to make the home as ECO as possible, with solar panels, heat pump, rainwater-harvesting and top spec insulation all factored in.

As to our family's background, Ruby is already part of the Sinnington community, she attends school there and prior to that, attended the nursery for 2 years. Ruby's father and I grew up locally (John represented Kirkbymoorside Golf Club both at county and international level for many years) and both my parents taught at local schools. John's parents live in Rosedale so Keldholme is really equidistant to both sets of grand-parents who form our support bubble. As a family, we play a very active role in our local community in Pickering; I co-ordinate the local Covid-19 Help Network and also the Food In School Holidays project and would hope also to lend my support to any projects in Kirkbymoorside. I should also add, that I am a District Councillor for Pickering West, so our application would automatically go before the RDC planning committee for their consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. May our family wish you a better year ahead to the one that has just gone!

Best wishes,

Carrie Brackstone, John Sugars, Ruby (aged 5) and Lennie (aged 1)