

SOUTH PLANNING COMMITTEE
SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL LETTERS

Date: 20th October 2020

NOTE: This schedule reports only additional letters received before 5pm on the day before committee. Any items received on the day of Committee will be reported verbally to the meeting

Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
8	20/02669/FUL Land adj. The Round House, Fenn Green, Alveley	Third Parties

Five letters of support received, with the comments made summarised as follows:

-Conducted funeral of Mr Roberts who is buried in the Alveley Churchyard, which is a privilege only allowed to those who are residents or who have a qualifying connection to the Parish.

-Family have continued to attend worship in the Parish and one of Mrs Robert's was recently baptised, which is only allowed if you are resident in or have a connection with the Parish.

-Mrs Roberts and her family have voluntarily care for and cut the Church graveyard at the cost of her time and fuel.

-They make an incredible commitment to both the church and the village and are respected and loved by many.

-They are a very quiet, extremely pleasant, honest and trustworthy family.

-The family should not be made homeless.

-In these present times prejudice and racism should be a thing of the past.

-Have delivered their food and essentials in this time of lock down.

-They are part of the community.

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When I read the Officer's Report state that there are *"no overwhelming personal circumstances ...or any other compelling evidence to support the application"* I thought I must be looking at a different case because as the Reverend Dunlop, Rector of St Mary's writes¹: *"I...support... the Roberts family being allowed to stay ...I had the honour of conducting the funeral of Mr Roberts...who is buried in our Churchyard, a privilege only allowed to those who have a qualifying connection to the Parish...Mrs Robert's Grandchild was recently baptized here which again is only allowed if you have a connection to the Parish. The Roberts family have been incredibly kind to the Church over the past couple of years: in a voluntary capacity Mrs Roberts has cared for and cut the Church graveyard at cost of her time and her fuel. They make an incredible*

¹ Letter dated 20/06/2020

commitment to both the Church and the village and are respected and loved by many.” Tragically, Mr Roberts passed away very suddenly at just 48 years of age in 2018, leaving a young widow behind him. As Pauline Smith, owner of *The Royal Oak* writes²: *“We have found them to be very quiet and extremely pleasant but most of all very honest and trustworthy... It would be quite heartless for this wonderful little family to be left homeless...this lady has had more than enough tragedy...”* Immediate neighbours Mr & Mrs Turner write: *“We have enjoyed having them in the village... To prove her kindness, whist on Lockdown Sharon [Roberts] kindly delivered food and essentials. We would really like to see them have a permanent home in Alverley as in our eyes they are now part of our community.”* The Parish Council also support this application because the family have shown themselves to be good neighbours in the decade they have been living in the village. Clearly, the proposal meets CS12 as a *“small exception site in accordance with Policy CS5, as a **strong local connection is demonstrated.**”* CS 5 is met because this proposal provides *“**accommodation to meet a local need in accordance with CS12.**”*

The Officer’s Report fails to refer to the adjacent site – also in the Green Belt – where permission was granted for an affordable dwelling (18/03970/FUL) on the grounds of a *“strong local connection and personal circumstances”* both of which apply in Mrs Roberts’ case with even greater force. Moreover, as the adjacent site was found to be in a sustainable location, so too must this; indeed both formed part of the same land-holding originally.

There are 3 children under 5 for whom the application site is their only home, the eldest starts nursery in January and has her name down for Alverley Primary school. Paragraph 16 of *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites* states: *“**Subject to the best interests of the child, personal circumstances and unmet need are unlikely to clearly outweigh harm to the Green Belt and any other harm so as to establish very special circumstances.**”*

Those circumstances, together with the unmet need for 113 additional pitches (2020 *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*) and the family’s personal circumstances, combine with Officer’s conclusion³ that there are no alternative pitches to accommodate this family to amount to the very special circumstances that justify planning permission in this case.

² 27/06/2020

³ 6.1.15