

Annexe Justification Statement

As a family of 5 (Keith, Carolyn and our 3 children) the current property is now full on the first floor. After considering the future plans for our parents (Carolyn's parents) and for our eldest son who is 10 years old who has Downs Syndrome it certainly became obvious that we would have to start planning for our parents pending retirement and even more so our sons future.

Our parents currently live with our brother in Lakenheath and he is set to marry next May. They are then both planning a family and in their current property being 3 bedrooms this will not be a viable option for my parents as they do need separate bedrooms.

Our father has recently overcome cancer and our mother has increasing mobility problems and neither are in a financial position to buy property near us. The cost of the annexe certainly is nowhere near what it would be to buy a property close to us to protect the family unit and nor would it be practical for the future of our son.

Given that our business is within the care sector we are more than aware of the strains on adult social care and the lack of family members being socially responsible to adapt their homes to accommodate elderly parents, this ensures security for them and more importantly reduces the strain on the current social situation which by 2020 will be the biggest problem the government are facing.

It will also provide a wider family network for our children especially our eldest son. The suggestion that we make our house bigger to accommodate them is seriously lacking in the holistic approach of them remaining as independent as possible but within the safety of their family. We see more and more families transforming their unused garage facilities to create this profoundly important space and more importantly taking the pressure off the local councils.

Looking further into the future, younger vulnerable adults like our son will find it increasingly difficult to find safe and familiar assisted living premises allowing him to remain as independent as possible but within the realms of the safety of his family. This annexe will also allow him to do just that.

Overall the responses to our plans of an annexe seem certainly short sighted and generally quite selfish to the current situation that all of us at some point will be faced with. They are based on the minor addition to a window which is not affecting anyone and given the reasons why we are proposing it, seems quite out of proportion to reality.

In respect of the comments from the Highways agency regarding ensuring there is enough space for parking; as our current driveway comfortably fits 4 cars (without use of the garage) this will not affect current parking arrangements, however our plans are to open up the unused grassed area to ensure plenty of on drive parking.