

APPENDIX A

The Caravan
North of Aartal Bungalow
EFI Industrial Estate
Brecon Road
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8RB

1st March 2022

WITNESS STATEMENT

Certificate of Lawfulness Development (Existing Use) / Timeline for Storage (B8), Parking of Vehicles and Hard Surfaces Area (Starting in the 1990's & Operating Today – over the required 10 years)

My name is Mr Chris Marshall was born in the mid 1980's and lived with his parents and siblings on the Glyn Mills Gypsy Caravan Site in Merthyr Tydfil. Following a change in the ownership and management of the caravan site a number of feuds broke out amongst the residents to the point that physical violence occurred, and decided to leave to pursue a career and life elsewhere with his new wife.

Alternative private or Council run Gypsy sites were not available within the County, so he reluctantly accepted a bricks and mortar property within the town offered by the Council's Housing Department.

In 2007 I started my vehicle recovery business and was actively searching for a better and more appropriate permanent site to establish the venture as well as residential accommodation for his family.

In 2011 I purchased the site, where I now live, and in 2013 was granted planning permission for business and stables and then for a residential static caravan on land to the west, next to Aartal Bungalow [following a successful appeal in 2016 (Ref APP/U6925/A/3151450)].

From my knowledge of the area I was aware that the application land to the south and west of the EFI Industrial Estate had been continuously used for many years, starting from the 1990's, for a variety of business uses including haulage, vehicle storage, the storage of skips and for the parking of vehicles and was known locally as 'The Yard'. I informally stated this area for storage / parking in 2013. I therefore approached the owners of the EFI Industrial Estate and was successful in securing the purchase of a further two of the industrial units at EFI Industrial Estate. After a failed planning application by the previous owners, Mr & Mrs Raynes in 2018 / 19 the site was acquired by Mr George and since my purchase I continue to use the site for parking, storage of containers / skips for my associated business next door.

I have contacted owners of the units on the industrial estate and other companies to corroborate the evidence regarding the historic use of the application site and as such five letters have been provided and are detailed in Appendix B. These letters verify these facts

and confirm the site has had a long-established history of use as a haulage yard, the storage and parking of cars, vans and other vehicles in excess of 10 years from the date of this submission. At no time in recent history has the use been abandoned and its continuous use is still happening at this time of writing this witness letter. Furthermore, the hardstanding areas have been in place in excess of four years prior to the date of this submission.

For the above reasons a Certificate of Lawful Development should be granted for both the operational development and the use of the land for parking and B8 Use (Storage and Distribution).

Yours Sincerely

Mr Chris Marshall

Signature: C. Marshall

Date: 3/3/22

Witness Printed Name: Scott Vyce

Witness Signature: [Signature]

Date: 3/3/22

Address: 6 Knights Well Road

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