

I, Tom Blackburn, have prepared this statement for the planning inquiry into the appeal against the refusal of planning permission SDNP/20/04118/FUL. In preparing this statement, I have read the SoCG and the parties' Statements of Case.

I have lived in Selborne for 45 years and coordinated the production of the original Selborne Village Design Statement.

One morning in late winter/early spring of 2024, I met a gentleman with a young child and a dog at the Grange Farm end of the public footpath crossing Culverscroft field. He said that he had just arrived in the village and was investigating the footpaths. I asked where he was living and he explained that he had been obliged to leave his own house in Frith End (on the A325 between Farnham and Bordon) because of severe water damage and his insurance company had accommodated him in The Queens, Selborne. I asked him how long it would be before he could return to his home; he said that at that stage, he did not know but thought it was going to be "some time".

I have not met him again.

It strikes me that "having undertaken a suite of refurbishment and improvement works to the Appeal Site", the letting of the accommodation at The Queens for such a purpose and for such an undefined period of time does not demonstrate a commitment to provide "tourist accommodation" (see Appellant's Proof of Evidence Section 3, third and first paragraphs respectively).