

Letter of Support

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to support a planning application being made by Mr Edward Edgell and Mrs Vanessa Dowling for the construction and erection of six stables on 8 acres of land behind the Wren Centre, Westbourne Road, Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7SU.

Currently Mr Edgell and Mrs Dowling own property with stables in Cemetery Lane Westbourne, West Sussex which, my understanding is, they are selling.

Mr Edgell and Mrs Dowling are members of Hampshire Horsewatch. Additionally Mrs Dowling is a Hampshire Constabulary Police Support Volunteer performing the role of Rural Mounted Patrol.

My support is based on knowledge and understanding emanating from a knowledge of crime prevention which I believe will be beneficial to residents in the Emsworth area. In simple terms the public like to see visible policing on the streets. I speak from a position of knowledge and understanding of policing.

I am a retired Detective Inspector with the Hampshire Constabulary having served thirty six years. I was involved with the Criminal Investigation Department for thirty three years. Since 2000 I have been involved with Hampshire Horsewatch which is a voluntary community organisation directing its activities and energies into supporting the equine communities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This support includes attending Shows, Events, advising on best methods to protect property.

Hampshire Horsewatch maintains links with Hampshire Constabulary for sharing and utilising preventative measures.

Whilst serving with Hampshire Constabulary I was instrumental in the creation of what is called Rural Mounted Patrol within Hampshire, using members of the public with equine knowledge and background to conduct high visibility, public reassurance rides in rural locations. Rural Mounted Patrols are resourced by members of the public who enrol to be Hampshire Constabulary Police Support Volunteers.

There are in total seven members of the Rural Mounted Patrol operating in various locations in Hampshire. The greatest number in one location is in Emsworth.

All Patrols are monitored by the police and riders are in contact with the police control room via telephone when out riding.

Mrs Dowling together with two other ladies riding out from the Westbourne premises have been members of Hampshire Constabulary Rural Mounted Patrol scheme since 2013. They currently use the Westbourne site to operate out of for the purposes of Rural Mounted Patrol as Hampshire Constabulary Police Support Volunteers. This means that a percentage of their Patrol time is used up in West Sussex. This is not detrimental to their role or to the residents in West Sussex but given they are Hampshire Police Support Volunteers the more time spent Hampshire the better.

The construction and erection of these stables on land at the rear of the Wren Centre will permit Mr Edgell and Mrs Vanessa Dowling together with the two other ladies to have a base within Hampshire from which to operate. Additionally they will be able to operate in a more functional way within Hampshire providing that all important high visibility and public reassurance.

In this day and age visible policing throughout the county is being curtailed. Local policing is becoming evermore reduced to the point it is almost invisible. As a consequence prevention and deterrent methodology becomes more relevant and important. Therefore the use of High Visible Rural Mounted Patrols albeit through the services of volunteers provides that all important public reassurance.

In the three years that the Rural Mounted Patrol has been operational in the Emsworth area they have been well received within the local community. The Patrols are able by their presence to observe and report as well as engage with their local community.

Rural crime is still very much an issue and property being stolen in rural areas is still an ongoing problem. Emsworth and its surrounding environs is very much in a rural area

I and Hampshire Horsewatch support Mr Edgell and Mrs Dowling's application for planning permission on land at the rear of the Wren Centre. From a crime prevention stance the creation of this stable block will provide a base from which High Visibility, Public Reassurance Rural Mounted Patrols of Hampshire Constabulary can be provided to support the communities within the Emsworth area.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

David Collings
Hampshire Horsewatch co-ordinator
Committee Member



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■ www.hampshirehorsewatch.co.uk