Mrs.A Williamson
Planning Officer
Directorate of Development
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2/12/2008

Dear Madam,

Planning Application P08/22974/2
Erection of single storey extension to side of
Store Room to provide habitable room

I am writing to you concerning the above planning application on behalf of the Wanlip Parish Meeting Chairman, Alan Corner, in response to your letter to him dated 20th November 2008.

There seems to be some confusion as to what the extension is. The three possibilities are: Prayer Room, (as on the plan), a habitable room, (as your letter heading), and an extension to the side of the Store Room, (as on the form), that implies that it is additional storage and therefore not habitable. Our comments are based on the assumption that it is a Prayer Room as depicted on the drawing because we do not see how a habitable room can reasonably be detached from the main accommodation. If it is storage then it should be labelled as such on the drawing and form and the use restricted to this as a condition of consent.

On behalf of the village we would like the following views to be taken into account when the application is considered:

1) The site is limited in area and dimensions and we consider that the erection of the proposed Prayer Room would constitute over development. In a rural context of a hamlet like Wanlip, where possible, a reasonable proportion of greenery to building should be maintained, particularly in this prominent position.
2) Regard should be paid to the fact that the current owner may not always live at the address and that the addition of a Prayer Room is a very specific provision.
3) We are mindful that we should not unreasonably interfere with individuals religious practices although it is normal in most religions that people either visit a collective place of worship or pray within the confines of their home. The erection of a separate Prayer Room suggests that it will be used by persons other than the 'family' and we consider that this would be inappropriate in this location. We do not consider that an undertaking by the owner that others would not use it would be sufficient to safeguard our concerns.