Hill Barn Leys Hill Ross on Wye Herefordshire HR9 5QU

July 1 2016

TO: The Planning Inspectorate

Dear Sir/Madam

APPLICATION NO.153625

I write with reference to the above application made by my neighbours Mr and Mrs B Pimlett of Vine Tree cottage which I understand has been refused.

I believe the proposed development at Vine Tree Cottage would make a vital contribution to the stock of scarce suitable holiday accommodation as well as being supportive of a home based business which would in turn, promote use of nearby shops, facilities and sites of historic interest. Consequently I am somewhat at a loss to understand the rationale on which this application has been refused, with the development itself being completely tucked away and invisible, entirely appropriately in an AONB.

It is especially in relation to rural policy objectives where I have difficulty in understanding the reasons for the rejection of the application. In my work in the House of Lords I have frequent contact with Ministers, officials and fellow peers who feel passionately about rural issues and the policies which promote tourism in rural areas, interest in wild life and rural sports and activities. One of the difficulties always cited in relation to these issues is the lack of suitable tourist accommodation in rural areas, together with the importance of promoting rural based businesses. I do therefore very much hope this decision can be reversed.

Yours faithfully

BARONESS PITKEATHLEY HOUSE OF LORDS