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This is a statement made by Mr & Mrs M Bailey of 141 High Street, Great Houghton, Barnsley S72 0AZ.

We hereby give the information relating to land adjacent to 135 High Street, Great Houghton and its use, and solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

May 1985 we moved into 135 High Street, Great Houghton. We moved here from a short distance away in the village. The bungalow was in a poor state of repair alongside the bungalow was a disused filling station, to the side of the filling station was a area of made up ground which was used by the former residence as a scrap yard and a substantial amount of plastic had been dumped on this land following a cable stripping operation. Generally the whole site was an eyesore

From 1981 Mr Bailey was self employed as a heavy vehicle mechanical engineer, having built up several pieces of plant equipment i.e 2 x 25 tonne articulated dumptruck's and small plant equipment which he initially kept at his father's farm in Hemmingfield, Wombwell. As he expanded his business the hunt was on for a commercial property where he could store, stand and repair Plant & Agricultural equipment. During 1984 Thornton Skip Hire put 135 High Street up for sale we purchased and moved in May 1985. Our equipment expanded further although the majority of time Plant equipment was out of the yard on site either in the quarrying industry or road construction industry. We have worked on sites all over the country. Late 1985 we purchased an additional piece of land adjacent to the filling station and behind the forecourt area as an additional hard standing area (Refer to ordinance survey ref SE4207).

We had the underground tanks tested for safety and we entered into a franchise with Imperial Petroleum of North Yorkshire who at that time made an application to BMBC planning and was granted the re- use of the filling station.

Reference "A "photograph 1987" - Shows the delivery of 1 x New Terex Dumptruck onto the forecourt area two were purchased in that year from the then Terex dealer Blackwood Hodge, Rotherham Road, Monk Bretton, Barnsley.

During 1991 we closed the garage as it was not financial viable. We continued to use the whole area of land for storage and standing area. There would have been several pieces of plant /lorries in the yard at any one time, to the yard being full at bank holidays and when sites were closing when we moved site locations. During the summer months when most of the plant equipment was out on site the area of land would become partially overgrown with docks and grass which grew through the hardcore. We worked for "blue chip" companies i.e.: Environment Agency, La Farge Quarries, Mowlem to mention a few. Plant equipment would be low loaded into the yard from site for repair in the workshop as and when necessary.

In 1992 we sold 135 High Street to Mr & Mrs K Walker they purchased the Bungalow and an area to build a double garage. We moved into 141 High Street which was situated in the back of the premises. We constructed ourselves an area to the front of 141 as a garden area and a driveway. This impacted on area which we had left for standing plant equipment, however, when we demolished the filling station this gave more space for standing equipment to the frontage along with the land adjacent.

Reference "B" Photograph 1995 - In this photograph foreground is a new Caterpillar Back Hoe Loader delivered to demolish the filling station building. In the background to the left parked on the hard standing land in question were other pieces of plant equipment that had come from redundant sites. The telegraph pole and the street lamp in this photograph are points of reference which are still in situ to this day.

We have held an Operator's Licence on the premises since 1987 for 1 x flat back lorry, 1 x low loader tractor unit and several trailers. Most of the time these pieces of plant were on site parked on the piece of land to the side of the filling station. In 1995 we demolished the filling station and removed the tanks. The environmental health officer came out and took samples for contaminants of all the areas around the garage, its fuel bunds and the area of land at the side was dug up for testing. We have evidence of this on a video tape which we took in case we had to prove that we had taken the correct procedure for removing the tanks. This made a large open space at the frontage for standing area's.

Reference "C" Photograph 1999 - The photograph shows the cleared filling station site and the plant vehicles for repair and sale are on the hard core standing area of the additional land. The bungalow known as 137 High Street was constructed during Summer 2000 on the area where the filling station stood. (The telegraph pole is again a point of reference)

Reference "D" Photograph 2001 - Showing on this photograph are 3 x Road tippers 1 x dumptruck and a articulated tipper trailer all operated under the operator licence granted to my company Agri-Plant Contracting Ltd.

Reference "E" Photograph 2001 - The aerial photograph shows the total area in question and its usage.

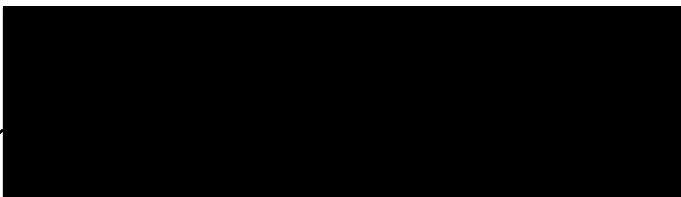
We continue to use the site to this day , and we constantly suffered from theft and vandalism and an armed robbery in our home September 2003. We took steps to secure the premises with advice from the Crime prevention team and police. We consulted and employed the services of a fencing contractor who constructed a secure compound with lockable gates in 2005, in addition we installed CCTV. We are still encountering fuel theft and the cameras have now been stolen. We are constantly subjected to criminal activity.

We hereby confirm that the whole site we own at High Street Great Houghton has been occupied and used as business and residential before and including March 2000. We have lived and worked on the whole site 1985 to sale of 135 High Street 1992 and subsequent building of 137 High Street 2000.

This is a statement of truth; and I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835

Signed

DECLARED BY ME  
Mr Michael Bailey AT  
BARNSELY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
THIS 24TH APRIL 2010  
BEFORE ME;



Steven Dawson LLB(Hons)  
Solicitor

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