APPENDIX D

27 Woodland Rise,
Silkstone Common,
Barnsley.
S75 4RP.

16th April 2011

To BMBC Planning Department.

We were already close friends of the Eldred family when they moved to Strafford House in 1976. In the following years with my wife Gill we watched our 3 children grow up enjoying many activities in the garden and observed Barry and Jan investing much time and energy in its sympathetic development and maintenance. Each year we have been keyholders keeping a watch on the property when the Eldreds have been on holiday. This involved watering and tending the vegetables and fruit.

Our Children enjoyed annual bonfires and fireworks in the garden for over 10 years and more recently we have attended many gatherings around the bonfire and barbecue, the earliest I can recall being in the early 1980's.

The children spent many summer days chasing butterflies in the wild flower meadow areas, and checking the beehives along the hedge bordering the Trans-Pennine trail. The Eldreds cultivated the grass areas to encourage wildlife and improve the quality of the honey they produced. Our children along with the Eldred children, spent nights camping, cooking and playing games in the garden. The space enabled us to play games of football, cricket and rounders.

About 15 years ago we donated a number of sweet chestnut trees to add to the range of existing fruit trees. These are now well established.

The Eldred family have always encouraged others to enjoy the garden with annual parties for Pitt Street Methodist Church Sunday School and Emmanuel Church picnics and fund raising events. We have ourselves attended many of these over 30 years, most recently the annual garden party for Habitat for Humanity.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Andrew Wilkinson