Supporting statement

Broad Close Farm S75 4LY

In 2006 planning permission was given at Broad Close farm to build a farm shop. The shop opened in August 2007 specialising in rare breed free range meats produced from the farms own livestock. Since opening we have also sold hot and cold homemade sandwiches and pies using meat from the farm alongside teas and coffee, which customers have enjoyed often while looking at our pets corner which is free for shop customers. Since opening in 2007 at least 4 more farm shops have opened up in the locality with a couple already established upon opening, this has made the market much more competitive and the draw of a seated area as well as take away sandwiches would help to increase the long term viability of the shop. Many other local farms already have cafes on site (Hazlehead Hall Farm at Penistone, Delph house farm at Ingbirchworth and Cannon Hall to name a few) and opening a cafe at Broad Close Farm would enhance the farm shop as well as creating jobs in the cafe. Recently the Food Standards agency has also revised it guidance on E. Coli O157 which makes it increasingly difficult to operate raw and cooked food in the same building without separate staff and areas, this is not practicable in a small farm shop as ours, so moving the sandwich sales to the next door storage shed is a way to meet the new rules, but to do this we would need to take on more staff to work in that area. By adding tables and changing the use to a cafe I believe our sandwich takeaway business would remain the main business but the addition of seating would grow the business to allow more staff to be taken on.

Nearly all sandwiches would be made from home bred meat (unless vegetarian) and processed through the farm shop. No new buildings are required just the change of use for part of the shop to create the cafe. This would enhance the farm shop, bring another amenity to Silkstone which would complement the pets corner which is free and used for school and community visits, as well as create much needed jobs for the future.