

Supporting information to be considered please.

I have owned the property (1, Orchard Crescent. BN18 0SD) for the past fifteen years, and it has been our family home for the last eleven years. I set up and ran my florist business from the shop in 2003. After having my son, I closed the florist shop, as the business could not support another full time employee. I have been running a craft shop/workshop/party space for the past six years, but sadly, I have been unable to make it a financially viable business.

I believe that the shop is unsuitable to rent to a third party because of the limited floor space of 25 square metres, the location has no passing trade and very low resident foot fall. On a personal note, our family home is attached to the shop; our bedrooms are above the shop and lounge and kitchen behind the shop, and I am concerned that our privacy would be affected if we had a tenant.

I do not believe that the loss of the shop will have any impact on the village or resident's lives. The adjoining shop has been unoccupied/empty for the past fifteen or so months and was empty for a substantial period of time, prior to the three year tenancy by Fontwell Village Stores. The two remaining shops, a metal detector shop and a wine merchants do not rely on local trade, and I cannot see any reason why their trade would be adversely affected. Additionally, with planning permission granted for the Fontwell Estates/Dandara development and their plans to 're-centre' Fontwell village and provide 500 square metres of non-residential floorspace for A1 etc. and 5,000 sq metres for light industrial, is just another indicator that this shop will not be a viable business unit.

If we are granted change of use, we will simply integrate the shop floor space into our living accommodation at the rear. We love the village, our son attends the local primary school and we intend to continue living here.