Kate & Sandy Westwater statement for Vineyard Cottage, 19 July 2023

Vineyard Cottage is ideal sheltered accommodation for my family members in both older and younger generations who have additional needs. We would like to develop it to address the immediate mobility needs of my octogenarian parents, who have now moved in, and the future needs of our eldest disabled son who is 16 years old.

My mum has osteo-arthritis and needs ground floor living. She is unable to climb the stairs or to move around independently without the assistance of my sister (her live-in carer) — which is why we have applied for permission to create a downstairs bedroom and bathroom for her and my dad. Creating this type of residence will allow my parents to live their last (and hopefully long) chapter of their lives and my sister to care for them — and for me, my husband and our four children to share that job with her.

Our eldest child is autistic, has Attention Deficit Disorder and significant learning delay making it impossible for him to live independently as an adult. Our proposed development will also allow Max to live the best, most neurotypical life he can; again with crucial family support on his doorstep.

This is not a commercial development, but one that is designed for intergenerational family social care that will decrease the financial burden on Wiltshire Council for years to come – and I hope the above gives context to our planning application.

I'd be delighted to answer any further questions you might have and can be contacted by email kate.westwater@googlemail.com