



South Tyneside Council

PLANNING STATEMENT

Holder House Garden,
Holder House Allotments,
South Shields.
NE34 8BT.

Project Number: AD 5721.

Date: 18th August 2015.

Produced For: Full Planning Application.

Prepared By: P Clark

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Applicant Name:

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Postal Address of Proposed Development:

Holder House Garden,
Holder House Allotments,
Holder House Way,
South Shields.
NE34 8BT.



Context:

Founded in 2008, and on its current site since 1/8/2008 Holder House Garden is a social project which can be used as a place to relax or used as a workplace. The beneficiaries of this philosophy are persons with learning difficulties, physical disabilities, mental health issues, the elderly and local schools who gain experience in horticulture, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

The garden is split into a number of areas and operates as a community garden, a food growing area, a wildlife garden, a composting area together with training and craft area.

The project is fully supported by South Tyneside Council.

Senior management work with Councilor Gibson, Councilor Brady and Chris Convery to develop the project for people with learning disabilities and young carers to access. It is supported by the Chief Executive and Head of Adult Social Care.

At present people access facilities 6 days per week; adults with learning disabilities, on a Saturday, children and adults club, and local schools use the facilities for project work during the rest of the week.

In the past it has won Innovation of the Year and has been shortlisted twice for the final of the Pride of South Tyneside.

Holder House Garden is a community interest company registered with Companies House.

Proposal:

It is intended to apply for planning permission to install a pre-fabricated classroom unit.

Discussions with both Peter Cunningham (Principal Planning Officer STMBC) & Garry Simmonette (Senior Planning Officer STMBC), 21ST July 2015 and Peter Clark indicated that although there are permitted development rights provided the building is “reasonably required for the purposes of agriculture” this structure falls outside this definition and would therefore require formal a planning application.

The applicant is fully aware that the site is currently within the defined Green Belt area, however the proposed building should be viewed in the context of the whole of the site.



The new building will offer a small teaching space to further enhance the facilities on offer within the site and provide an accessible toilet. This has been brought about due to the need to provide improved services and facilities for people on the autistic spectrum and people wishing to have a supported service from Holder House Garden using their personal budgets. The reason they want to access is due to the unique experience as a variety of activities are supported in a safe environment which they gain independence, choice, inclusion which is built around their rights.

Holder House Garden also provides service to help people gain employment for example:

- Volunteering with training toward Adults and Children Diplomas 1,2, and 3
- Apprentices with training toward Adults and Children Diplomas 1,2, and 3
- Part time work with training toward Adults and Children Diplomas 1,2, and 3
- Full time work with training toward Adults and Children Diplomas 1,2,3, 4 and 5. Training around any specific needs to meet people's needs.

On the whole Holder House provides unique Holistic safe haven experience which has built around the principle of valuing people giving them choice, rights, dignity, independence and inclusion which has broken down many barriers towards disabilities since the project began in 2008.

19TH August 2015

