

Councillor Richard Lusty  
Chairman  
Planning Committee  
Maidstone Borough Council

9th October 2009

**Councillor David Marshall**  
Conservative Councillor for  
Harrietsham and Lenham Ward

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Dear Chairman,

**HIGH MEADOWS, STEDE HILL, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT  
ME17 1NR**

**APPLICATION: MA/09/1552**

Please accept my apologies since, although I called for this application to be heard by the Committee, I will not be able to attend the meeting on Thursday as I will be away on other business.

I have asked for the application to be heard by the Planning Committee since I believe that there has been some fundamental misunderstanding concerning the material to be used in the erection of this rear/side single storey erection.

The applicant made a request for planning permission in August 2008 (MA/08/1194) for the erection of a single storey side/rear conservatory, permission was refused on the grounds that it was *'not considered to be an appropriate extension to a rural building and would not relate sympathetically to this converted barn.'* It transpired that at a meeting with MBC Planning Officers in April 2009 Officers had been under the impression that the material to be used would be UPVC – this was not the case. The material to be used is black stained timber which would blend with the existing building.

Although the existing converted barn is large, the proposed application does not represent a significant increase in the building's overall footprint. All this application intends to do is replace an existing extension with a conservatory which is only 0.9m deeper than the existing structure.

The property does lie within the Kent Downs AONB, however, due to its secluded location it cannot be seen from the main road. In fact Stede Hill has a rather sporadic form of development and the proposed extension would not be out of character for the area.