Thickpenny Produce Ltd.
Fairways
Bensgate Road
Fleet
Spalding
Lincs.
PE12 8PQ

22nd November 2016

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF LAWFUL USE APPLICATION.

We have traded as a Produce Merchant and Grower for the past 33 years.

We have operated Thickpenny Produce Ltd. and lived at the premises in Bensgate Road Fleet for the past 23 years with, until now as far as I am aware, no complaints regarding any disturbance due to traffic or noise from the immediate neighbours or from anyone else in the locality.

We have grown brassicas and potatoes on our own land which surrounds the property, latterly concentrating on growing and bagging potatoes.
During the past five years we have not been able to grow a potato crop on our own land due to crop rotation. We do have plans to grow again in the near future.

To fulfil our orders and keep our customers supplied we have, since 2003, been buying in potatoes from local farmers and merchants. We have also contracted other local farmers to grow on our behalf, with us supplying the seed etc. as we do not have enough acreage to meet with demand and rotate for yearly cropping.

Our potato trading requires us to bag, in various sizes, the potatoes undercover in our existing buildings at the premises. We also need to store the potatoes before and after bagging in a controlled indoor environment. Prior to us having the buildings we had to pay for offsite storage which was not viable in the long term.

Traffic movements to and from the site is always kept to a minimum and we did, some time ago, send a memo to all of our hauliers requesting that the respect the village area (speed limits, other road users etc.) and use alternative routes avoiding the village if at all possible.
We have a maximum of five lorry movements per day between 8 am and 6 pm and only one at weekends.
Bensgate is a well used road as it serves as a link between the local villages and Peterborough. The majority of the traffic, including lorries, is not of our making.

Signed - Barry Thickpenny