

23.11.15.

Re Site 40/158 Kirkby Mills, adjacent to Alderson House.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The late Mr Coates, who lived at Alderson House, had no use for the adjoining field and it was too small to be of much agricultural use. He thought very hard about developing it to be of benefit to local people, also to make an attractive, distinctive approach to Kirkbymoorside from all directions, in keeping with the character of the town. With his experience as a civil and municipal engineer and after considerable research, he decided that with an ageing population, retirement flats would be the best solution. Local residents or their relatives who no longer needed larger homes could live there in an area which they knew, with family and friends close by. This would release their homes for others. The hawthorn hedge could remain almost intact, and Mr Coates did plant three trees on the field. He even commissioned a water colour drawing to show how it could look and this met with the approval of people who saw it. (enclosed)

However, maybe a care home for elderly people would be more appropriate than flats, have all the advantages stated above, and would also provide employment for local people. The building on the drawing is three storeys high, which was a major objection by neighbours, but maybe two storeys would be adequate for a care home.

Around the building there could be gardens where residents could sit outside in summer, and maybe have raised beds of flowers or vegetables which they could help to tend. The building needs to be thoughtfully planned, providing not only secure shelter and good local food for its residents, but also activities such as a computer, piano, games, art and craft facilities etc., to keep them busy and happy, maybe assisted by volunteers. Local schools could provide entertainment. A residents lounge, cafe, summer garden parties, etc. could provide social integration, and visitors could join them there. The possibilities are endless and exciting. It would be wonderful if this site, instead of separating two communities, brought them together in a caring way for mutual benefit and might even become a blueprint for future developments.

Developers interested in this pleasant, central site could probably begin work very soon. It appears that there are no major problems connected with the site apart from the coalescence between Kirkbymoorside and Keldholme. These places would easily retain their own identities, and there are already two houses at the Kirkby Mills end of the site. If one additional, attractive building fulfilled a need, surely that is an important mitigating fact and with gardens all around, the building would not fill the whole site.

It seems to be a sad waste of a small piece of land which is not even a public open space, and is only visible from the top of a double-decker bus, when it could be put to good use to serve the community.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) S. J. Helme

on behalf of Sarah J. Helme, Rachel M. Simonson, Charles J. Coates and Kathryn E. Burgess

RE. POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
SITE 40/158

ADJACENT TO ALDERSON HOUSE
KIRKBY MILLS



Mr. Ransom

Abin KONGSON

sketch of a building
with a large tree in front
and a fence on the left

