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15/4 -lw

DOWNNS COTTAGE  
ST AGNES  
ISLES OF SCILLY  
TR22 OPL

10 April 2015

The Planning Officer  
Planning Department  
Council of the Isles of Scilly  
St. Mary's  
Isles of Scilly  
TR21 0LW



**Re: Planning application P/15/030  
Land at Westward Farm Adj Shop, Mr Ross Hicks**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the above planning application for staff accommodation for the St Agnes shop and Post Office, submitted by Mr Ross Hicks.

As permanent members of the community of St Agnes, my husband and I rely greatly on the excellent service provided by Niki and Ross at the shop. We buy almost all our provisions there, from local produce to basic groceries, fruit and vegetables, to cook both for the family and for our Guest House visitors. This business, with its vital Post Office function, lies very much at the heart of island life, and it is crucial to us that it should continue to be viable and efficient. It is clear that staff accommodation adjacent to the premises will contribute significantly to the smooth running of the shop and Post Office; and we therefore support the planning application wholeheartedly.

In addition, there is considerable need for housing on St Agnes at the moment, for young people and young families who are currently living at home with their parents. If Ross and Niki are able to move into more suitable housing as proposed, Smugglers Cottage will become available, offering the chance of better living arrangements for other community members. While we have no personal interest in Smugglers Cottage, we are aware of the importance of housing the young families who represent the thriving future of the island.

The proposed plans look modest and attractive, and will provide much needed staff accommodation in a quiet, secluded part of St Agnes. The impact on the environment will be low, but the impact in terms of benefit to the community will be high. I very much hope that this planning application will be approved.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Lewin