**ABC Ref: 17/00567/AS**

**DOE Ref: APP/E2205/W/20/3259450**

This is a personal statement in support of the appellant, Telereal Trillium, and I am confining my remarks to appeal A.

My name is Francis Huntington, I am a resident of the village of Wye; graduate of Wye College, a former member of the academic staff of Wye College and co-founder of Wye Heritage; a charity launched in 2009, to embark on safeguarding and displaying the history and heritage of Wye College and the Village of Wye and to provide a ‘home’ for the archives of the former Wye College, the Wye College Agricola Club, the Wye Historical Society and other Wye village-based organisations. The Wye Heritage Centre has been successfully achieving this over the last ten years.

My support of the appellant derives from the relationship built up with them, since 2015, in order to maintain the use of the Latin School as the Wye Heritage Centre, and to develop the planned move into the new Wye Heritage Centre in a part of the Edwardian buildings.

Wye Heritage has worked closely with Telereal Trillium to plan this new facility which will permanently house the archives of the organisations previously mentioned and to display, regularly changing exhibitions on the history and heritage of Wye Village and Wye College; much has been achieved over the last ten years.

The appellant’s plans show the new Wye Heritage Centre, accessed off the High street and which comprise an entrance foyer and reception area, the main exhibition room, kitchenette and servery, an archive store and study room, and an accessible toilet. Wye Heritage considers that these facilities, whilst modest in size, to be both affordable and will, of course, be available to the whole Wye community, its visitors and the alumni of the former College. The affordability and sustainability, is in part, the function of the offer by Telereal Trillium of a long lease at a peppercorn rent.

Wye Heritage has also assisted Telereal Trillium in identifying and cataloguing the fixtures and fittings throughout the buildings.

It is my observation that since 2006, when Imperial College announced their withdrawal from Wye, that a large number of proposals for regeneration and repurposing of the buildings have been promoted, however, in my opinion, none of them have proved to be credible, viable or deliverable.

I am hugely encouraged that the appellant has produced a viable and deliverable way forward. The safeguarding of the unique architecture and atmosphere of the College, is to be achieved via, a sensitive restoration and re-purposing of the historic buildings, enabled by the revenue generated by the sale of the 40 houses, flats and apartments.

Further, I believe that the controlled public access being proposed by the appellant is both practical and deliverable and will accommodate the reasonable needs of the Wye community and the general public, to experience the unique architecture and ambience of the College.

Incidentally, an experience which I was privileged to enjoy as a resident during my three years as a student, and subsequently, as a member of the academic staff, and since 2009 as the leader of regular worship in the College Chapel. All of which, I will still be able to enjoy, under the proposals before you.

Thank you, sir.

Francis Huntington. 2nd February 2021