



## PRESS RELEASE

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### TEAMWORK WINS APPEAL WITH COSTS

A full award of costs was won by landowners in Kent when The Planning Inspectorate accused Maidstone Borough Council of being 'dogmatic in its approach'.

Owners of Far Acre Farm in Tonbridge had submitted an application for a permanent house on-site from which to manage their free-range egg unit but it had been refused. The main issues had been the external appearance, siting and design, given that the location site was within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Permission had been gained in 2006 for a temporary mobile home to ensure proper care of the large numbers of hens housed on-site. The application sought to replace this with a permanent dwelling but the application was dismissed as the Local Authority considered it too large.

The owners employed a team of experts to appeal the decision and apply for costs. Acorus Rural Property Services Ltd were part of this team and Brian Barrow, Acorus Director, acted as a consultant to specifically deal with the financial test and the size of the dwelling appropriate to the unit.

Not only did the team successfully win at appeal, but costs were awarded as the reports submitted showed that the Council's continued refusal had been unreasonable. Mr Barrow's evidence demonstrated that the Council's approach had been wrong when considering the finances and that they should have analysed the accounts especially new information provided.

Mr Barrow was pleased with the outcome particularly as the Acorus findings showed there to be 'little of substance in the Council's case.'

**ENDS**

#### About Acorus

Acorus Rural Property Services Ltd is an independent firm of Chartered Surveyors and Planning Consultants with extensive experience and expertise in rural planning, diversification and property consultancy.

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