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August 2008

I came back from the war an "out of work" bricklayer, who, like most folk at the time, assumed that we were going back to the type of world which we had left, never having known any other, or thought any other way of living was possible, with it's millions of unemployed, including thousands of building trade workers. To avoid this I decided to form a small building firm, mostly doing repairs and small building jobs. I started to trade from an address in Ibstock (a small mining village in Leicestershire), and was soon inundated with a back-log of smaller jobs which had accumulated during the war. Soon after getting established my wife went down with tuberculosis in both lungs, with a cavity in the left hand side. In those days there was no known cure. She spent two long spells in Markfield Sanitorium, and on her leaving there the second time, the doctor told me that she must leave Ibstock and it's dust, etc., and live in an area where the air was much cleaner.

I went to the County Planning Office in Leicester (I think it was in Pocklingtons Walk), and met the Planning Officer, and explained my dilemma. He was most helpful and asked which area of the county I preferred. After explaining to him that I needed to move my builders yard, and that I was carrying out repairs for the Market Bosworth Rural District Council, on their houses, and, as there appeared to be a continuity of work, I preferred to be near Market Bosworth. He said there were numerous places where houses would be allowed, but very few where a builders yard would be allowed. On his survey map he showed me a site near the cross roads at Barton–in–the Beans, with frontage on to the Odstone Road, on which a house would be allowed, and if I was able to purchase enough land behind the proposed building site, and access onto the Nailstone Road, he would be in favour of it being used as a builders yard. The Nailstone Road runs at right angles to the Odstone Road. He suggested that I went to see him again after I had negotiated with the owners of the land. I again went to see him and told him that I could, and would, subject to planning permission, purchase the land, and also a right of way onto Nailstone Road. I also told him that I proposed to build a pair of small bungalows, one for myself, and one for my widowed mother, who was not a young person. He stressed that the access to the bungalows would have to be from the Odstone Road, and the access to the builders yard from the Nailstone Road, and no access would be allowed for the yard vehicles to access onto the Odstone Road, due to the proximity of the cross roads. I explained to him that, as an ex-service man, my capital was very limited, and that ex-War Ministry Nissen huts were being offered in the area at a price which I could afford, and I proposed to include three of them in my application, with a hope that I could use them to generate an income at some time in the future. He again stressed that all vehicles using the garages must enter and leave by the Nailstone Road.

It could be that this information can be verified by the records office at County Hall. The Planning Officer at the then Offices in Leicester, and with whom my application for planning permission was handled, was Mr. L. Sharpe, who, no doubt, will by now have retired, but his notes will have survived. Both bungalows were eventually sold to different purchasers, without garages, and I understand that one is still without a garage, the other having created one since purchase.