

I want to propose a change of use for 1/3 of my garage to be developed into a small dog grooming salon. My garage is a fixed premise detached from my home and is set away from other surrounding houses. The garage has been in place for over 15 years and has been used as: a utility room for tumble drying, fridge, freezer, a household storage facility, car storage and a general work shop for my partner. I have also used this dwelling as a grooming space for my own dogs, for drying and clipping. The space is used on a regular basis and my surrounding neighbours are aware of this as many occupiers have the same general usage for theirs. For the duration of residing at 2 Solway Rise we have had no noise complaints.

I have lived in St Bees for around 2 years now and my partner has been here over 20 years. It is apparent that St Bees is a very small community with very little opportunity for expanding services due to space, there is a shortfall of businesses within St. Bees for the local residents outside of the hospitality service. Therefore, I would like to contribute to the community by providing a small home run dog grooming service. St Bees is a very popular location for residents to own dogs because of the beach location and other easily accessible walks. During the outbreak of Covid-19 I have noted just within this small village the increased the popularity of having a family pet dog despite this the services for dog grooming (which are essential within the animal welfare) are not increasing around the surrounding areas of St Bees.

I have spoken with many residents with St Bees about their dog's and grooming. Many have expressed the difficulties of not being able to have their dog groomed on a regular basis because;

- There is no dog grooming service within the St Bees boundary.
- The lack of availability of groomers have that are within a 20-30 mile radius, due to increased dog owners and no increase in the dog grooming service.
- The location of groomers, we have a diverse community in St Bees; some cannot drive or are not able to drive because of disabilities, some are elderly and rely on neighbours to take their dog to the groomers and some in general don't have the means of transport. I do appreciate that there is the train service and an upcoming bus service, however these are restrictive for people and times when it comes to getting their dog groomed.

I believe having a dog grooming service more localised for St Bees residents, provides more of an opportunity to walk to drop off and collect their dog. I have also purchased an insurance which will cover me to offer a walking pick up and drop off as part of my grooming service. This will be more environmentally friendly by reducing traffic instead of increasing it, resulting in minimal impact upon neighbours and local traffic.

I will be a lone worker providing a 1-1 service with only one dog being groomed at any given time. We live in a semi-detached bungalow with the garage being furthest away from other dwellings, we have a 4 car drive with only 1-2 spaces used at any time. I will take sole responsibility in informing my clients that if they are using transport to drop off and collect their dog, they must use the car spaces on my drive provided. No street parking will be required, no impact upon local traffic or neighbours parking.

I would have customers dropping off their dogs for around 5-10 minutes and returning around 1-3 hours later to collect their dog with another estimated time of 5-10 minutes for me to discuss necessities with the owners. These consultations will happen within the groom room or upon my drive.

The space within the garage that we have previously used as a utility room has now been cleared. The fridge, freezer and tumble dryer have been moved into the 2/3 segment of the garage. This is in

preparation for minor internal decorating to be completed such as painting the walls and fitting some shelving. No structural changes are intended to the fixed premises neither internally nor externally.

I am currently unemployed; I was dismissed earlier this year on ill health grounds with the NHS after 10 years of service. I found this significantly difficult as I am a person with integrity and a strong working ethic. However, I have used this as an opportunity to develop my skills, gained new qualifications and focused on taking on new challenges. I have groomed my own, family and friend's dogs for many years now as a hobby and have always been quite passionate about it. During Covid-19 I have utilised my time in engaging in courses, I complete the dog grooming online diploma through The Centre of Excellence, as well as my Canine first aid course.

As my health is a contributing factor, I require employment that is flexible and home-based working would be highly beneficial. Ideally, I would be starting off 1-2 days a week and this may only be 1,2 dogs a day within Monday-Friday. I may offer alternate weekends, depending on the needs of clients and taking into account of the working shift patterns of others; but this would again be reduced hours. My working hours would remain within the 08.30am to 16.30pm range through the week and 11am-3pm weekend. I cannot guarantee a working week of 5 days due to my health, however in the future this would be my goal.

I have considered renting local premises; however, the gross outgoings were unfeasible and this did not seem viable.

My aim is to provide a holistic dog grooming service; where the dog feels relaxed within a homely environment. I will make assessments of the dog's nature at the drop off consultation, prior to the grooming to ensure that the dog is not going to cause disruption by excess barking or persisting anxiety symptoms where they do show noise. I will take sole responsibility in informing my clients that I have a no barking policy; therefore, if the dog presents with persistent anxiety symptoms such continuous barking, howling or crying, I will request the owner to find alternative groomers.

I have a very positive relationship with both of the neighbouring houses who are as well as on the nearby streets; I have informed of my current plans and discussed operating hours and any possible disturbances that they would be against if I was to run a business from my garage. No concerns have been raised and it was agreed that they can approach me with any issues they may have in the future and would focus on rectifying any problems swiftly to ensure I cause no upset to other residents and maintain positive, respectful relationships within St Bees. If I felt I required any advice or support around a complaint I may need to contact Environmental health or the local council and would do so within candour.

I have contacted United Utilities to enquire whether there would be a need for trade effluent with my proposed plan of using the already fitted water and drainage system within 2 Solway Rise (when bathing dogs). It has been confirmed that this is not required as the property is still being used as a domestic residence.

I have also made enquires around waste such as dog fur. I would like to be as environmentally friendly as possible; therefore, I propose using multiple bird hanging baskets which can securely hold dog fur, for birds to collect for their nests. I currently do this with my own dog fur. In addition to this if planning is authorised, I will invest in a home compost bin. I have research plans on how to compost fur and use within my own garden as I have many planters and do a lot of gardening. If I believe the waste is excessive to these options I will arrange a commercial waste bin through Copeland council as well as look into companies that collect and recycle fur.

Dog Grooming Salon Equipment and potential noise pollution

Dog noise-Excessive barking

No barking policy will be in place to prevent any disruptions for my neighbours. I would take on board any concerns raised by neighbours if required and make reasonable adjustments.

Blast dryer and Domestic hair dryer

On average a groom will take 2-3 hours from start to finish. Drying time can take anywhere from 30-45 minutes. I will be the sole worker and will only provide one to one grooms. If I was to do 2-3 dogs within working hours this would be a small operational time for the dryers. I have used these dryers in the garage for my own dogs and have had no noise complaints as it set away from neighbouring houses. If I was to receive a noise complaint I would look at ways of sound proofing the room.

Clippers-Pulse Andis Zr, wireless

The clippers I own are noise friendly; they work very quietly to ensure the noise does not induce stress on the dog being clipped. Vibrations are low and variable speed settings can be used.

I have used these in the garage on my own dogs and no noise complaints have been made.

Dog Grooming Table

Currently I have a stand alone grooming table for my own dog's which can be folded away if necessary. I may invest in an electronic one in the future depending on costs. I will ensure that I take into consideration of noise and will focus on a low motor, preventing any noise disruptions for my neighbours.

Scissors, Nail clippers

Both produce very little noise and are not used for long periods of time