OwlgreaveBarn
Combs
Chapel en le Frith
High Peak
SK23 9UW

With regards to the planning application for The Salt Box, Whaley Bridge I would like to support the application with details of the proposed shop.

When deciding to open a shop we looked around the surrounding area to rent or lease, this was more difficult than anticipated. There were no empty shops in Whaley Bridge. Rented property is extremely high and puts huge financial pressure on a new business start up.

Some years ago, we purchased The Salt Box & have rented out to various tenants which have come with numerous problems. As we own this property it seemed an obviously opportunity to convert the bottom flat in to the shop. This way the overheads for the new business are very manageable which will allow the business to get established.

The shop will sell named branded county and equestrian clothing which has a huge following within the High Peak and surrounding area. The Shop will attract people to the area to boost the local economy.

LEADER – Derbyshire Economic Partnership have been approached by my daughter Grace Price who will be setting up the business. With LEADER's grant system they encourage new business start ups, fund and monitor sustainability. The grant would be subject to planning permission being approved. The funding would be for new frontage and shop fittings if successful.

The business will provide employment for at least one full time employee, and probably a further part time. This is somewhat of an unknown, but it is hoped that the business would grow to employ further full time staff.

The shop is to be called, 'Hares & Graces' and the signage are intended to be traditional with a contemporary twist with subtle lighting. The interior and exterior will be converted to a very high standard to look attractive and be a valued addition to Whaley Bridge High Street.

Suitable clothing brands have been contacted, they welcome and support new outlets but have a strict criteria on who they supply. It is our intention to have a prestigious shop where it is a pleasure to visit.

The shop is intended to be a "Destination shop" due to its specialist brands. This would in turn boost other shops on Whaley Bridge High Street and support local business accordingly.

Parking for the shop would appear fairly straightforward, with on road parking, plus the main Whaley Bridge car park being only a short distance.