

Mr Stuart Morris

Our Ref: 1375/498

Date: 13/01/12

Re: 11 High Street Portland

Dear Mr Morris

Thank you for your email of 13th December. The information you requested is below.

1. What is the council's interest in this property?

The Council has no land ownership interest in this property. However in the interests of public safety, it erected the scaffolding some years ago to prevent the property falling down. It is also discussing with the owner the proposal to redevelop the site and trying to facilitate this, in the interest of tidying the area up.

2. What is the total cost of dealing with this property to date, including staff time and the physical work?

The scaffolding cost approx £10,000 and the Council has placed a 'charge' on the property so that when it is sold this money will be repaid. This is in agreement with the property owner. Other staff time has involved a few meetings and writing a few letters.

3. Why did the council pay for the structural shoring?

As above, in the general public interest.

4. Was any formal Notice (e.g. Dangerous Structure, Repair or Closure) served on the former owner? If not, why not?

A Prohibition Notice was issued on 6th March 2009 under the Housing Act 2004.

5. The temporary scaffold support and its concrete base has destroyed part of the small landscaped park which was created to enhance the area. This amenity was laid out at public expense in the 1980s; when is the council going to restore it?

The proposal is that part of this land will also be developed in conjunction with No 11, so that there is a small scheme that might be attractive to a builder. Without this it is likely that the redevelopment of the single house would not be attractive or viable. The principle of this was agreed by management Committee some time ago.

6. What action is the council taking to ensure the renovation or rebuilding of the vacant house before the arrival of our Olympic visitors?

The council has been endeavouring to facilitate this for some time. However it has become complicated by the fact that there is a small strip of land adjacent to No 11 that is of no known ownership. This means that the council could not sell this land or its adjacent plot with No 11 as a building plot as planned. There are therefore legal processes to go through to address this issue, and these are now underway.

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Yours sincerely,

Jo Woodall

Freedom of Information Officer