

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 March 2019 22:22

**To:** Simpson, Paul <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** [EXT] Blakelands Warehouse - Enquiry

Dear Paul

It was good to meet you at last week's Audit Committee meeting and I appreciate our chat afterwards when you agreed to come and look at my homecoming view. I would like to arrange this with you please if you could suggest a couple of times when you would be available.

Further to last week's Audit Committee meeting and my deputation presented at the DCC meeting, I have now had the opportunity to consult with residents of Blakelands to put together a scope for the enquiry that should address our concerns and unanswered questions.

I am enclosing our proposed version of the scope that has been incorporated into terms of reference. I believe this is a fair and reasonable representation of the overall issues that need to be investigated and where appropriate, recommendations made.

I understand, based on what Tracy mentioned at the DCC meeting, that you are close to appointing the planning professional to conduct the enquiry. I would be grateful if you could arrange for me to meet the appointed individual as soon as this is confirmed so I can discuss our envisaged scope in more detail and do a walk around of our properties and the warehouse.

I am mindful that there is a legal process on-going with the judicial review and I don't want to prejudice either my own or the Council's position. I don't envisage there being any issues, however I will check with my legal advisors once the scope of the enquiry is confirmed and I will let you know if there are any issues.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Attachment details below

## **Blakelands 1 Warehouse Enquiry**

These Terms of Reference are submitted by the Blakelands Residents' Association to provide the Council with the scope that would satisfactorily address the concerns that have been raised by residents of Blakelands.

**The proposed Inquiry's Terms of Reference are:**

1. To examine the circumstances surrounding the granting of planning permission for the Blakelands 1 warehouse, including:

- (a) the accuracy and objectiveness of the Case Officer's original report and recommendations;
- (b) the response by Officers to investigate and address the concerns raised by residents in relation to the accuracy of the submitted drawings and the supporting documents on noise, shadowing and traffic;
- (c) the reason behind the removal of the Senior Planning Officer (Jeremy Lee) and his replacement with a Junior Planning Officer (Samantha Taylor);
- (d) the roles of the Chief Planner and Corporate Director - Place in the planning application process and whether any pressure was exerted on Officers to make a favourable recommendation;
- (e) the adequacy of the systems and processes in place at the time that led to the issuance of an unlawful planning permission that did not reflect the resolution of the Development Control Committee Members;
- (f) the responses by the Planning and Legal Departments following the administrative mistake and whether the decisions taken were timely, legally justified and in the public interest;
- (g) the appropriateness of the decision to seek to rectify the administrative mistake by requesting a second planning application in view of the fact that the applicant had already commenced the unlawful planning permission;
- (h) whether Officers acted improperly and against Council policy in relation to their recommendations for application 18/00223/FUL;
- (i) the Council's representations submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in the Section 78 appeal; and
- (j) whether the planning permission mistake and subsequent discussions with the applicant's agents unduly influenced other Officers, namely in Environmental Health, to act against Council policy and statutory requirements;

and

2. To report the findings as soon as possible and to make recommendations.