

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 April 2019 11:35  
To: Simpson, Paul <[REDACTED]> 'John Bint'  
<[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: [EXT] Re: [EXT] FWD: [EXT] Blakelands Application - Jeremy Lee

Dear Paul

Following on from Cllr Bint's email, I would also be grateful if you could arrange the investigator to look at the objection by Planning Officers to the draft minutes of the DCC meeting in May 2017 (attached email trail).

It's important to establish whether the correct procedures were followed with Democratic Services and if DCC members were made aware of the objection to the wording of the draft minutes and agreed to the subsequent change.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On 08/04/2019, 11:53, "Simpson, Paul" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Cllr Bint - thanks for sending this through. I will of course do just that. As you suggest it wouldn't be appropriate for us to comment or surmise on what was or wasn't said between Officers, but I have no doubt the Investigator will look into this as part of the review and respond accordingly.

Regards

Paul

Paul Simpson  
Deputy Chief Executive

T: [REDACTED]

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: John Bint ] On Behalf Of John Bint  
Sent: 07 April 2019 15:34  
To: Simpson, Paul; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [EXT] FWD: [EXT] Blakelands Application - Jeremy Lee

[REDACTED]

Thanks for this information, including the attached email chain culminating in an email of 27/3/2017 from David Staniland (of Knight Frank, for the

Developers) to Samantha Taylor. I think the best thing to do with any further information relating to the Blakelands warehouse is to send it, with a short covering note, to Paul Simpson for the external Investigator to consider.

On your opening comment: Yes, it was a good idea to wait until after the DCC meeting for getting back in touch with me, on this entire matter. So thank you for waiting.

I very much hope that you and [REDACTED] are continuing to work on the chronology document. Whether or not it gets used in conjunction with the JR, I believe it will be very useful for the Investigator.

Paul,

In line with my first paragraph above, can I ask you please to hold this (my email in its entirety, including the email from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] below AND the attached March 2017 email chain) on file for the council's Investigator to consider?

In terms of what officers did or didn't do in 2017, the email chain says what it says (as does [REDACTED] email) and I don't feel it would be appropriate for me to offer my own commentary or interpretation at this stage. However what I would like to mention is that, as recently as the last month or so, Officers have given assurances to Councillors and residents that Jeremy was removed from the case for reasons of workload. If it transpires that this isn't what actually happened, your Investigator should also investigate the basis for those very recent assurances.

Kind regards

John Bint (Cllr)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: "Bint, John" <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 5 Apr 2019 13:31:25 +0000  
Subject: [EXT] Blakelands Application - Jeremy Lee

John

Apologies for the delay in responding to your previous email. [REDACTED] and I were both informed that we should not contact any DCC members until after last night's meeting.

I am enclosing the email trail that led to the removal of Jeremy Lee from the Blakelands application. I know this is one of the key elements that residents and Councillors want addressed in the inquiry.

It would appear that Jeremy said in an email of 17 March 2018 that he was likely to recommend refusal. The agent then telephoned Brett Leahy, who advised to send a complaint, which the agent did on 21 March 2017. The following day, Jeremy was removed from the application and replaced by Sam Taylor.

Whilst we don't know the conversation between Brett and the agent, I think it is certainly questionable that an applicant is able to exert pressure to a change Case Officer immediately after being told that refusal is likely.

I do hope that Jeremy will speak openly about what happened and his discussions with Brett as I think this will be a very important aspect of the inquiry.

You are more than free to print/send the attached email around as it was released by the Planning Inspectorate under a FOI request.

Kind regards



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