Abuse of process/unlawful consultation



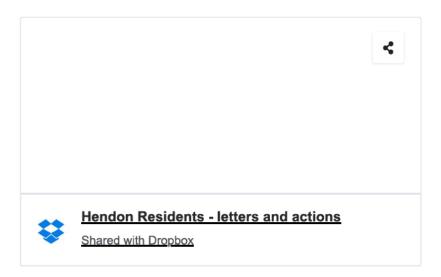
Dear Councillor Thomas,

This morning I received an email regarding the third virtual consultation on the draft SPD - The Burroughs and Middlesex University. I note that the organisers have now changed the date of the event and that only some of those who had previously registered have been informed. In this email, the Forward Planning Team advises that once adopted, the SPD 'will provide for a material consideration for the determination of planning applications within the SPD boundary'. This is misleading. The Local Plan must first be adopted and approved by the Secretary of State.

In the midst of a devastating pandemic, Barnet Council is trying to limit discussion and circumvent public scrutiny over a development that will affect thousands of people. The Council is seeking to bring forward the SPD before the Local Plan has been adopted and reviewed by the Secretary of State, and, in so doing, is undermining the right to public consultation. Council staff have denied residents the right to speak in meetings, failed to send links to events, and provided inaccurate information free from challenge. They have also released private email addresses and are now under investigation by the ICO for this data breach.

We have already written to the Chief Executive to alert him to the abuse of process. The Council is behaving unlawfully. I do not need to remind you of the duty placed on public office holders to respect the public's trust.

Please find below a link to the open letter from the Hendon Residents Planning Forum, as published in yesterday's Barnet Borough Times. This letter was supported by over 600 people. You can find their signatures and comments in the folder 'Open Letter', in the dropbox here Hendon Residents - letters and actions.



Residents have sought advice and have filed the following:

- 1) Letter to Monitoring Officer, Jessica Farmer regarding data breach.
- Complaint to ICO, regarding data breach.
- 3) Letter to John Hooton, Chief Executive, LB Barnet regarding abuse of process during SPD consultation.

All of the above can be found in the dropbox.

In addition, I should inform you that, further to our letter to the Chair of the Board of Governors, Geraldine Proudler, we were recently contacted by the Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University, Professor Nic Beech. We have now exchanged emails and have been invited to a meeting. We have also had sight of the Outline Business Case, and have engaged professional help to prepare financial models of the development opportunities, as set out in the SPD.

You will be receiving further communication from residents and local businesses shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Brad Blitz, on behalf of the Hendon Residents Planning Forum

