



**Emsworth
Residents'
Association**



Westbourne
Parish Council

Planning Development
Havant Borough Council

20th September 2021

Dear Sirs

Re Planning Application No :APP21/00893.

Land to the North of Long Copse Lane

We are writing to state our view that the HBC Planning Committee should not consider this application until the Examiners in Public Inspector's report is available. The reasons for this are:

1. HBC and its Planning Committee are a party to this process because it was the Council itself that decided to include this site as suitable for development in its emerging Local Plan, despite the fact that the current Local Plan (2014) stated that it is unsuitable for building.
2. On the other hand the hearings by the Inspector provide the opportunity for an impartial and objective appraisal of the issues involved, having heard evidence from all parties, including HBC.
3. We believe that Land and Partners decision to submit this application now is an attempt to circumvent the findings of these hearings by seeking to obtain planning permission before the inspector has reported his findings. This is despite their very clear statement on July 13th that they would not do this.

The key questions that arise are:

1. Is there any legal obligation to consider this application prior to the Inspector's findings relating to this site being available?
2. Would you agree that considering the application at this stage would undermine public trust and confidence?
3. If in fact there is a legal obligation to consider the application at this stage would you explain the situation to the Inspector and ask him to produce an interim report of his findings so that the Planning Committee is able to take his view into account?

We believe that any decision by the Planning Committee to grant planning permission for this site without considering the Inspector's findings would be strong grounds for an appeal against that decision, and possible grounds for judicial review.

We reserve the right to present our objections to this application to the Planning Committee whenever hearings take place.

Yours Faithfully

Andrew Hunnibal Chair
Colin Hayter
Save Long Copse Lane Group

Michael Bateman
Hon Secretary
Emsworth Forum

Richard Hitchcock Chair
Cllr David Mack
Westbourne Parish Council

Theo Schofield OBE Chair
Charles Ashe
Emsworth Residents Association

Cllr Richard Kennett Cllr Lulu Bowerman Cllr Julie Thain-Smith
Havant Borough Council

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