



City Strategy

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Anne Leggett
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Our Reference :

Date: 21 June 2011

Dear Ms Leggett

Chase Residents Association and Friends

I am writing in response to your various letters and in particular your letter to the Council's Chief Executive on the 12th June 2011. In this letter you set out the history of activity relating to the "Farrier's Chase Development" and I will not re-rehearse that in my reply.

There are two main issues that now need to be resolved to bring this matter to a conclusion. Firstly the Council needs to take ownership of all of the land covered in the original Section 106 agreement. Secondly we need to enter into an agreement with a third party over the long-term Environment and Conservation Management of the Land.

Regarding the first matter the Council is pursuing through its legal team the reversal of the sale of the land around Hobmoor Terrace by Taylor Wimpey to Mr Woodhead. The Council originally wrote to the solicitors of both of the above and we have now received positive replies from both. Taylor Wimpey has acknowledged that they are fully aware of their legal position and their obligations under the Section 106 agreement. They have freely admitted that an error has been made by the transfer of the small parcel of land at Hobmoor Terrace. They are now seeking to recover the land from Mr Woodhead and they have told him to remove the fence he erected, which I believe has now been done. Mr Woodhead's solicitors have responded to say that they are willing to return the land although they are making claim to the land immediately to the rear of the Terrace through possessory title. I am taking advice on this latter matter.

In summary therefore good progress is now being made on recovering the land that was sold in error to Mr Woodhead. Once this is resolved I expect that the Council will take possession of the whole of the site. At that time I will then resolve the second matter concerning the ongoing stewardship of the land. Your summary of options as set out at the end of your letter of 12th June and whilst I feel option 1 – The Council "retain the land themselves and manage accordingly" is the least likely, I do not dismiss any of the options at this stage.

I hope this letter adequately explains where we are and you are as encourage as I am that we will soon have a successful resolution to the problems.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy and Deputy Chief Executive

Director: Bill Woolley

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