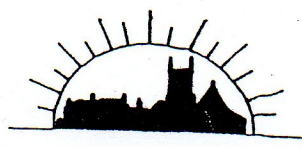


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EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Town Clerk & Treasurer
RICHARD RAYMOND D.M.A., A.C.I.S.

Council Offices,
Radstock Lane,
Earley,
Reading, RG6 5UL

My Ref: P.1/mjb/3220
Your Ref:

Tel. No. (0118) 986 899
Fax No. (0118) 975 668

25 February 2000

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Fox,

SHELL SITE, WOKINGHAM ROAD, EARLEY

I would refer to Mr. Fox's visit to the Council Offices on Friday 11th February, and to your subsequent letter and attachments dated 13th February. As mentioned when I spoke to Mr. Fox, details of the conversation which we had, and your letter and attachments were circulated to the Chairman of Council, the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Leader of the majority political group on the Town Council, and I have been asked to reply to you in the following terms.

Firstly, I have been asked to express Councillors considerable concern and sympathy for the severe health problems which Mr. Fox and other members of the family have been experiencing in recent years.

As you are aware, at the time the original planning application was submitted by Persimmon Homes, the Town Council expressed its doubts about the suitability of the site for residential development, not only because of the former use of the site, but also from the high-voltage power cables which cross it. We were advised that the land would be cleared of contaminants through a Section 106 agreement placed on the Developers at the time Planning Permission was granted, and that at that time, there was no evidence to prove that living in close proximity to high-voltage electric cabling constituted a health risk.

Since this Planning Permission was granted, further research has been carried out, and, in recent months, it is understood that conflicting reports have been produced arguing both for and against the safety of power cables in residential areas. The Town Council remains of the view that, where there is any doubt about the safety of its residents resulting from a Planning Application, be it from over-head power cables, the installation of telecommunications equipment, etc. such application should be refused, and I have been asked to re-affirm that, if the Town Council were asked to consider a similar Planning Application today, they would remain of the opinion that it should be refused.

In conclusion, can I offer the best wishes of both myself and Members of the Town Council for the improved health of your family.

Yours sincerely,

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Mr. & Mrs. R. Fox,
337 Wokingham Road,
Earley,
READING, Berks.
RG6 2EB