



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Bruce McDonald
Leader
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
KT10 9SD

23 April 2024

Dear Cllr McDonald,

I am writing regarding the planning proposals by Quadrant to redevelop Hersham Green Shopping Centre.

I recently met with a group of local residents concerned about the proposals to redevelop Hersham Green Shopping Centre. At the heart of their concerns is the lack of transparency from Elmbridge Borough Council regarding the use of New Berry Lane Car Park.

The proposal from Quadrant includes plans to redevelop New Berry Lane Car Park as part of the development. Montagu Evans – advisors to the Developer – briefing note to Elmbridge Borough Council officers (February 2023) says officers have recommended that the council car park on New Berry Lane is included in the scheme to assist with providing sufficient parking and to improve school pick up/drop off for Burhill Primary School. However, publicly, Elmbridge Borough Council Head of Asset Management stated “we have been clear with the developer that we will not be engaging on this matter unless planning consent is secured”.

It is clear that the developer and Elmbridge Borough Council are saying two very different things, and the Council’s inability to be upfront and candid about the use of New Berry Lane Car Park in these proposals is only adding to residents’ concerns and anxiety about the development. Frankly, as Leader of the Council, you are duty bound to provide residents with some honesty regarding Elmbridge Borough Council’s role in New Berry Lane Car Park ending up in the proposal.

In particular, residents have communicated to me that Elmbridge Borough Council have refused to indicate whether or not it will consent to the use of New Berry Lane Car Park as part of the proposed development. Yet, the current plans are contingent on such consent, and there is no evident legal reason for Elmbridge Borough Council to withhold its position on the matter. Residents have understandably concluded that Elmbridge Borough Council’s formal position, contrary to the advice given to the developer, is designed solely to mask the council’s true position. This is serious maladministration, exacerbated by a lack of transparency that smacks of dishonesty. I therefore call on you to immediately set out your position on the very basic question: will Elmbridge Borough Council consent to the use of New Berry Lane Car Park under the proposals?

Finally, I am writing to request an urgent meeting between Elmbridge Borough Council and “Save Hersham Centre” campaigners and local councillors. This is the only way to resolve the growing perception surrounding Elmbridge Borough Council’s role in New Berry Lane Car Park ending up in the proposals.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danni Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Danni" is written in a large, rounded script, and the last name "Ray" is written in a more compact, stylized cursive. The signature is positioned below the typed text.