

Dear Jill,

Thanks for passing your notes on to me. Perhaps since I was named and possibly not entirely correctly referred to by the developer, you might be good enough to give me a right to reply as I was unable to be present due to a clash of meetings, the other of which related directly to my new portfolio. I would be grateful if you passed this on to your mailing list.

Whilst it is right that I did make a comment at the Development Control Committee meeting that it would be good to see the 3 sites developed together, this was so that a uniform development could be seen across 3 sites which I see as in great need of development, especially the derelict Warley & Warley site adjacent to the original application. This would be vastly preferable to a piecemeal development of the site.

Indeed I had previously made an initial informal attempt to interest a developer in a 100% affordable housing development across the 3 sites with a vision in my mind of something not dissimilar to the Ely Court development. Regrettably the current developer made progress with his plans more quickly and it was his ideas that came to the DC committee for consideration. A principle of planning is of course that you cannot refuse an application in the hope that a different one might come forward.

Never the less my wish to see a development across what I perceive as one larger site still stood, and I am not opposed to a planned student development which should help alleviate the number of students inappropriately housed in houses in multiple occupation across Norbiton Ward. These "multi occs" should properly be family housing and are all too frequent in many of our roads, not infrequently bringing with them problems for their neighbours.

What you were not told by the developer was that I made comments at the last Kingston Town Neighbourhood Committee meeting which was asked for comments on this application to go forward to the DC committee (upon which I no longer sit). **At this meeting I said that I could no longer support this plan due to the increased height from 5 storeys to 7.**

5 storeys is not unreasonable in my mind, as it matches the neighbouring blocks of Harston and Granchester and is compatible with the general height of both Cambridge Road Estates. I noted that this concurred with the comment presented to the committee by CRERA. It is also little higher than the current derelict Warley & Warley building.

However 7 storeys changes the character of the application and the area significantly and I consider it to be unacceptable both in terms of overdevelopment and adding too much pressure on the area. The estate was, as your notes suggest, developed without such dominance and with just the occasional much taller block as a "spot feature". **A general increase and "averaging up" of the height now being suggested by this developer is unacceptable.**

Although I will no longer be part of the decision, as my new duties have meant that to continue to sit on DC would have been too great a burden on my time, **I will continue to oppose the current application in any and every way that is relevant on the grounds that I have stated and already made public.**

Dave Ryder-Mills
Lib Dem Cllr for Norbiton
RBK Lead Member for Schools and Continuing Education