

West Ken & Gibbs Green Community Homes Limited

Melbourne Barrett
Executive Director of Housing and Regeneration □
LB Hammersmith & Fulham Council □
Hammersmith Town Hall Extension
King Street
London W6 9JU

7 June 2012

Dear Mr Barrett

Proposed disposal of West Kensington & Gibbs Green estates: Consultation analysis and inspection arrangements – serious concerns

Further to my letter to you, dated 29 May 2012, I received at 10.04 am on 6 June an email from a Council Officer, Jennifer Liang. This email purported to send on to me an email, which, it seemed, was sent to me at 10.50 am on 2 June by the Council's Head of Litigation, Janette Mullins, who stated: "I have been asked to forward this letter to you."

Not recalling the receipt of an email from the Council's Head of Litigation on 2 June 2012, I checked my inbox, and I searched through my 'trash' and 'junk' boxes, neither of which I have emptied since well before 2 June. However, I could not find any email from a Janette Mullins, Head of Litigation at LB Hammersmith & Fulham.

The email to me from Jennifer Liang, dated 6 June, which purported to send on the email from the Council's Head of Litigation, attached a letter signed by you to me, dated 1 June 2012, whose file name is 'Final Letter to the TRA, and the Word 'document properties' of which I have attached at Annex A. This letter stated:

Earls Court Regeneration Project

Thank you for your letter of 29 May. I am considering the points you have raised and will write to you with my substantive response next week.

In the meantime I am prepared to extend the time for you to respond to my letter of 14 May to Friday 8 June at 4pm. I can not give you more time as Cabinet are due to make a decision about entering into the CLSA on 23 July and I will need to consider your response and include it in my report to members.

If you would like to make another appointment to view the consultation responses please contact Shaun Dunleavy on 020 8753 4244.

Notwithstanding the inexplicable circumstances surrounding my receipt of this communication, 33 minutes later I instructed Celine Kuklowsky, the West Kensington & Gibbs Green Community Organiser who conducted the previous two 45-minute inspections, to contact the Officer you nominated, Shaun Dunleavy, on the phone number you provided, so that she could make arrangements for our next inspection, which, as you know, is in furtherance of our investigation into how the Council has categorised responses to its consultation on the proposed Earl's Court redevelopment, and about which, in our letter to you dated 29 May, we raised serious concerns. Therefollowing she:

1. Rang Mr Dunleavy on the phone number you provided at around 10.45 am on 6 June; Mr Dunleavy did not answer, so she left a voicemail message asking him to contact her to agree the next time she could attend the Council's offices to continue our inspection of the consultation response forms;
2. Sent an email to Mr Dunleavy at his Council email address at 12.56 pm on 6 June to the same effect, but received no reply;

West Ken & Gibbs Green Community Homes Limited

3. Rang the phone number you provided at around 2 pm on 6 June; Mr Dunleavy did not answer, and she was unable to leave a further message because the Council's phone system did not put her through to his voicemail;
4. Rang the phone number you provided at around 3 pm on 6 June; Mr Dunleavy did not answer, and she was unable to leave a message because the Council's phone system put her through to an automated message that advised the caller to contact the switchboard, or to dial the person's extension, which was the number she had rung in the first place;
5. Sent a further email to Mr Dunleavy at his Council email address at 4:29 pm on 6 June, but received no reply;
6. Rang the phone number you provided at 9.58 am on 7 June, with the same result as at 4. above;
7. Rang the phone number you provided at 10.33 am on 7 June, with the same result as at 4. above; and
8. Rang the Council's switchboard at 10.36 am on 7 June to request that the operator put her through to Mr Dunleavy's extension. The operator transferred her to his extension, but Mr Dunleavy did not answer, and she was unable to leave a message because the Council's phone system put her through, yet again, to an automated message that advised her to contact the switchboard, or to dial the person's extension, the former which was the number she had rung in the first place, and the latter which was the number to which the operator had transferred her.

I do not understand how it can be that the Council's Head of Litigation appears to have sent me an email, which I do not recall, and have no evidence of, receiving. Under the Freedom of Information Act, please send me any relevant correspondence or documentation involving Council Officers and Members.

At no stage did we manage to speak with your nominated Officer, Mr Dunleavy; he did not answer our phone calls; we received no phone calls or voicemail messages from him; and he did not reply to our emails, to which, we confirm also, we received no bounce-backs. Under the Freedom of Information Act, please send me any relevant correspondence or documentation involving Council Officers and Members.

In the circumstances I have detailed in this letter, which you may admit are curious, if not Kafkaesque, please understand why it is impossible for us to comply with the deadline-extension you set, of 4 pm tomorrow 8 June, for us to respond to your letter of 14 May 2012.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Rosenberg
Community Organiser

West Ken & Gibbs Green Community Homes Ltd
West Kensington Estate Tenants & Residents Association
Gibbs Green & Dieppe Close Tenants & Residents Association

Cc: Derek Myers, Chief Executive LBHF; Andy Slaughter MP; The Information Commissioner.

West Ken & Gibbs Green Community Homes Limited

Annex A

The 'Document properties' we 'grabbed' at 10.31 pm on 7 June 2012 from Word document, file name: 'Final Letter to the TRA'

SUMMARY

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Manager

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