



Councillor Edward Heron

Mr F Tillyer
Rowdown Cottage,
Blackfield.

My Ref:
Your Ref:

Date: 12 October 2020

Dear Mr Tillyer

FOREST LODGE FARM APPLICATION HYTHE 17/11770

I am writing following Cabinet of the 7th October 2020 to address the matters raised in your statement read to the meeting.

I am sorry that you were not satisfied with the response you received from the Council's Chief Planning Officer, Claire Upton-Brown. I can confirm that officers have attended the site throughout the installation of the soakaway SK6 as identified on drawing No 500A of the Simon Jones -Parry surface water drainage design report dated 9th April 2018. The last inspection took place on the 9th October 2020 to review the topping off of the soakaway SK6 and I can confirm that this work is now complete. Work on soakaway SK7 is yet to start but officers will carry out the same inspection regime for these works.

I understand that there was an internal message from the administration team to the case officer dated 28th and published 29th September 2020 following a phone call from you that was described as: "Email to Ian Rayner" said: "Hi Ian, Please could you let Mr Tillyer know when you will be responding to his email dated the 7th of September. Thank you". This was then marked as not for public view, as it was not considered to be a public document, as it was an internal message. The internal message has now been marked as public so that it may be viewed.

You are correct, that there is no record on the public file that confirms that the works to soakaway SK6 has been carried out. The wording of the planning condition does not require any further details to be submitted to the Council before the works are carried out, nor does it require that there is any inspection of the works through the planning condition. As, in this instance, there have been inspections, I have asked that the Chief Planning Officer publishes a note of the inspections on the planning file.

The Cabinet will not investigate the decision of the Planning Committee. The application was deferred at the October 2019 meeting in order for the applicant to undertake further investigations into the reasons why water was flowing/infiltrating into the adjacent property Forest Lodge Farm. The Planning Committee report of March 2020 sets out how the parties met after the October meeting. The report clearly sets out that, whilst some initial progress was made the matter between the applicant and objector, matters remained unresolved. The Chief Planning Officer, after 5 months, took the matter back to the Planning Committee for decision. This was a reasonable action and after long debate the Planning Committee agreed the recommendation of the Chief Planning Officer. Had the Committee disagreed with the Chief

Planning Officer's decision to return the matter to the committee, they of course had the option to instruct a further deferral.

It is the role of the Planning Committee to make decisions on planning applications and if an applicant does not change an application following a deferral it is the role of the Planning Committee to make a decision based on the application before them. All submitted information was available to the Planning Committee before the meeting together with a detailed report.

Yours sincerely

Edward Heron
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure

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