

19 April 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Car Park, Station Approach, Whitchurch RG28 7ER - Proposed Temporal Car Park

As you are aware, the Railway Inn was demolished some 6 weeks ago and the site prepared for a temporary car park, Lochailort Investments Ltd applied for planning permission in December 2009 but has encountered some difficulty with Basingstoke and Deane concerning the principle of using this site for car parking. So much so, that last week Basingstoke and Deane Council issued us with an ultimatum that if we did not withdraw our application they were going to refuse it which seems both ludicrous and contrary to the immediate benefit for which this vacant site can now be put to use.

We are all fully aware of the car parking issues associated with the increased use of the station, and current lack of available and accessible parking. A car park in this location that is readily available will assist local businesses, residents and commuters and is a much needed facility. Both Network Rail and South West Trains recognise the necessity for additional car parking and Whitchurch is a priority station at which it should be provided.

This much has been recognised by B&D and is included as Policy 3.20 in the Local Plan. Policy D5 is also relevant and is an over-arching Policy towards residential development and other developments within settlements, including redevelopment proposals which contribute to social, economic and environmental well-being. Socially, the provision of a car park in this location will reduce the quantum of drop-off and pick-ups from the station as it will be easier for commuters to park and therefore it will reduce the journeys to and from the station by 50% for this category of commuter. The reduced amount of journeys will have a benefit to those residents concerned about traffic generation and therefore in environmental terms, it is a sustainable proposal.

There is no demonstrable harm as a result of this proposal as it provides substantial benefits to both the immediate vicinity and the wider community.

I would be very grateful if you could support me in my endeavours to provide a car park for the station and I would ask you to either email, Claire.cook@basingstoke.gov.uk and/or Cllr.Keith.Watts@basingstoke.gov.uk (preferably both) or write to Claire or Keith C/o The Planning Department, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Centre, London Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 4HA expressing your thoughts on the matter.

Please quote the Planning Application reference no, BDB/72095 (withdrawn) Although the application has been withdrawn, a new one will be submitted in the next couple of days and if you are keen to see the provision of additional car parking adjacent to the station, then please could you write to express your disappointment with the Council's current decision and provide your support for a new application.

If you copy me, hugo@lochailort-investments.com, into your emails or send me a copy of your letter I will keep you informed as to our progress.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

Hugo Haig

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