



# Elmbridge Borough Council

... bridging the communities ...

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1 May 2024

Dear Dominic

I write in reply to your letter regarding New Berry Lane car park and the planning application at Hersham Shopping Centre.

Your letter states that the plans from Quadrant include redeveloping the Council's New Berry Lane car park, which implies the Council as the landowner of New Berry car park is facilitating the application. This is not the case.

The Council's position has been clearly set out in various fora including on the EBC website. The developer has been advised in no uncertain terms by the Asset Management Team that the Council would only enter into discussion on the site if planning permission was granted (see statement on the Council's website from 7 March 2024: <https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2024/shaping-hersham>).

If planning consent were to be granted, the Council would, following the procedures in our Constitution, decide whether it is in the best interests of residents to allow a lease or sale of the car park to the developer to enable it to be included in the wider public realm.

This explanation has already been provided to residents, in emails, at a meeting with the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, and during the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 17 April where a full and robust answer was given by my colleague, Councillor Simon Waugh.

A recording of the meeting is available here <https://elmbridge.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

I had already written to the Hersham Village Society Local Plan Group, and we have a date in the diary for a face-to-face meeting. I am concerned, and slightly disappointed, that the Council's words are not being given the full weight they deserve.

The Council has carried out its duty as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework to engage positively with applicants, has kept a clear and open dialogue with local residents, and followed the Constitution with regard to asset management.

Clearly, your accusation of maladministration was based on your misunderstanding of the situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce McDonald'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' at the end.

Cllr Bruce McDonald  
Leader, Elmbridge Borough Council