

Mr Paul Harris.
Town Clerk.
Alsager Town Council.
3 Lawton Road,
Alsager,
Stoke on Trent.
ST7 2AE

21st September 2015

Dear Mr Harris,

CARDWAY SITE APPLICATION 13/4081C

In an attempt to be helpful and constructive I would like to provide you with some simple factual information regarding my personal involvement, and therefore that of Alsager Residents Action Group (ARAG), in the above planning application.

Our organisation has been in existence for 26 years and has represented Alsager residents, in the widest sense, on a broad range of issues most recently involved with speculative planning applications throughout the town.

ARAG has been present at all of the Appeals, for sites in Alsager, and given presentations to Cheshire East's Strategic Planning Board and its Southern Area Planning Committee. It is not surprising therefore that we would make a presentation to the Southern Area Planning Committee regarding the Cardway site application.

What is unusual is that I discovered at the 'eleventh hour' that the Town Council had not registered to speak and because there was a scheduled TC Planning Meeting on that same evening I attended to see whether or not the Council would wish me to add to my presentation to cover their own concerns.

What followed is now history, they were happy with the points which I had identified and asked me to speak on behalf of the Town Council in addition to representing ARAG. In a spirit of co-operation, this I readily agreed to and the Acting Town Clerk notified Cheshire East Council that I would be speaking as a representative of the Town Council.

It was somewhat amusing at the subsequent Southern Area Planning Committee meeting because the Chairman explained that they had never had a situation with one person representing two separate groups before. I explained that I would only be making a single presentation on behalf of both parties and the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that I should be allowed four and a half minutes instead of the usual three.

Therefore, all of the points and issues that I raised during my presentation were with the full approval and backing of the Town Council. Nothing was introduced that had not been agreed and supported by Town Councillors.

You will find my meeting with your Town Council, and their reaction, fully documented in the minutes of your Planning Committee for 21st October 2014 which is available on the Town Council Website (copy attached).

If anyone is having difficulty remembering, that I was asked by the Town Council to act on their behalf, perhaps you can refer them to these minutes. I would not wish the Town Council to be accused of trying to rewrite history.

For the sake of completeness I have also attached a copy of the POST that went out on the ARAG website to report on the Southern Area Planning Committee meeting. You will see that, whilst it was specifically an ARAG report, it also refers to the fact that Councillor Derek Hough and Mrs Sue Helliwell also gave presentations to the committee.

As regards the more recent unsavoury remarks that have been made, by Town Councillors, ARAG has already received legal opinion from two independent sources and currently has the matter under advisement.

It would be helpful and much appreciated if in all future correspondence and emails that the Executive Officers of ARAG are referred to in a formal sense in that I am Hon. Alderman Derek Bould, President of ARAG, our principle officer is Mr Chas Howard, Chairman of ARAG and Rafe Wakelin is Mr Rafe Wakelin, Vice Chairman of ARAG.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help further.

Kind regards,

Derek Bould.
Hon. Alderman
President of Alsager Residents Action Group