

# TILLSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

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Mr A Lowe  
Development Management Team  
Council Offices  
Wallace Green  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
TD15 1ED

21<sup>st</sup> May, 2009

Dear Mr Lowe

Re: Full Planning Application 09/B/0230 : Construction of 17 houses at Mill Hill, Chatton

The Design and Access Statement and responses on Neighbour and Community Consultation(section 8) in this application, suggest that the Parish Council supports this development. This is not the case and councillors believe that the events summarised below do not constitute a pre-application consultation as Northumberland Estates appear to suggest. Those events can be summarised as follows:

1. Parish Council seek views of the community, August 2005

Plans received from the Estates indicated sites that could be considered for future development in the period 2007-2017, including Housing, Enterprise /Business, Green/Open Spaces and Community Areas were shown at a community meeting. The Parish Council were requested to consult and present the views of the community. No specific development plans were put forward.

2. Meeting with Colin Barnes, Northumberland Estates on April 30, 2008

A meeting took place in response to a letter from the Estates dated January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and focussed on hearing the Estates thoughts on progressing a future Village plan in view of threats to Chatton First School and Post Office. The only drawings presented were the same "Sites for Development" plan seen in August 2005. No specific development or application plans were discussed. Since we were unsure what the Estates would present, prior to that meeting councillors agreed the following statement, which was read out at the start of the meeting:

*In order to avoid any potential conflict of interest in any future planning review, parish councillors will not be able to make statements supporting any development plans we will hear of today, but rather will confine themselves to questions aimed at understanding what views Northumberland Estates has on future housing development within a Chatton Village Plan. Retaining community facilities and services within the Village Plan is also important to discuss.*

This statement was made in response to advice given by Berwick Borough Council in an email dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008, that parish councillors do not make conclusive statements as to the nature and extent of any development they might want to see.

3. Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 Parish Council to Northumberland Estates

In response to a letter dated October 23<sup>rd</sup> advising that the Estates intended to submit a planning application including affordable homes, the Parish Council replied and questioned how the Estates define "affordable". The letter was focused entirely on the question of affordable housing, seeking more information.

Councillors do not believe that the above events or contacts with the Estates can be construed as support for the current planning application or that they constitute a pre-application consultation. Councillors believe the views of Tillside Parish Council have been grossly misrepresented in the application documents.

Councillors recommend that copies of this letter are sent to all persons consulted on this application, including members of the Planning Committee, in order to correct the misleading impression that this current application has the support of Tillside Parish Council.

The Parish Council intend to make further representations objecting to the scale and nature of this development.

There will be a detailed list of comments, observations etc coming from Tillside Parish Council after they hold their meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009.

Tillside Parish Council received their set of plans on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Finally Tillside Parish Council would like to speak at the Planning Committee when this application is heard.

Yours sincerely,

Isabel Hunter

Parish Clerk  
Tillside Parish Council