



The Planning Inspectorate

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Your Ref: 24/02009/FP

Our Ref: APP/X1925/W/25/3362553

Mr Shaun Greaves
North Herts Council
Planning Control Dept
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth
Herts
SG6 3JF

22 April 2025

Dear Mr Greaves,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Appeal by Mr Bruce Parker

Site Address: Land at New Pound Farm, East Side of Old Hale Way, Hitchin, SG4 0SA

I have received appeal forms and documents for this site. I am the case officer. If you have any questions, please contact me. I have checked the papers and confirm that the appeal(s) is valid. If I later find out that this is not the case, I will write to you again.

The procedure and starting date

The appellant(s) asked for this appeal(s) to be dealt with by the Written representations procedure. However, we have applied the criteria and considered all representations received, including the appellant(s) preferred choice. We consider that the Hearing procedure is the most suitable for this appeal for the following reason(s):

Based on the evidence before us the Inspector may need to test the evidence and ask questions relating to the issue of 'need'. We therefore intend to run the appeal under the hearing procedure.

We therefore intend to determine this appeal(s) by this procedure.

The date of this letter is the starting date for the appeal(s). The timetable for the appeal(s) begins from this date.

Sending documents to us and looking at the appeal(s)

A timetable is set out below. No reminders will be sent, and any documents sent after the deadlines will normally be returned.

You can use the Internet to submit documents, to see information and to check the progress of cases through GOV.UK. The address of the search page is <https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate>.

If emailing documents, please use the email address above. If posting documents (other than the Questionnaire) please send 2 copies of everything. Whichever method you use, please make sure that all documents/emails are clearly marked with the full reference number.

Guidance on communicating with us electronically can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-appeals-procedural-guide>.

Keeping to the timetable

You must keep to the timetable set out below and make sure that you send us the relevant documents within these deadlines. This will mean that we can deal with the appeal(s) promptly and fairly. If you do not send us the relevant documents in time, the Inspector will not normally look at them and we will return them to you unless there are exceptional reasons for accepting them. You must note the details of the following timetable because we will not send any reminders.

The following documents must be sent within this timetable.

By 29 April 2025

You must notify any person who was notified or consulted about the application in accordance with the Act or a development order and any other interested persons who made representations to you about the application, that the appeal(s) has been made. You should tell them:-

- i) that any comments they made at application stage will be sent to me and the appellant(s) and will be considered by the Inspector (unless they withdraw them within the 5 week deadline). If they want to make any additional comments they must submit 3 copies within 5 weeks of the starting date, by 27 May 2025. If comments are submitted after the deadline, the Inspector will not normally look at them and they will be returned;
- ii) when and where the appeal documents will be available for inspection;
- iii) that the Planning Inspectorate will not acknowledge representations. We will, however, ensure that letters received by the deadline are passed on to the Inspector dealing with the appeal(s);
- iv) that they can get a copy of our booklet 'Guide to taking part in planning appeals proceeding by Hearing' either free of charge from you, or on GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/taking-part-in-a-planning-listed-building-or-enforcement-appeal>; and
- v) that the decision will be published on GOV.UK.

You must send a copy of a completed appeal questionnaire and supporting documents, a copy of your notification letter and a list of those notified to the appellant(s) and me. You have the opportunity to state your preferred choice of procedure by answering Question 1 of the appeal questionnaire.

By 27 May 2025

Please send me 2 copies of your statement giving full details of the case which you will put forward at the hearing including copies of any documents (maps, plans etc) to which you will refer. It is best practice to provide a summary of your statement. This summary should not be more than 500 words long.

I will send a copy of your statement (and summary) to the appellant(s) and you must send a copy of your statement and (summary) to any statutory parties. I will also send you and the appellant(s) a copy of any comments received from other interested persons or organisations.

You must also submit a copy of the completed agreed statement of common ground, listing all matters agreed. Further guidance on producing statements of common ground (and a model form) is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-common-ground>.

Planning obligations - section 106 agreements

A planning obligation, often referred to as a 'section 106 agreement', is either a legal agreement made between the LPA and a person 'interested in the land' or a legally binding undertaking signed unilaterally by a person 'interested in the land'. If you intend to submit a planning obligation, you must read the guidance provided on GOV.UK - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-appeals-procedural-guide>. A final draft, agreed by all parties to it, must be submitted to me no later than 10 days before the hearing opens.

Statutory parties

'Statutory parties' are owners or tenants of the application/appeal site who made comments within the time limit on the application, or who do so on appeal. You must give details of any statutory parties at application stage on the questionnaire. I will tell you about any statutory parties who write to us at appeal stage, before your statement of case is due.

Withdrawing the appeal(s)

If you hear that the appeal(s) is to be withdrawn, please telephone me immediately. If I receive written confirmation of this from the appellant(s), I will write to you.

Costs

The appellant(s) has been directed to GOV.UK for further information regarding costs – <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/appeals/>. You should also be aware that costs may be awarded to either party.

Additionally, a Planning Inspector or the Secretary of State may on their own initiative make an award of costs, in full or in part, if they judge that a party has behaved unreasonably resulting in unnecessary appeal expense.

Further information

Further information about the appeals process can be accessed at GOV.UK - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-appeals-procedural-guide>. I recommend that you read the relevant guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Toni Sharp

Toni Sharp

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice>