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Enquiries to: Aidan Brookes

Legal Services
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9LP

DX 2106 (Euston)
Direct 020 7974 1947
Fax 020 7974 2962

Mr Terence Ewing

e-mail:
aidan.brookes@camden.gov.uk
www.camden.gov.uk

Dear Mr Ewing

RE: REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your letter of 26 July 2010 in relation to your application to present a deputation to the Development Control Committee concerning the Athlone House planning application. Please note that the Council cannot process this under the Freedom of Information Act as the request is not for information held by the Council, rather it is for advice and interpretation of the Council's Constitution. Therefore, the responses to the above questions are intended as a helpful exposition of the Council's processes in relation to deputations at Development Control Committee.

I respond to your numbering in kind as set out below:-

1. Do these grounds also relate to any future proposed deputation request to the Development Control Committee that may be submitted by Mr. Ewing, either in person or on behalf of any organisation?

Whilst the Council cannot advise on hypothetical propositions, everything being equal in all likelihood the answer would be yes. However, this answer must be qualified by the fact that the Council cannot predetermine a deputation request without the benefit of assessing it at the time it is made. All deputations are accepted at the Chairperson's discretion. The Council has guidance to which the Chairperson will have regard and this is appended at the front of the Development Control Committee agenda. This is a public document. The salient point from the guidance is that all deputees should have a "planning related interest" to speak. If a matter affects you personally (for example, in the instance where you are a close neighbour) the Chair may well exercise his discretion and allow you to speak if all other conventions re the making of deputations are complied with. This is also the case where the deputation is made on behalf of a Camden recognised community organisation that is genuinely affected by the development proposals.

2. Does the Legal Services Department of Camden Council intend to repeat this advice to the Development Control Committee in respect of any future proposed Deputation request to the Development Control Committee that may be submitted by Mr. Ewing, either in person or on behalf of any organisation?

Again, the Council cannot predetermine any advice it will give in the future but in all likelihood, in the same circumstances, the same advice will be given.