

Notes on Email Exchange Prior to the Council Treating It as a Complaint

Please note the emails are in reverse chronological order, so please read from the bottom up.

You will note in the applicant's email on 6 November 2024 that the applicant points out the unexplained U turn and also highlights the behaviours of racism that he and his family have experienced from local residents. Over a year later, Paul Satoor has failed to investigate or address the these behaviours consistent with racism raised by the applicant in any way, shape or form.

In the applicant's emails to Paul Satoor, the applicant uses terminology, evidence for which he has provided, such as 'racially motivated', 'racial discrimination and abuse', 'prejudiced', and 'inappropriate intervention' (i.e. corruption) has taken place to block the planning officer's clearly documented and intended route for the planning application. Yet Paul Satoor has simply not investigated or responded to these allegations of racism and corruption of the planning process.

You will also note in Paul Satoor's response, in which a House of Lords Labour peer is copied in, that he states: "I have taken the liberty of copying in the Council's Assistant Director/Chief Planner to allow her the opportunity to respond directly to you in relation to the issues you have raised." This person is Ms Mandy Lewis. This is in response to the peer's email on 06 November 2024 at 22:46, which states: "Dear Mr Satoor, could you please keep me abreast of developments as planning is under scrutiny in Parliament at present." Paul Satoor responds: "I have asked Mandy Lewis, my Chief Planner, to ensure you are copied into all correspondence she sends to [REDACTED]"

Yet no response or communication whatsoever has ever been received from Mandy Lewis. It is fair to say the silence from Ms Lewis, who we understand to be the Head of Planning, has been deafening.

You will also note in the email exchange between the applicant and Paul Satoor following the 'complaint' that, in his email dated 3 March at 12.41, five months after he made this commitment to the Labour peer, the applicant specifically points out to Mr Satoor that he stated the Labour peer would receive communications from Ms Lewis and that this simply has not happened. In the applicant's email later that day, at 14.29, he again reiterates this and offers for Paul Satoor to withdraw that commitment, which he does not do. The Labour peer, several months later and over a full calendar year after Paul Satoor first made the commitment, is still waiting for those communications from Ms Mandy Lewis.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and further information, receipt of which has been acknowledged by the Assistant Director/Chief Planner and will be considered as part of your complaint.

Regards

Paul Satoor

Chief Executive, Wirral Council

Wallasey Town Hall

Brighton Street

Wallasey

Wirral CH44 8ED

paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 November 2024 20:34

To: Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor) <paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>

Cc: Lewis, Mandy S. <mandylewis@wirral.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Last minute U turn on planning decision

Dear Mr Satoor,

Firstly, thank you for your consideration of my complaint and the delegation to the AD / Senior Planning Officer in the Council.

The email correspondence between Sarah Lacey, Council Planning Officer, [REDACTED] my architect and myself are in the attached document, in reverse chronological order. This can be matched and validated with Sarah's own email database.

The email chronology demonstrates that following on from an initial meeting between Sarah , my architect and myself on site, where she specifies what we can have planning approval granted for, even going so far as to marking areas out herself, all of the subsequent emails exchanges up to and including last week's U turn indicate that planning permission will be granted provided we comply with the changes suggested by Sarah. All of these suggestions were accepted and the application amended accordingly throughout, as can be read throughout the email exchange.

I would draw your particular attention to Sarah's email, dated 10/09/2024, where she references an outstanding survey and comments "I.don't.think.I.have.received.this.and.Committee.will.want.to.see.this' This statement clearly demonstrates an expectation that the plans were to go before the planning committee and that is where the final decision would be made.

We now know that this final formal step was not taken and the committee (and ourselves) have been denied the opportunity to approve planning. What we don't know is why this final step in the process did not take place and who interfered with the obvious and documented intention of the Planning Officer.

Since our last email exchange, I have had the opportunity to read the final report; it is notable that Cllr Hodson has taken it upon himself to get involved and object to the planning application.

I respectfully draw your attention in the following link to a media report:-

<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/24642706.heswall-home-extensions-get-approved-despite-neighbour-row/>

This is a Wirral Globe report relating to previous interference by Councillor Hodson in a Heswall planning application where, at the planning committee meeting, he was then out-voted 7 to 1.

The most significant and telling aspect to this event . however, is captured in the comments of Cllr Jason Walsh-McDonald who argued **there was no legal reason to reject to the application**. Further, Councillor Steve Foulkes commented that his first thought was 'what.**was**.all.the.fuss.about;

The sender of this article to me suggests, particularly in light (as the attached document demonstrates), that our application is the Planning Officer's own plans, that "Cllr Hodson has found a way to bypass the committee where applications do not meet his personal criteria and agenda"

I have been advised that I am entitled to a full investigation into this matter: and one that may need to involve the police, in light of my previously highlighted belief that some objections have been racially motivated. To ensure that we have been treated fairly, and in light of the unexplained anomalies in the process, at some point down the line I may also be entitled to apply for Judicial Review.

This said, however, my objective is to move forward and get the extension built so we can move on with our family life, and hope that such steps will be unnecessary. To that end, I am respectfully requesting that the application can be placed before the next Planning Committee meeting so it can be seen that we have been treated fairly, without interference and whatever decision is made is done so on the correct grounds.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 November 2024 11:45

To: [REDACTED]

Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor) <paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>

Cc: Lacey, Sarah C. <sarahlacey@wirral.gov.uk>; Lewis, Mandy S. <mandylewis@wirral.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Last minute U turn on planning decision

Dear [REDACTED]

I have asked Mandy Lewis, my Chief Planner to ensure you are copied into all correspondence she sends to [REDACTED]

Kind regards

Paul Satoor

Chief Executive, Wirral Council

Wallasey Town Hall

Brighton Street

Wallasey

Wirral CH44 8ED

paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 November 2024 22:46
To: [REDACTED] Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>;
Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor) <paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>
Cc: Lacey, Sarah C. <sarahlacey@wirral.gov.uk>; Lewis, Mandy S.
<mandylewis@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Last minute U turn on planning decision
Importance: High

Dear Mr Satoor,

Could you please keep me abreast of developments as planning is under scrutiny in Parliament at present.

Yours aye

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2024 at 16:48
To: "Satoor, Paul" <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>, "Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor)"
<paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>
Cc: "Lacey, Sarah C." <sarahlacey@wirral.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] "Lewis, Mandy S." <mandylewis@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Last minute U turn on planning decision

Dear Paul ,

Just to add, my neighbour has just advised me that the planning portal is showing the status of refused, yet the committee planning decision date is set at tomorrow.

If that isn't evidence of a prejudiced decision, I'm not sure what is.

I do hope that it can go through the proper process at the correct dates and time

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:31:43 PM
To: Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>; Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor) <paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>
Cc: Lacey, Sarah C. <sarahlacey@wirral.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lewis, Mandy S. <mandylewis@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Last minute U turn on planning decision

Thank you for the quick response and I look forward to hearing from the Assistant Director.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 1:01:28 PM
To: [REDACTED] Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor) <paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>
Cc: Lacey, Sarah C. <sarahlacey@wirral.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lewis, Mandy S. <mandylewis@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Last minute U turn on planning decision

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to myself and the Leader of the Council – the content of which is duly noted.

I have taken the liberty of copying in the Council's Assistant Director/Chief Planner to allow her the opportunity to respond directly to you in relation to the issues you have raised.

Kind regards

Paul Satoor

Chief Executive, Wirral Council

Wallasey Town Hall

Brighton Street

Wallasey

Wirral CH44 8ED

paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 November 2024 12:03
To: Satoor, Paul <paulsatoor@wirral.gov.uk>; Stuart, Paul C. (Councillor) <paulstuart@wirral.gov.uk>
Cc: Lacey, Sarah C. <sarahlacey@wirral.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Last minute U turn on planning decision

Dear sirs,

I submitted plans last December which Sarah Lacey, Council Planning Officer said that there had been 15 + objections and she couldn't support it. These plans were lesser in their proportions, proximity to boundaries etc. etc. than a no of already permitted planning applications within 200 metres of the house.

Please note, I've copied Sarah in as I'm not the type who goes behind someone's back.

We met on-site with Sarah and my architect early this year, where she outlined what met with planning regulations, policies, distances to neighbouring building etc. and she laid out in detail, what we could have.

We then submitted drawings to her exact specifications and since then agreed to her multiple requests for time extensions on multiple occasions, and all of her additional requests for other changes, all of which we have conceded to (there was one specific point originally specified by her that we also wanted, she later changed her mind, and again we conceded to it, though we would have preferred not to) , requests for tree, bat surveys etc. all of these were communicated , and therefore evidenced, via email.

In summary, they are The Council's planning officer's plans, not mine. I am delighted with them, (though with the above exception), and in order to get them through and passed we have gone along with everything she has stated / asked for etc.

Last week, as she was Out of Office, I exchanged emails with the general email 'inbox' of the planning team (email attached) and they confirmed that the status of "delegated" meant that the decision was with the planning officer. The final decision is this Thursday i.e. tomorrow.

Yesterday, I received an email from Sarah where she has said the Principal Planning Officer is the decision maker and will refuse it (this email is attached with my, as yet, unanswered reply). As this was over 24 hours ago and I haven't had a reply, and with her only working Mon, Tue and Ted, I thought it prudent to escalate this to you both. I am not expecting / asking you to interfere with the planning process , but I trust you would agree it would be a ludicrous and beyond belief situation where the planning

permission is refused on a plan that has been designed and specified by The Council's own planning officer, and which meets all the rules, guidelines and policies.

So you are aware, we are a mixed race family, who has faced racist behaviours from our neighbours that are perfectly described in John Barnes' book "the uncomfortable truth about racism" and the guardian article

here <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/jun/03/why-no-long-talking-white-people-review-race-reni-eddo-lodge-racism> . One of the neighbours, who no doubt is one of the objectors, at least had the honesty to tell me to my face that "we don't like your sort round here" with 3 witnesses present. I'm sure if you had been told this, then you know that these type of people can never be allowed to influence anything, but unfortunately still do. We've had dog faeces thrown over the wall and left at our garden gate, not to mention other instances of racial abuse, to the point where we have had a CCTV system installed that is monitored from a control centre 24/7/365.

I trust you would agree that with having two conflicting responses stating who has the decision, and to repeat that The Council would be rejecting its own officers' plans, it has been suggested to me that other influences could be under consideration with such a last minute U-turn.

I thought you should be aware of what's happening in the organisation that you lead.

I very much look forward to your comments.

Sincerely

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