

25 April 2010

Dear Mr Goodwin

Planning Applications 5/2010/0259 and 0260
**Erection of a two / three storey leisure facility
comprising swimming pools, etc ...
at: Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill**

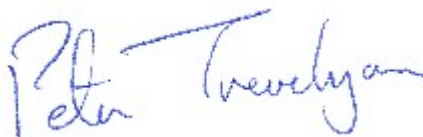
Following my letter of 23 April, I now have before me a local election leaflet for Verulam ward, circulated in the last few days by the Liberal Democrats. I wish to draw this to the attention of Mr Lovelady and yourself as evidence supporting the concerns expressed in my letter. The leaflet contains a photograph of existing and prospective Verulam ward councillors, on the application site. The caption states that work has started on the new swimming pool.

A few days ago, I received an email from Cllr Frearson forewarning me of this leaflet. He pleads mitigating circumstances and claims not to have formed an opinion as to the planning merits of the building. Obviously, it is impossible to verify this claim. However, the item in the leaflet is clearly designed to make political capital out of the Westminster Lodge scheme. It also manifestly prejudices the outcome of the planning process. Anyone reading the leaflet will note that he is credited as joint editor and he cannot absolve himself of responsibility quite so simply.

Councillors on planning committees must be seen to be acting in a way that is fair and impartial. This leaflet implies the converse. Consequently, our view is that, at the very least, neither Cllr Brazier nor Cllr Frearson can be party to the planning committee determination of the above applications. This electioneering material again raises the question as to whether the same could be said for any Lib Dem Councillor sitting on the Planning Committee.

Given the particular circumstances of these applications, and the planning points made in earlier letters, we request that the Council withdraw these applications.

Yours sincerely



Peter Trevelyan (Chair)

cc: Mike Lovelady, Cllr Frearson