[redacted]

From: R FINCH [redacted]
Sent: 07 September 2019 17:43
To: Cllr. Jamie Bennett [redacted] Cllr. Isabel Thurston [redacted] Cllr. Hugh Coster [redacted] Cllr. Richard Bower [redacted] Cllr. Martin Lury [redacted] Cllr. Gill Yeates [redacted]
Cc: Steve Hunting [redacted] Neil Crowther <Neil.Crowther@arun.gov.uk>; Nigel Lynn <Nigel.Lynn@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning application ref AW/134/19/HH

Dear Councillors

I have lived in Bognor Regis all of my life and traded in the families motor fuels business from 1964 -2005. In all those years I have benefited from the dedication and service of councillors like your good selves as have the rest of the population of the Arun region and I like to thank you for that. As choosing to be a public servant and represent your respective areas the job cannot always be easy but we the public need people such as you to bring balance and fairness to our everyday lives. We can hopefully always rely on the individual councillors to be open-minded, balanced, fair, honest and above all transparent so we the people can have faith and support your endeavours.

It is with a heavy heart that what I witness on the web cast of the development committee meeting on the 4 September 2019 was almost shameful also upsetting, disappointing, undemocratic circus of events surrounding our planning application that in my mind did not uphold any of the virtue's in the earlier paragraph. It was full of secrecy, lack of guidance and structure to the extent that some of the councillors did not even know what they were voting on. It sadly made a mockery of events.

The visit to our property has been shrouded in secrecy and as a result one of the three councillors that visited our property was advised not to take part (by Arun's legal team) in the application discussion denying the other councillors of first-hand information and his opinion but others were with no explanation of the reasons why? What are you hiding? Where is transparency Where is fairness. How does this demonstrate we the people can have trust in this forum? Only one councillor spoke out on the subject but to no avail. You should not consider this committee to be your private club and everything should be out in the open for all to see, that is how you gain confidence and respect from the public who after all are your employers.

By the time the committee decides on our applications it will be nearly 3 times the length it should take according to the guide lines published in Arun's planning document. We originally submitted our plans to Arun on the 25 April 2019. Why has it taken so long?

As with any presentation to the development committee we are reliant on the advice of the planning office with regard to the timing and detail of presentation.

The voting process to any outsider watching the web cast was laughable chaos with some councillors unsure what they were voting on. Again how does this demonstrate we the people can trust or respect in this forum?

I watched the presentation from the planning office and clearly heard him say that this was a set of modified drawings of a reduced scheme yet I heard later in the debate a councillor refers to it as a very minor alteration. At no time did any councillor ask or consider what impact these changes may make (irrespective of the size) to our concerned neighbours.

The entire process has left us feeling drained, upset and very disappointed in an elected body that in my opinion and on this occasion was not fit for purpose. What guarantee can you offer us that we will get affair hearing without further delay?

