Home Office, St. Vincent House, 30 Urange Street, LONDON WC2H 7HT 14th December 1981 D167/148

Mr. G. Bailey 4/1256/81G/GFB/MTB

60161 2346

Dear Sirs,

Consultation under Circular 7/77
Notice of Proposed Development: Category C Prison (outline proposals)
Land at Bovingdon Airfield, Chesham Road, Bovingdon

I refer to the above Notice received by this Council on 28th September 1981 which was considered by Development Control Committee on 3rd December 1981. The Council resolved that the Home Office should be informed that the Council does not wish to object to the outline proposals for a proposed Category 'C' prison on land at Bovingdon Airfield off Chesham Road, Bovingdon but would request that consideration is given to the following points:-

- 1. That the Home Office consider all the representations that have been received as the proposal constitutes a Departure from the Development Plan, to ascertain whether there is such a substantial weight of objection (from others) as to necessitate informing the Department of Environment.
- 2. That further consultation in accordance with Circular 7/77 be carried out when detailed designs have been prepared.
- 3. The Council is strongly concerned as to the capacity of the existing road network to accommodate the increased traffic generated by the proposed development and consider it essential that work should not proceed in advance of the construction of the proposed Bovingdon By-Pass. (The County Highways Authority has been informed similarly).
- 4. That access to the prison development is sought from the By-Fass immediately upon construction of the By-Fass and that it is available to serve the prison at the same time as the By-Fass is available for public use. Simultaneously access from Chesham Road would be retained and restricted to serve the housing accommodation, and that visibility at this access be improved. Also, the Home Office is requested to consider providing an access to the prison along the line of the By-Fass from either the west or the north

/cont...

- until such time as the County Council is able to construct the full length of the road.
- 5. That the Home Office and County Council jointly or independently acquire that land between the perimeter of the prison and the line of the By-Pass and access road within the airfield site and also other land immediately adjoining the perimeter of the proposed prison to the south of the access road to the By-Pass in order to provide substantial landscaping and screening of the whole development.
- 6. That repard is taken in the detailed design to protect the amenities of residents living in the immediate locality especially those bordering the perimeter of the site and that the detailed landscaping scheme should be submitted to the local planning authority for comment. Also consideration should be given as to whether it is possible to retain the substantial hedge and a number of trees on the northern part of the site allocated 'playing fields'.
- 7. That consideration is given to the problems of construction traffic to and from the site bearing in mind the necessity for the bulk of it to pass through the village and that some efforts are made to avoid large-scale vehicle movement during peak hours.
- 8. That the Home Office should reduce the impact of the development on the limited local stock of private housing, to reflect Structure lan and District Plan objectives by meeting the majority of staff housing requirements within the development site and that sonsideration be given to the acquisition for the use of staff of those houses at Austins Mead, Bovingdon, which are currently surplus to the requirements of the Ministry of Defence.

In addition, there is one other point which should be brought to your attention viz: a public footpath crosses the extreme northern part of the site (allocated "playing field") and will require diversion outside the prison perimeter.

I should be pleased to discuss detailed designs when they are available. Yours faithfully,

Chief Planning Officer

Copies to: Herts. County Council - County Planning Officer - County Surveyor - Chiltern District Council - File

Conto Couty Pearmant
Children Dahiel