

Extraordinary Council – 1 August 2022
Waterside Development, Staines

Corrections to Arora letter dated 11 March 2022

Under the section 'Planning Delays, it states that '*The Local Planning Authority Department (the "LPA") was shut down from March to September 2020 due to the pandemic and then effectively shut down again between June to September 2021 owing to the CPVID-19 related illness of the relevant Planning Officer dealing with our case*".

This statement is simply not true. The Planning Development Management Service was exceptionally busy during the lockdowns. Between 01/03/2020 to 31/08/2020, the following work was completed by the service:

- 580 planning applications determined
- 165 Planning Enforcement cases
- 139 Planning Enquiries (e.g., advising on proposed developments (some involving Teams meetings)
- 17 No of appeals lodged
- Set up attended and serviced monthly remote Planning Committee Meetings (starting on 29/04/20) followed later by in-person meetings
- Set up the whole Planning Development Management service remotely

In addition, some staff did assist with the Covid rotas as requested.

In 2021, there was a period of 5-6 weeks staff Covid sickness from mid-July and it was also the summer holidays when annual leave was taken. During this period, the LPA made the decision not to hold any meetings with Arora as all key staff needed to be available to attend.

The request for pre-application advice was received by the Planning Development Management Service on 15/09/2020. The Planning Performance Agreement for the pre-application discussions was not signed by the applicant and planning officer until 30/11/2020.

Planning Development Manager
29/07/2022