



Hemingford Abbots Parish Council

3C Shared Services
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
CB23 6EA

5th November 2025

BY POST AND EMAIL:

Dear Sirs,

We reference your letter to Hemingford Abbots Parish Council (HAPC) Vanessa Blane, Senior Planning Lawyer, dated 28 October 2025 which referred to our late submissions to the two most recent DMC meetings (Sept and Oct) in respect to the ongoing application for Hemingford Park ('C3 Change of Use').

In this correspondence, Ms. Blane states:

"...it appears that the timing (of the late submissions) has been designed to frustrate the planning process relating to the Change of Use application".

Chronology of The Relevant Events

Approximately fifteen minutes before the October DMC meeting on October 20th, our Chair (Marcus Whewell) apologised in person to Lewis Tomlinson (the Planning Officer for the application in question) for the late submission of our most recent letter and explained the reasons: essentially –

- 1) This is a complicated application with over ten years of planning history and thousands of pages of submissions, reports and correspondence.
- 2) HAPC had been awaiting an answer to our letter (via Buxtons Solicitors) of 15th September which we had hoped would have led to a refusal of the application.
- 3) We did not receive a reply to our letter from the Planning Department but once the next DMC agenda was issued on 10th October, we realised that this letter had not secured the expected outcome. This gave us very limited time to craft, review and submit our further arguments.
- 4) Our Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and have other responsibilities, including full-time employment. Our response needed to be coordinated with Buxtons Solicitors, and so submitting the further letter by 17th October (i.e. in only 6 working days) was a significant task.
- 5) Our Chair then asked Lewis if we could apologise to the DMC personally with our explanation, and he said that procedurally, we were not permitted to do so.

- 6) Our Chair asked him to therefore explain this on our behalf to the DMC when the matter was discussed in the meeting, which he did not.
- 7) At the conclusion of the meeting, after Cllr Wakeford asked that a letter be sent to HAPC regarding the late submissions, our Chair approached him also to explain why the letter was only submitted on the 17th October.

Given our honest attempts and good intentions to submit the letter as quickly as possible, and then to provide a clear explanation and apology for its tardiness, we consider it inappropriate and upsetting that you choose to accuse HAPC of acting deliberately to frustrate the process, and to make this a matter of public record by publishing this on the HDC Planning Portal.

Given our explanation outlined above, and our concerted attempts to try to explain why the letter was 'late', we ask that you formally withdraw and/or issue a correction to this paragraph of your letter.

Yours faithfully

Maxine Blewett

Maxine Blewett
Parish Clerk
For and on behalf of Hemingford Abbots Parish Council