ANNEX F

## Carr, Melanie

**From:** JAGO, Maddy [Maddy.Jago@english-heritage.org.uk]
**Sent:** 27 April 2009 11:45
**To:** Carr, Melanie
**Subject:** RE: Hungate Scrutiny Review

**Importance:** High

position statement April 09.do...

Dear Ms Carr,

We provided the attached statement to the media in response to the press release issued on behalf of the York Liberal Democrats late last week, which I hope provides final clarification of English Heritage's position. I can confirm that English Heritage will not be attending the final meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. We have already spent a considerable amount of time in going over the process that led to the Council withdrawing its development proposals, and we are now concentrating our staff resource on working with the Council on their new proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Maddy Jago
Planning and Development Regional Director
Yorkshire and the Humber
English Heritage
37 Tanner Row
York
YO1 6WP

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Mobile: 07766 992608

-----Original Message-----
From: Carr, Melanie [mailto:melanie.carr@york.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 April 2009 13:20
To: JAGO, Maddy
Cc: Cllr. K. Aspden
Subject: Hungate Scrutiny Review

Dear Ms Jago,

The Hungate Scrutiny review which you have previously been involved in, is drawing to a close. The Committee however, believe their findings to be incomplete as they still have a number of unanswered queries relating to the Freedom of Information' documentation provided by English Heritage. Those queries are:

i) Bearing in mind the content and tone of English Heritage's letter of objection to the Council's planning application, the Committee would like to understand your surprise at the decision to withdraw the application and your view that the content of the letter was 'up for negotiation'

ii) Inconsistencies in comments recorded in the minutes of the 'Important Application Review Meeting' of 23 June 2008

iii) Email from Alison Fisher to Helen Barnett dated 26 June 2008, in which Alison comments "We are not wholly convinced that it does achieve these objectives but will have a more clear view early next week." - The query is, what happened early the following week or at any time up to you sending the letter of objection, as we have received no documentation or correspondence relating to that period as part of our Freedom of Information request ?

iv) if there is no record of discussions taking place between 26 June and 8 July or correspondence/documentation relating to that period, how did Alison Fisher arrive at the content for the letter of objection based on the last IAR meeting of 23 June 2008 as the Committee can see no correlation ?

Whilst the Committee understand the view you have previously expressed about moving forward and working together in the future etc, they believe that due to the level of public interest in this scrutiny review of the Hungate development and the new council offices in general, it would be in the best interest of all parties to have responded to all the issues arising from the scrutiny review. With that in mind, the Committee have instructed me to write to you to extend a further invitation to meet with them. Their next scheduled meeting is on Friday 1 May at 5pm.

If you still feel unable to attend a further meeting with the Committee, they would be pleased if alternatively, you could provide a written response to the queries listed above for their consideration at the meeting on 1 May 2009.

Naturally, the Committee are keen that their conclusions reflect the fullest possible facts. Therefore your further assistance in regard to the abovew queries is essential to this process and your co-operation would be gratefully recieved.

I look forward to heraing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
City of York Council
The Guildhall
York
YO1 9QN

Tel No. 01904 552063

## ENGLISH HERITAGE STATEMENT – HUNGATE REVIEW

We have always been supportive of the principle of this scheme but that support was dependent on securing some important design changes. We set out all the issues the Council should take account of and it would be disingenuous to emphasise only the support we gave and not the concerns we raised. There was no change in policy and our concerns should have been given due weight and not dismissed or seen as less important than our positive comments.

The final application had not gone far enough in addressing the issues we raised about height, massing and historic context, and in our formal advice we re-emphasised this. We also pointed out that more information was needed in the planning submission to clarify the impact of the development on important views across the site to and from York Minster. We were surprised and disappointed that they did not make modifications and re-submit the application. We clearly stated that we would have welcomed the opportunity to take it further.

We have been pleased to participate in the Council's review and help Members understand the application process and our advice. We have made all the information about our position available. Advice from English Heritage may often include both positive and negative points and both are important to note.

**24 April 2009**