
From:

To:

Dear Jake,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this application.

I am aware of the history of this site and I would hope that this new application will now lead to the construction of homes which will attract younger demographics, including families with children, to the South of Newbury. This, in turn, would go some way to counteracting the demographic shift West Berkshire is likely to face according to ONS figures compiled for the West Berkshire 2036 Vision and will mean that the available workforce in the district grows. With a job density of over one job per working age person in the district at present, this is much needed.

A development of this scale could lead to significant construction and engineering apprenticeship and training opportunities for local people and I am sure that Newbury College, which will soon open a university centre focussed on the skills outlined in Thames Valley Berkshire LEP's Priority Skills Statement, would be well-placed to assist with the identification and on-boarding of candidates, particularly young people, who might benefit from this. I would also be keen to explore how further community benefits, such as events and STEAM workshops for local children, might be offered throughout construction. If approved, I would welcome the opportunity to work with the applicants to formalise an Employment and Skills Plan for the site to ensure that the development's legacy has an even greater positive impact on the community.

I would also be interested to better understand the plans for the local centre given the impact of Covid-19 on some industries as well as the employment situation for certain groups, again particularly young people and those from the BAMER community.

I know that the specific location of the site has led to some environmental concerns and I imagine colleagues in our Environment Department may wish to comment on how the applicant might take part in local initiatives in order to contribute to the council's aspiration towards carbon neutrality by 2030.

Thank you again for giving me the chance to comment. As stated, in the event of approval I look forward to working with the applicants to secure a positive skills legacy for the development.

Kind regards,

Gabrielle

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