

15th September 2010

Dear Mr Myerscough,

I write in a personal capacity as a member of Portobello Community Council regarding your presentation to Portobello Community Council on Monday 30th August, and to disassociate myself from the letter already sent to you on behalf of the PCC as a whole.

I have no wish to go through all my concerns with the letter that was sent, suffice to say that it does not accord with my recollection of what was discussed and agreed at the last meeting. The only firm conclusions I recall the Community Council coming to on your proposal were that we could not reach a decision at that time and that we were keen on further dialogue in the hope of reaching a mutually satisfying outcome. Any statements beyond that as to the position of the Community Council are not justified in my opinion; these matters are still to be resolved.

I am also very aware that the principal duty of Community Council is to reflect the views of the community it serves; the individual views of Community Councillors are secondary. Even if the letter sent by the PCC does indeed represent the views of the Community Council, I remain to be convinced they are a fair reflection of the views of the community at large. I remain hopeful that the Community Council will take steps to ascertain and evaluate what the views of the community actually are regarding this proposal, but as yet that idea does not seem to have garnered much enthusiasm.

One thing that has become clear since the meeting is that, at the time, we did not fully appreciate how soon you wished an answer to your proposition. Now that is understood, I would certainly hope we re-visit the issue at our next meeting and I would also hope you were on hand to assist our discussions, clarify issues and respond to concerns about the proposal. That would seem a sensible course of action given that *"the community council welcomes further dialogue with BL regarding your amended plans."* However, although I have suggested as much to the Chair of the PCC I have yet to receive a response.

Should any further dialogue occur, it will be useful to have some idea of the issues, comments and concerns that do exist within the community regarding the proposal. I am in the process of gathering views and hope to make them publicly available in due course.

Regards

Sean Watters

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