

**221223**

Dear Cllr Francis, Cllr Cotton, Paul Kitson, Greg Tillotson and David Stevenson

I am very mindful that it is well over three weeks since we met on 28 November. It was agreed by yourselves during the meeting that further consideration would be needed in order for you to provide us with a full response to the issues raised. However, as you can appreciate, a timeframe is required for your response and hearing nothing from you so far is concerning particularly as in the first instance we were promised a copy of the minutes from the meeting which so far hasn't happened. Therefore, please arrange for a copy of the minutes to be forwarded at your earliest convenience. There are two matters discussed in the meeting that I assume will form part of the minutes: 1. "Blank canvas" which Greg Tillotson referred to in relation to the masterplan of the Central Ladywood Estate moving forward and that 2. CPO would not be capped. There are of course other matters as well. However, these are the most pressing considering the information we had previously received from BCC was apparently inaccurate.

As you are aware I have been through all stages of BCC formal complaint procedures. The next stage is to request intervention from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. My formal complaint so far has been dealt with in the most inconsistent and abysmal manner including failure from Council Officers to adhere to BCC Complaints Policy which I brought to their attention twice to no avail. Should I feel that our concerns are not being dealt with in a timely and proper manner then I will have little choice but to move to the next stage and involve the Ombudsman – there is a link between our meeting and my formal complaint.

There is little to suggest, if at all anything, that BCC has the capacity to work with residents of Central Ladywood in a meaningful way e.g. only around 6% of residents were afforded the opportunity to participate in Engagement Workshops and the additional workshops that were promised by Council Officers to take place in November didn't materialise. This is particularly concerning as the Resident's Charter is based on the findings from these workshops.

Moving forward it is the belief of Ladywood Unite that the regeneration project in its current form is not fit for purpose, trust in BCC remains at an all-time low and that there are a myriad of fundamental flaws linked to the Ladywood Regeneration Project. Taking into account the disastrous high profile decisions made by BCC, particularly around grandiose projects, which have been financially damaging to the City surely it is now time to reassess the core purpose of BCC where the focus should be on residents? Residents of Central Ladywood are keen to consider an alternative and more realistic plan for the regeneration of Central Ladywood which is financially viable, has a brownfield-first approach, takes account of the Council's Housing Policy of 35% of new-build affordable homes which is particularly needed in the city centre, is environmentally sound and supports the city's recovery.

For your convenience I attach our most recent correspondence. Please ensure a prompt response.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

George Smith

**221223**

Dear George,

Thank you for your e mail.

I have been tasked to coordinate a response to your various queries and I confirm that this will be issued to you in the next 5 working days.

You will appreciate that there is some degree of complexity to your queries and we wanted to undertake a thorough job of responding back to you and also provide the very latest position with the Ladywood Regeneration Project. Please contact me directly if you have any specific queries that I can help with in the meantime.

Wishing you a relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes

David

**030124**

Dear George,

I hope you are well and had a good Christmas and New Year.

Just a quick e mail out of courtesy to confirm that I will be forwarding a detailed response to your e mail this week as promised.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries in the meantime.

Best wishes

David

**030124**

Good afternoon David

Happy New Year

Thank you for your email. I'm glad that you are preparing a detailed response.

Just to be clear the matters to be addressed were raised in the meeting 28 November for which you have the Presentation PowerPoint + information document and also the two emails of the 4 and 22 December. In the past responses from BCC, which were very rare, tended to be generic; thus, avoiding dealing with the concerns in question. As you can appreciate the residents of Central Ladywood have been treated in the most appalling manner by BCC – there are many similarities with the Post Office scandal and as such there is much broken trust between residents of Central Ladywood and BCC.

On a final note there are two environmental issues that need much more consideration 1. The carbon cost of demolishing good quality homes including discarding the rubble is huge – most of the properties in Phase 1 were built from the 1990s onwards 2. The embodied carbon in the existing properties from their original constructions – the emissions from putting these homes up in the first place.

I look forward to your response later this week.

Best wishes

George Smith

**050124**

Dear George,

I have responded to the various questions raised by Laura Kundra this evening and I confirm that I will be responding to your e mail by close of business on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – just one or two final points to clarify before issuing. Thanks for bearing with me.....

Wishing you both a good weekend.

Regards

David

**090124**

Dear George,

I hope you are well and having a good start to your week.

I am finalising a couple of points before I can issue my response to you and will ensure that it is with you as soon as possible this week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any queries in the meantime.

Best wishes

David

**090124**

Hello David

I appreciate the time you are spending on providing a detailed response. You explained that you are awaiting clarification of information, impacting your ability to adhere to deadlines. However, I am concerned that time is running away. I do not doubt that you have a very challenging role as Regeneration Project Director and hope you have not been handed a poisoned chalice.

Residents are drawing parallels between the behaviours presented by BCC in relation to the regeneration project and the Post Office scandal. Residents have no intention of being walked over by either BCC or the developer. There are a number of academics supporting us. Last week I had a meeting with an Associate Professor from Emlyon Business School which is the first international university to show interest in our plight.

Residents are of the opinion that whatever happens now following the shambolic start to the regeneration project and the lies and mistruths that ensued that whatever BCC does to try and rectify the situation will now merely be a bolt-on. Should the people of Ladywood have been put at the core of the regeneration project as they should have been the queries and questions presented to you would have been very straightforward for you to answer.

Please would you provide a deadline for your response that you can assure me you will be able to adhere to.

Best wishes

George Smith

Thanks for your e mail George.

I think you will have noticed from our recent communications with Laura Kundra and also from the two editions of the Ladywood Regeneration Project digital newsletter, the Council has listened very carefully to the concerns of Ladywood resident's, and we are systematically responding to them.

We are now communicating regularly with Ladywood residents and stakeholders via a range of different media – face to face discussions, regular digital newsletters, website updates, workshops, information distributed to parents and carers by Nelson and St John's primary school head teachers and via the many voluntary and community organisations working in Ladywood at grass roots level.

Having now spent over 10 weeks working on the ground in Ladywood since joining the Council as Ladywood Estate Regeneration Project Director, my team and I have personally met with a significant number of resident's, shopkeepers, business owners, head teachers, school teaching staff, school children and voluntary organisation leaders.

I can say with some confidence that residents of all ages and tenures are starting to receive the information that they need at regularly frequencies to keep them fully informed as the Ladywood Regeneration Project progresses. They are also receiving timely answers from my project team on individual and collective concerns.

Inevitably there is more to do.....

The Councils Ladywood Project and Communications Team are working tirelessly to improve communication between the Council and residents of Ladywood and a step change will be seen and felt in the coming weeks.

We hope that the outcome of this work is that residents will;

- 1) feel much more comfortable with the regeneration proposals.
- 2) will have some of their concerns alleviated.
- 3) will start actively contributing to the consultation surveys and engaging in workshops.
- 4) will start sharing their aspirations and dreams for the new neighbourhood.

We really do want residents to also start considering the many positives which will arise from the regeneration of Ladywood into a sustainable, inclusive 21<sup>st</sup> century neighbourhood and consider how their life chances might be improved by the much-needed investment in one of Birmingham's most important City Centre locations.

I am working to finalise my response to you and will ensure that it is issued as soon as is possible. If there is any aspect which is particularly urgent, you welcome to contact me directly in the meantime.

Regards

David

**110124**

Thanks for your e mail George.

Please find my responses to your points raised in blue text below.

Best wishes

David

**110124**

Good evening David

Thank you for your email. Whilst I applaud your efforts in very challenging circumstances I hope you understand how frustrating it is that you have failed to meet the three specific deadline dates that you have provided in order to respond to me.

Apologies if any frustration has been caused but you will appreciate that Ladywood is a fast moving regeneration project and we want to ensure that we communicate the fullest and most accurate position to you and the wider residents, businesses, stakeholders of Ladywood and Ward members.

A key principal adopted by the Council going forward is that everyone will receive key information about the Ladywood regeneration project at the same time which we think is the most fair and equal way of managing communications. We have the third edition of the Ladywood regeneration digital newsletter being issued in next week.

The demeaning treatment that residents experienced last year was truly shocking, particularly from our local councillors. We were told by our councillors that the main reasons for demolishing properties within the redlines, which cover 60 hectares including high quality homes, was to ensure that the developers achieved a minimum 20% profit margin and to meet the cost of bringing social housing up to minimum standards – BCC should have not left social housing in Ladywood to decay and decline.

I note your comments and will ensure that these are passed on to the Ladywood Ward members via our next regular fortnightly Ward member briefings. I will ask Sir Albert Bore and Cllr Kath Hartley to respond.

You will know that 8 questions were raised by councillors from outside the Ladywood Ward at the Meeting of the City Council yesterday (attached). I was particularly interested by the written responses to A17 and A18 which are tantamount to creative accounting. Surely such a grandiose project should cost the use of existing BCC staff which will be extensive and apart from 'consultation activity' where is the costing for a consultation specialist as promised by Cllr Cotton 19 July 2023?

***.....the council will be going out to tender for a consultation specialist to help, assist and support the local community during the lead up to and during the consultation period. The successful applicant will be independent from St Joseph and will act on behalf of the council with the best interest of the local community.***

All resident consultation is currently being managed by my Ladywood Regeneration Project Team via existing Council Staff. One further team member has been recruited to support the consultation process and ensure that we have the human resources needed. We are currently reviewing the resources needed by the regeneration project but anticipate that a significant part of the operational project delivery will be delivered by existing staff internally or funded by our development partner when we are able to enter into contract. This is a work in progress and will be crystallised over the next 2-3 months.

Your rose-tinted perception of the regeneration project does not reflect the reality of the situation for those who live within the redlines.

I can assure you we do not have a rose tinted view of Ladywood. My comments are directly informed by the literally hundreds of conversations I have had at street level with residents in Ladywood, businesses, school children, faith groups, etc etc over the last 10 weeks. They are also based upon my extensive knowledge of being directly involved at a senior level in successfully delivering regeneration projects in both Birmingham and the City of London over the last 30 years. I am always interested in case studies so please feel free to forward any that you feel are relevant and of interest. I have been involved in writing a number of case studies in the past on the projects that I have worked on. I am happy to share some of these with you if you are interested?

You have not demonstrated that BCC is financially capable of providing residents of Central Ladywood with the necessary and meaningful support needed, particularly during a time of recovery.

I am happy to address this point in my response to you.

Residents are fed up with sweeping statements about how better off they will be as a result of the project. The developers state that they require a minimum 20% profit margin; the same principle should apply to residents as no one living within the redlines should be worse off or be out of pocket because of this project. Perhaps you should consider reading some case studies made in relation to the residents who have experienced similar regeneration/gentrification projects in different parts of the country? Whilst you may find it acceptable to constantly miss the deadlines you have set, I find this practice abhorrent.

We are not constantly missing deadlines. We have responded in detail to Laura Kundra's queries which I am aware has been shared with you and we are close to being able to respond to your queries. We will respond to your 8 key questions as soon as possible. We want to ensure that the quality of our response and timing is such that it answers in detail all of the questions that you have raised.

Once the response has been issued I would be prepared to meet with yourself and Laura Kundra to ensure that we have fully and thoroughly answered your queries.

Best wishes

George Smith

**110124**

Hello David

Thank you for your email. As you are aware I have been through all stages of BCC formal complaint procedures and the next stage is to request intervention from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. My complaint at Stage 2 was dealt with in the most abysmal manner including the failure of Council Officers to adhere to BCC Complaints Policy. The reason I have delayed taking my concerns to the next level was to provide BCC with the opportunity to rectify the situation – as you are aware I believe that residents and BCC should be working collaboratively for the good of all concerned. However, your approach so far in dealing with the issues I have raised provides me with little confidence. I attach BCC presentation slides published last month involving 300 Ladywood residents in relation to the feedback from the 12 workshops held in October and November. I believe that this is a true reflection of how residents in Ladywood feel about the regeneration. To regain the trust of residents after experiencing such appalling treatment will take considerable resources as well as time.

Best wishes

George Smith

**120124**

Thanks for your e mail George.

We confirm that the Council is committed to working to fully answer all of Ladywood Unite's queries and to develop an effective working relationship moving forward, which enables you to raise questions and receive timely and informative responses.

I will be leading as Ladywood Regeneration Project Director, working with my team.

My first task is to ensure that all of the questions that you have raised to date are fully and answered to your satisfaction and then put in place a framework where you can receive regular updates along with all of the other residents and stakeholders and contribute actively to consultation processes which is taking place.

We hope that the various e mails to you and Laura Kundra over recent weeks from the Ladywood Regeneration Team have assured you of our best intentions and that we are now communicating much more effectively with you and the residents of Ladywood.

**We will ensure that you receive a full response to all of your queries in the next 5 working days, possibly sooner.**

Thank you for bearing with me at this busy time for the Council and for the Ladywood Regeneration Project and assuring you of our best intentions at all times.

Best wishes

David



**190124**

Dear George,

Further to my e mail of January 12<sup>th</sup> 2024, I confirm that we will be able to issue you with a detailed response to your various queries by close of business on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

You will appreciate that some of your queries have been of a detailed and technical nature and have in some cases required significant work by our officers to collate the necessary information required to inform our responses.

As previously stated, I am happy to meet with you and Laura Kundra in the next fortnight after you have had the opportunity to consider our response, so that we can discuss any remaining queries and how these are best resolved to your and the Council's satisfaction.

Regards

David

**250124**

Thanks for your e mail George.

A response has been prepared but there are two points which require sign off by my senior colleagues before I can issue it to you.

I am working to secure the necessary approvals and will be back to you before the end of this week with an update.

Thank you for your patience.

Regards

David

**250124**

Dear David

I'm very disappointed that you have not done as you stated in your email 19 January, to provide '*a detailed response...* [in connection to meeting 28 November and subsequent emails] .....*by the close of business on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.*' This is the fifth deadline that you have failed to meet which does nothing but further diminish trust in BCC. You will recall at the end of the meeting on 28 November that you assured us that a copy of the minutes from the meeting would be forwarded. This also has not happened.

Residents of Central Ladywood are still dependent on support from external agencies in relation to the regeneration project. Last week Ladywood Unite joined forces with the Birmingham Fair Housing Campaign (Shelter) and now has representation on their steering group. This organisation has over 3k members. Residents have also been very fortunate to have support from an increasing number of councillors outside our Ward. Our local Labour councillors have simply let us down. They are no longer visible and do not appear to do anything to support us. We have a live no vote of confidence in our local councillor's petition which is now being promoted in several shops and businesses in the local area. As you are aware on 9 January eight written questions were presented by councillors from outside our Ward to cabinet members and chairs in relation to the Ladywood Regeneration Project. Regrettably, several responses from BCC lack substance and at times appear to be misleading – BCC claims there is no indicative masterplan which we know from a number of sources including the Report to Cabinet June 2023 that there is a masterplan and also, there is no mention of the '8 Principles' in this report. In relation to Appendix 5 – Project Resource Plan, it would appear that the majority of critical hires for the project involve existing staff and therefore resources are essentially financed through General Fund. These are the questions as residents and tax payers of Birmingham that we require answers to.

Ladywood Unite door knocking campaign continues on a weekly basis. We have found that the majority of residents want to stay in their homes in Ladywood. Our findings in many ways mirror that of Shabana Mahmood MP:

<https://www.shabanamahmood.org/2023/10/31/shabana-publishes-results-of-ladywood-regeneration-survey/>

Some residents in council properties live in appalling conditions. This is very reminiscent of my experience as a playscheme and youth worker for children and young adults with severe learning difficulties in the late 1980s working in Peckham in London. Some of the homes in the council estates I visited then were of appalling conditions – 4 decades on and I'm seeing very similar substandard council housing conditions in Ladywood, particularly in the tower blocks, as a result of neglect from the council.

No one denies that Ladywood needs regeneration. However, it's about doing the right thing for all residents and in doing so putting the people of Ladywood first; the needs of the developer should be secondary. All pointers indicate that BCC simply does not have the financial capacity and subsequently, the resources to provide residents of Central Ladywood with the necessary and meaningful support needed. In an email you wrote to me 22 December you assured me that I would have a response within 5 working days (4 January) – several weeks on and nothing but broken promises and excuses.

Best wishes

George Smith

**250124**

Thanks for your e mail George.

A response has been prepared but there are two points which require sign off by my senior colleagues before I can issue it to you.

I am working to secure the necessary approvals and will be back to you before the end of this week with an update.

Thank you for your patience.

Regards

David

**250124**

Dear George,

Thank you for your patience while I have been preparing a response to your various Ladywood regeneration project queries.

I confirm that I will have a substantive response with you by close of business on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, which provides answers to all of your various queries.

I have shared with you and Laura Kundra today the latest Ladywood regeneration project digital newsletter and we will be providing a further update on resident and stakeholder engagement workshops, door knocking, homeowner consultation and targeted engagement with vulnerable and difficult to reach residents. These activities are all scheduled to be delivered by the Ladywood resident engagement and housing team in mid/late February 2024 next week.

I hope you have a good weekend and look forward to catching up with you and Laura in person to respond to any remaining queries in February 2024.

Assuring you of our best intentions and commitment to responding fully to all of the issues that you have raised.

Regards

David

**010224**

Dear George,

I have drafted my detailed response to all of your queries and this is being signed off by the Council's Communications Team so that it can be issued to you.

Our Head of Communications has been unwell this week and away from work, which has led to a delay in achieving sign off. Another colleague is reviewing so that we can issue to you as soon as is possible by e mail together with the minutes of the meeting so that you have a written record of our discussion.

If you have any urgent queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to e mail or call me.

Looking forward to meeting you and Laura again in February.

Best wishes

David

020224

Dear David

I am disappointed that you have now missed the deadline that you set to respond to the concerns raised in relation to the Ladywood Regeneration Project for the seventh time.

If the shoe was on the other foot, how would you feel? Would you find this practice acceptable? It would have been far more acceptable if you had been realistic about the deadline from the start. My home of 30 years built in 1993 is at risk and therefore the stakes are high. You know how important it is for residents to regain trust in BCC following the shambolic start to the regeneration project last summer and the months that followed when our queries and concerns were totally ignored. Therefore, it is important that assurances are met promptly, otherwise, trust and confidence in BCC will continue to dwindle.

Moving forward, I very much look forward to receiving the 'substantial response' (now that you have made an alternative provision to sign off this document) and the minutes from the meeting we had in November.

Best wishes

George Smith

**020224**

Thanks for your e mail George.

I totally understand your frustrations but I am afraid this is totally out of my control as the Council's Head of Communications is unwell and not available to review and approve my response to be issued to you. Another colleague has agreed to undertake this task, but in view of current communications workload relating to the work of the Commissioners and Council's budget cuts is unable to look at the draft until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. I will continue to keep you fully informed so that we can manage your expectations.

The Council has demonstrated it's commitment to engaging with you, Ladywood Unite and all of the other residents, voluntary organisations, businesses, faith groups and stakeholders in Ladywood. We now have a comprehensive engagement process in place delivering resident surveys, workshops and improved interactive web page, door step engagement/ door knocking and the ability to meet myself and the Council's team in person. We are in the process of securing an office base for the Council's Ladywood Regeneration Team and will have a much greater local presence in Ladywood in the coming weeks and months.

I met with Andrew Northcott, Pastor of Church Alive yesterday as part of my ongoing discussions with the various Ladywood Faith groups. I understand from Andrew that he is a member of Ladywood Unite and he has agreed to brief you on my conversation with him. I have also agreed with Laura Kundra to meet with you in February 2024, to follow up on any remaining queries that you might have.

As a final point, you are welcome to invite me to your next Ladywood Unite meeting so that I can respond to any queries that residents might have about the Regeneration Project and ensure that the information is both accurate and as up to date as possible given the progress being made on the resident consultation, community involvement and investment work.

Assuring you of our best intentions at all times.....

Regards

David

**090224**

Email Helen Shervington 090224

Good afternoon Helen

Thank you for your email. It is comforting to hear that you genuinely want residents to be heard and for the regeneration to meaningfully benefit the community as this is not the message we get from BCC. There is much anger in the local community and rightfully so. David Stevenson does himself no favours. I attach the correspondence I have had with him since the 22 December. Everything highlighted in red are assurances/promises that David has made and has not been able to fulfil. This is truly shocking to read, particularly taking into consideration that David is the Director for the Ladywood Regeneration Programme. In an age of communication technology news travels fast which is very much the case for residents in Ladywood. Residents are aware that David has now failed to respond at least 7 times and therefore trust in his ability to direct the regeneration project is at an all-time low. I have a meeting with David next Friday. David is insisting that he is provided with an agenda for the meeting five days in advance. The reason for the meeting is to discuss any matters that may have arisen from the long awaited 'substantive response' from him. I have now given up on David and am in the process of preparing to lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman. BCC has got it so wrong when it comes to working with the community and continues to sink deeper.

To replace my home like for like (three-bedroom terraced house) in the city centre will cost in the region of an additional £200k. This is because BCC has failed to invest in Ladywood for the past 30 years. I have no doubt that should the regeneration go ahead in its present form and BCC decides to proceed and demolish good quality properties, to meet the demands of the developer, that many residents in Central Ladywood will face financial hardship, particularly those in private homes. This has happened in other regeneration areas where CPO has been imposed on residents who either own their properties outright or are on the property ladder resulting in them having no choice but to resort to social housing or rented accommodation. I know that the majority of my neighbours will not be able to afford to replace their homes – we all know that shared equity is a trap for those involved in this initiative.

Central Ladywood is a very tight community and everyone knows each other. This is something I've discovered since working closely with the local community. As soon as BCC launched the regeneration project at the infamous meeting in the Community Centre in July BCC closed the doors on the local community. This resulted in residents such as myself answering queries and concerns from other residents throughout the summer holiday period. This was the job of our councillors and council officers. Instead, I and other residents ended up giving up our summer holiday to support residents many who are elderly and vulnerable.

A battle is emerging between the residents of Central Ladywood and BCC. Should a battle ensue there will be no winners – there is plenty in the armoury for residents to call upon such as Housing Rebellion, Extinction Rebellion and high profile social media lawyers. We have so far turned down offers of external support as we believe there is a better way forward. We also believe in finding the positives from the dreadful situation we find ourselves in and it's our belief moving forward that there is much to gain from empowering the local community as opposed to depending on external support.

I have had several meetings with a number of councillors from outside our Ward. There is much support for our campaign e.g. councillors have posed questions to the Full Council. Without exception there is a common agreement from all concerned that regeneration is needed in Central Ladywood but not to the detriment of residents who have put their roots down in Ladywood. This was something Andy Street was very clear about when I met with him. There is also much concern and disquiet within the area and externally about the demolition of good quality homes particularly when there are so much substandard housing currently in Birmingham and increasing numbers of people within the city are

living in homes that do not meet The Decent Homes Standard. According to Shabana Mahmood MP, in relation to the regeneration of Ladywood, private home owners are going to be offered like for like (at an additional cost?) so why would BCC or indeed the developer demolish good quality homes to replace these with like for like. It just does not make sense.

The ideal outcome for residents and the councillors I have met is to stop, reset and start again and this is something that residents will pursue. I think many opportunities have been missed and whilst BCC continues to plough forward with blinkers on things will not change. There are so many creative ways forward that would benefit everyone concerned that are just not being explored.

With regard to the meeting with David next Friday I would be delighted if you could attend. As I've stated, I have no idea what we are going to discuss as we need to see and also have adequate time to reflect on the contents of the long awaited response document from David.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

George

**090224**

Dear George,

I am pleased to confirm that the Council's Head of Communications has returned to work and we are working to issue my detailed response to your queries as soon as possible.

I am on annual leave myself next Monday and Tuesday and will provide you with a further update next Wednesday.

Best wishes

David

Email 1 from David Stevenson **160224**

Dear Laura, George and Andy,

I made it clear in my e mail yesterday that the meeting with you, George and Andy is arranged for March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 5.30pm, not today and that if you indeed did have a meeting in your diaries set up by my team for this morning, it was cancelled.

It appears that despite my offer to reach out to your group with complete transparency and integrity, provide additional and contextual information on the Ladywood Regeneration Project and answer any questions that you might have, you have chosen to access the Council House knowing that I was unavailable and have gained access to a Committee Room via our security team without a Council Officer being present. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and I have had no choice but to instruct the Council's security and reception team to escort you all off the premises immediately.

I have asked you on several occasions to forward the agenda for the proposed meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 for my consideration but I note that this is still awaited.

Please can I now receive this proposed agenda by no later than Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, 4pm and I will consider with my Council colleagues whether it is appropriate for the meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 to proceed or whether we will now revert to communicating with Ladywood Unite via correspondence.

Regards

David

Email 2 David Stevenson **160224**

Dear Laura, George and Andy,

I have forwarded a further copy of my e mail sent yesterday afternoon confirming that our meeting had been arranged for March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024, 5.30pm in line with your discussions with my colleague Gareth Blake.

Gareth Blake is on leave today but I will be reviewing the exchange of correspondence that you have had with him. My understanding is that at my request I offered up the meeting date of March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 5.30pm to accommodate your request for an out of hours meeting to enable your members to attend. It was never our intention to hold two meetings. I also made it very clear that I would only meet with you if a draft agenda was received and agreed so that we



can review the proposed issues to discuss and ensured that the correct members were in attendance from the Ladywood Project Team to answer any queries as fully possible.

In addition to my e mail, I also sent a mobile phone text to Reverend Andrew Northcott yesterday clearly advising that I could not meet you at 10.30am this morning due to other commitments and that I had sent an invitation confirming the meeting for March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024, 5.30pm.

My comments in my e mail sent this morning stand.

The meeting this morning was clearly cancelled, Andy was aware of this and you collectively accessed the Council House Committee Room 6 without a Council Officer being present. This is totally unacceptable and cannot happen again.

I look forward to receiving your proposed agenda for March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 so that the Council can decided how best to engage with Ladywood Unite in the future.

In the meantime, I refer you to the Ladywood webpage of the Council's website which provides all of the information currently in the public domain about the Ladywood Regeneration Project and is being updated fortnightly as new information becomes available, which can be shared publicly.

Regards

David