



10 November 2015

Mr R M McNeill-Wilson
The Granary
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The Venerable Robert Springett
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Dear Robert

When Bishop Rachel last met with the PCC she assured you that I would be in touch once the Bishop's Council had had further discussions regarding the possible development of the Glebe land in the parish.

Those discussions have now taken place and I want to update you on them. I should add that while your Team Rector, The Revd Craig Bishop, is a member of the Council he rightly declared a conflict of interest for this item and in this instance was asked by the Bishop to withdraw. He was neither part of or party to the discussion. Please also note that we have just had elections to a new Bishop's Council and the Revd Debbie Forman is no longer a member.

Firstly let me reiterate what I believe you already know, that the Diocesan Glebe Committee has decided not to enter into a promotion agreement with Gladman. This means that the field W7A/Terrify remains entirely both in the ownership and control of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). The Bishop's Council further agreed that any proposal for development will be managed directly by the diocesan offices reporting to the DBF. The "sale" which was the subject of the Church Commissioner notices was to our wholly owned subsidiary company Good and Faithful Servant (G&FS), it therefore remains within the control of the DBF.

Having made this decision but before making further proposals, representatives of the DBF will be meeting with the CDC planning department to look again at how this land fits with the Cotswold District Local Plan. Any proposals we do make will be fully discussed with you before any planning application is made. I would like to stress that the members of the Bishop's Council fully endorsed Bishop Rachel's comments to you that the DBF would not want to be part of any scheme that would over house your village. Any proposal for development that we might make would need to take account of other developments in terms of the number of houses proposed and the time scale in which they might be built. We are also aware that within the local plan W7A/Terrify was the only site proposed for non-residential use, a position supported in the consultation process by both Auto-Sleepers and Vale Press Group, two major employers in the village. This matter was also raised at the public meeting and we would wish to explore how a mixed use of the site could add to the village's sustainability.

Cont/d ...

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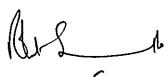


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The Bishop's Council members recognised that the experience of the last few months has seriously undermined the levels of trust between the village and the DBF and if we are to engage in partnership, as we would hope, we will all have to work hard to restore our relationship. The council particularly wanted to actively confirm that the DBF will not develop W_6/Upper Marbrook. We have never considered W_6/Upper Marbrook for development and its nature as a ridge and furrow field in an AONB makes such a proposal, in any case, an extremely unlikely proposition. The Council is keen to give you the reassurance you need regarding this undertaking, and would like to hear from you what might be acceptable. There are legal requirements on glebe of which you are aware but we think there might be more than one option to explore and I would suggest that I and one or two members of Bishops Council arrange to meet with members of the PCC to explore this further and to agree a mutually acceptable way forward.

Please do share this letter with the PCC and wider community and be assured that once we have had further discussions with CDC I will be in touch to arrange a date to meet.

Yours sincerely



The Venerable Robert Springett
Archdeacon of Cheltenham

cc. The Revd Debbie Forman, Chair Willersey PCC
Mrs Judith Munt, Churchwarden
Lord Dear, Vice-Chair Willersey PCC
The Revd Craig Bishop, Team Rector