

Email: Andrew Stunell MP to David Hoyle, Chairman Marple in Action, 19 August 2011

Dear David,

I am writing to follow up on the meeting you arranged with my office recently. I appreciate the time that Mick, Isabelle and Paula took to come and brief me on the plans that Marple In Action has to stop any development of the Hibbert Lane site as a supermarket. I hope they found it useful to hear first hand of my own strong commitment to the same cause.

Just to recap:-

All six of the Marple councillors, and I as the local MP, very strongly share your view that such a development on that site would be wrong.

I have already, as you will know, written in strong terms to both the Principal and the Chair of Governors of the College urging them to scrap any plans they may have to encourage or allow such a development. In doing so I drew to some extent on the reports of their intentions that your colleagues brought to me, for which I thank them.

*The councillors will shortly be distributing the next edition of their local community newsletter, *Liberally - Keeping in Touch*, to each household in the two Marple wards. It leads on a call to the College to think again and to scrap any such plans, and invites residents to write in and support that campaign. I hope we can bring together the combined weight of that response and of the response reported to me at the meeting from your own campaign to put some real community pressure on them.*

Mick, Isabelle & Paula invited me to join the march you are organising this coming Saturday. Unfortunately, as I told them at our meeting, I am not free to come, as [personal information omitted].

I do look forward to speaking at the later rally they proposed, and would very much welcome the opportunity at it to set out my support for your campaign. I assume you would hold that at a weekend (it is of course not practical for me to attend during the week). A number of Saturdays and Sundays are already committed in my diary this autumn for ministerial and other business around the country, so I'd be grateful if you could speak to my diary manager, Andrew Garner before settling on your date, so that we can avoid any clashes that might prevent me from attending.

During the meeting I talked of the opportunities there will be for Marple residents to exercise much stronger influence on the future shape of the community when the Localism Bill, that I am steering through Parliament, comes into force next spring. That Bill takes over where the Sustainable Communities Act left off, and I would be very ready to talk to you or other interested people about how we could couple the urgent short-term work to combat the supermarket on Hibbert Lane with a longer term vision for the future of Marple over the next decade.

Perhaps you would be good enough to circulate this letter to your committee members, and by all means feel free to read it out at Saturday's event if you think it is appropriate to do so.

With all best wishes for the coming battle,

Yours sincerely

Andrew Stunell MP