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Louise Herbert

From: June House
Sent: 07 October 2010 14:43
To: Louise Herbert
Subject: FW: Consultation Response
Attachments: Let to DDC consultaiton Whitfield Dover 071010.doc



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From: Griffiths, Steve SW [<mailto:steve.griffiths@kent.fire-uk.org>]
Sent: 07 October 2010 14:36
To: June House
Cc: Cherry, Robert RG; Baugh, Richard
Subject: Consultation Response

Dear Sir

Please find attached Kent Fire and Rescue's response to the Whitfield proposals.

Regards

Steve Griffiths

Steve Griffiths | Assistant Director Community Safety | Kent Fire & Rescue Service | 01622 698214 | 07764 232094

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For more information about Kent Fire & Rescue Service visit: <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org>

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15/10/2010



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Steve Griffiths 07 October 2010
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steve.griffiths@kent.fire-uk.org

Dear Sir,

Whitfield Urban Expansion Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the **Whitfield Urban Expansion Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** for the development within the Whitfield area. I would like to draw your attention to a number of areas for consideration as part of your development plans.

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority has, for some time, been promoting the reduction of risk from fire or flooding in the built environment. Not only does this provide an important part of controlling and reducing environmental impact it can also support cost efficient and flexible design. The use of new techniques and the early engagement of the Fire and Rescue Service at the design stage can ensure that innovative design is considered and exploited. For example; building out fire risk through practical measures can remove the need for expensive fire resistant doors and compartments, giving more flexible cost and design options.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service supports developers and building designers to promote economically and environmentally innovative designs that provide safe and sustainable accommodation. We have developed a number of case studies to support this work and will be happy to share these. We are also finalising an appendix to the Kent Design Guide which will provide practical advice and information on safety in the built environment. I would like to recommend that this document is mentioned with the supplementary planning document and considered for the proposed development.

People are living longer and the maintenance of independence into old age is an important part of building design. It ensures that buildings meet the needs of the occupiers throughout their lives, reducing the impact on public services. This is particularly true of fire and flood



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Charlie Hendry CBE QFSM F Fire

risk and there are a number of ways that these risks can be controlled. These range from sprinkler systems and cooker shut-off systems, to rain-water harvesting and practical flood damage reduction measures. Given the number of new houses likely to be built in this area over the next ten to fifteen years, it would be a pity if this opportunity were lost.

The benefits are substantial, particularly in property built for rental or social housing, where fire risks are greater, and in sheltered or adapted housing, where residents' mobility problems can make smoke alarms an inadequate precaution. For the wider community, this approach to risk reduction may also obviate the need to build any additional fire stations which might otherwise be required to meet the needs of the development areas. Developers may wish to consider whether it may be cheaper to install sprinkler systems rather than contribute to the provision of additional fire and rescue services that the proposed development is likely to require. A recent CLG analysis may assist with this and full details can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsc192009>

Should you receive further information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Steve Griffiths

Assistant Director - Community Safety