



JR Status (11th July 2018)

In our last update we advised that Day 1 of the legal proceedings had taken place and the balance of arguments, evidence and responses to points raised was expected to be complete by early afternoon of the second day of the scheduled 2 day hearing. In practice the hearing ran through to late afternoon, but did complete within its allotted time.

All matters have now been put the Judge, along with a substantial case file of written evidence from the application and of relevant prior case law. The Judge will now begin consideration of this evidence, along with the submissions made in Court, in private. Once the Judge has completed her deliberations a judgement to address all aspects of the case will be handed down. Court procedure is such that formal public notification of the 'hand down' is generally the day before it is scheduled (through the daily lists published by the Royal Courts of Justice which are available to inspect from approx. 2.30 each day on justice.gov.uk) – we will keep watch on this and post notifications when we have the judgement hand down date.

In the interim we remain bound by the limitations on the detail we can openly discuss, and it would not be right to speculate on the possible outcome – as it can only be speculation at this time. We are pleased that David Cairns' case has allowed the presentation of RSRP concerns to an independent body for the first time over 5 years – much of what fell for consideration in the Court case could have been addressed much earlier, and with much less cost to all parties, but for the belligerent attitude of Herts County Council and the unwillingness of key Councillors to represent the concerns of their residents.

As we have stated previously the JR addresses the immediate question of Planning Permission and as such only seeks to challenge the role of HCC as a Planning Authority. It cannot and does not seek to address the role of HCC as an Education Authority, or in any other general terms, and that is a separate matter which RSRP is addressing. More news will follow shortly.

Once again thanks to those who responded to our funding appeals – there are still substantial cost exposures and we are leaving our appeals open to help address these and other future costs through the avenues listed in earlier bulletins.

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