

Environment Directorate
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NF

26 Simonstone Road
Broughton
Flintshire
CH4 0BU

30 April 2010

Dear Mr Roberts

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2010.

I note your comments and the public notice guidance for the process of representing against the proposed modifications of an Inspector's recommendation. I am satisfied that all the conditions were met and details my reasons below.

The Public Notice issued in the local press clearly states that:

"Representations should be made in writing and sent by post / fax / email" - **The representations were sent by email.**

"Representations should clearly state the relevant contact details" - **There is no mention of a signature being required and all representations made provided the requested contact details.**

"A form is also available to help with making representations" - **All representations were made using this form.**

"Representations should clearly state which Proposed Modification the representations relates to" - **All representations were clearly identified on the provided form.**

"UDP email: development_plans@flintshire.gov.uk" - **All representations were made to this email address. The link used has been reinstated on the bottom right hand side of the home page of the broughtonaction.co.uk website for you to view.**

You stated in your letter that:

"the system does not send automatic acknowledgments" - **When a representations is submitted the system presents a screen acknowledging receipt of the email. This screen appeared after each representation was made and therefore I am confident that each representation was submitted correctly and was received by Flintshire County Council..**

"a good point made once does not gain weight from being made repetitively" - **The point itself does not gain weight but the strength of feeling from the public about the particular issue does and this should be taken into account.**

I ask that you retrieve all the valid objections that were submitted and ensure that they are placed on the relevant file.

I would also ask you to explain how Flintshire county Council can by-pass the 'Public Opinion' stage entitling the public to represent against the Inspector's recommendations for the UDP and substitute this for a 'Councillor only' representation stage. Will the public opinion, public representation and the numbers of representations made to Flintshire County Council be considered in this new stage of the process?

In your letter of 31 March 2010 you refer to "a block of 254 objections to a proposed Aldi

store" on the site opposite Carphone Warehouse in Broughton. It is concerning, therefore, that prior to contacting you on this issue I telephoned Emma Hancock, the officer assigned to this development application, and asked how many objections had been received to the proposed development. I was told that only one had been received. However, following receipt of your letter I again contacted Miss Hancock and this time I was advised that 254 objections had been received. I would again appear that your systems failed to correctly record the number of representations until challenged.

I note the acceptance of the 254 objections received to the proposed Aldi store and refer back to your statement in your letter in relation to the representations made to the Inspector's recommendations for the UDP that "we would have queried receipt of so many from the same email address". Can you explain why the representations against the 'Aldi store' development are acceptable yet the representations made against the Inspector's representations for the UDP would have been questioned despite both sets of representations having been made in the same way from, in the main, only two email addresses i.e. in block

It would appear from the above that the members of the public are making valid submissions to Flintshire County Council, receiving acknowledgements that the electronic submission has been received and yet these representations are not being recorded by the various departments within Flintshire County Council. Please will you let me know how Flintshire County Council intends to address this issue and ensure that public representations are correctly considered.

Your sincerely

Judith Richards

(On behalf of Broughton Action Group)

Cc: Councillor Billy Mullins
Carl Sargeant AM
Mark Tami (MP)