

Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

Tel: 020 7527 2000

Website: www.islington.gov.uk

Tel: 07804 337 483

E-mail: ruth.polling@islington.gov.uk

1. [Disagree with paragraph 3]
Klute never suggested whole Liberal Democrat group.
Only suggested cross party support

Rachel Lee
Chief Planning Lawyer
Law and Public Services
Room 220, Town Hall.
Upper Street
London N1 2UD

10th September 2006

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for drawing to my attention the statement and the supporting comments made by Councillor Martin Klute to the Planning Inspector regarding the application at 1 Lamb's Passage earlier this week.

Councillor Klute was right to point out that the three Liberal Democrat ward councillors, Donna Boffa, Jyoti Vaja and I have opposed this application since the beginning. Councillor Vaja submitted a statement in mid August on our behalf to the Planning Inspector stating this view. She also briefly attended the Inquiry although did not address it.

However I am concerned that Councillor Klute has gone further than this and suggested that the whole Liberal Democrat group opposed the application and making the implication that we had discussed this and agreed a Liberal Democrat line on the application. This is untrue and I feel it is important to get the record straight.

As Chief Whip of the Liberal Democrat group I can confirm the matter has never been discussed by the Liberal Democrat group as it is considered to be a local planning issue rather than an issue of strategic importance to the Council which form the agendas of our meetings. Planning applications as non-political matters are not discussed at our political group meetings and so 1 Lamb's Passage has not been raised at any Liberal Democrat group meeting.

As Chief Whip of the Liberal Democrat group I am only allowed to enforce a Liberal Democrat line on an issue once it has been agreed by the whole Liberal Democrat Group. As we do not discuss planning at group meetings it is never possible to say the Liberal Democrats as a whole support or oppose a particular application.

In the case of 1 Lamb's Passage it is possible to say that the three Liberal Democrat ward members oppose the application but it is not possible to say that the Liberal Democrats oppose

the application. In the light of planning law I felt it was important that this distinction be drawn to the attention of the Planning Inspector. I understand that you will be representing the Council at the Inquiry and I would be grateful if you could pass this message to him in whatever is the most appropriate form.

If you or the Planning Inspector wishes to discuss this with me further I would encourage you to contact me on the details above.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ruth Polling
Liberal Democrat Member for Bunhill