Please Ask For: Chris Merriman
Direct Dial/Ext: 01455 255774
Direct Fax: 01455 619897
Email: planning@hinckley-bosworth-gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref: DS/P/09/00279/COU
Date: 2 June 2009

David Tredinnick MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Tredinnick

3 Burbage Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire

I refer to your letter of the 27 May 2009 in connection with the above site and the recent planning application submitted by Dr Shahor for change of use of the property to a Surgery including extensions.

I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to the points raised by both Dr Shahor and his agent and the rather inappropriate accusations levelled at the planning department of the Borough Council.

Prior to submission of the planning application discussions were held between planning officers and Dr Shahor's agent, where it was identified that the key issues to be resolved was the implications of this type of use on traffic generation to and from the site, which is located on a busy B classification road. In addition, the access point is opposite the exit to a filling station and the entrance to a small industrial estate. There are also differences in levels between the site and the carriageway to contend with. The advice was clear that potentially the proposal had highway safety implications which should be resolved with the Leicestershire County Council Highway Authority prior to submitting the application.

It would appear that in his haste to conclude the purchase of the site, Dr Shahor decided to submit the application prior to resolving these highway issues and not surprisingly, the Highway Authority recommended refusal of the application when formally consulted on the proposal. Further plans and information have been submitted during the consideration process but have failed to convince the Highway Authority to change their stance. As you will appreciate, Central Government are very keen that Local Planning Authorities meet strict targets in determining planning applications as well as ensuring that public consultation and full transparency of the decision making process are upheld. Amendments or additional information on planning applications should, quite rightly, be subject to re-consultation and particularly in this instance with Burbage Parish Council, who had highlighted the potential highway dangers of such a use at this site, during their initial consultation on the scheme. There comes a point in the process where there is insufficient time for re-consultations to be undertaken prior to Government target dates being reached, which is, unfortunately the point reached in this case.

In this instance, I do refute the accusations of incompetence and must say that just because the case officer is on leave does not mean the application is not being dealt with. Every effort was made in that officer's absence to resolve the problems, which I may add, are somewhat of the

applicant's own making. The application has in fact been withdrawn and we have given an undertaking that a resubmitted scheme, incorporating any agreed requirements of the Highway Authority will be dealt with expeditiously.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Prowse
Director of Community and Planning Services