

An application was brought before the Planning Committee in 2009, no discussion took place and the Councillors relied totally on a verbal report and recommendations from the Director of Planning. Councillors were not offered the opportunity to see the design statement and reasoning behind the application nor the opportunity to discuss national enabling policy, departure procedures nor Section 75 agreement, all as suggested and requested by the Architects. As such the application was re-submitted on 08 September 2009 – never went to Committee and was refused under delegated power by the Planning Officer – Decision Notice was dated 04 November 2009, although we never received the refusal document until 04 December 2009; no reasoning for this has been given despite a request from our office.

We therefore seek a Notice of Review. All technical aspects, tree reports, tree management, road layout, access, visibility, drainage etc have all been resolved. This is a unique application for which there are national precedents but no local policy. The design statement and financial appraisal set out the reasoning for this development. Without it, Newton House will not be saved.