

Residents have been blocked and backdated by Cambridge Council: please write today to reject or defer the Christ's College Library application

Dear friends,

Roger Hopher, former national Head of Planning at Savills and Executive Director of hgh Consulting, has written to the Council: it is "most surprising that a local planning authority of the standing of Cambridge City Council should be prepared to entertain such an abuse of proper planning process", and approving it would mean "walking inevitably into another - and entirely foreseeable and avoidable – legal challenge".

The Council has already admitted to the High Court that its Planning Committee was "materially misled" over this library. On Wednesday it asks the same committee to approve the same building, with more misleading statements.

Backdated

We have been backdated. The officers' report tells councillors that "all representations are uploaded against dates that reflect when they were uploaded". That is not true: 113 of our 158 documents on the public register carry earlier dates, against 1 of the College's 108.

Just one example: our letter to the conservation officer setting out errors was kept off the register until 1 October, after the officers' report had come out, then shown backdated to 25 September, the day we sent it.

Blocked

We have been blocked. Every email we send councillors is blocked and detained in a Council mailbox set up for us alone. Councillors are never told, and never hear from us directly: they are blocked from hearing from their own constituents. Our letter to the committee reached them 55 hours late, by the time it was the weekend. The Council's email to the judge trying to vacate our hearing reached us only after the judge had ruled.

The residents who beat this Council in the High Court are being backdated and blocked, days before the vote. Please write today to democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk:

"I object to application 26/02109/FUL and ask the Planning Committee to refuse it or, at the least, defer item 6 until after the High Court hearing on 20 October."

Then fill the Guildhall on Wednesday 7 October (10am start, item 6), and forward this to everyone you know in Cambridge. Read **"Backdated. Blocked.", our one-page fact sheet**, and **Roger Hepher's objection in full**, as submitted to the Council on 4 October.

Open our one-page fact sheet: Backdated. Blocked.



BACKDATED.

Officer report's denials untrue.

THE DENIAL, IN THE OFFICERS' REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE (PAGE 88)

"Officers are of the view that all representations are uploaded against dates that reflect when they were uploaded."

OUR DOCUMENTS BACKDATED

113 of 158

Held back from the public register, then shown under earlier dates.

THE COLLEGE'S DOCUMENTS BACKDATED

1 of 108

Its documents go up on time.

OUR EXAMPLE

Our letter listing errors in the Conservation Officer's report

Backdated to: **25 Sept**

Published date: **1 October**

Put up after the officers' report.

THE COLLEGE'S EXAMPLE

The Bursar's lobbying email to all 42 councillors

Backdated to: **11 June**

Published date: **21 July**

Kept off the register until we complained.

BLOCKED. We've been SPOCCed.

Every email we send is blocked and detained in a Council mailbox set up for our group alone. We are kept off the planning register, our legal correspondence is blocked, and councillors are blocked from hearing from their own constituents.

17 DOCUMENTS

Kept off the register until after the officers' report

LEGAL NOTICES

Kept from us until after the judge had ruled

PLANNING COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Held for 55 hours, until the weekend

"I take a dim view of any public authority backdating a document in a manner which could give a false impression to the public."

A High Court judge, 2014, on another council that dated its website to the day a document reached it. That council's permission was quashed. R (Joicey) v Northumberland CC.

Write by 12 noon today, Monday 5 October. Fill the Guildhall Wednesday 7 October, 10am.

Email democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk: "I object to application 26/02109/FUL and ask the Planning Committee to refuse it or, at the least, defer item 6 until after the High Court hearing on 20 October. Please circulate this to every member of the Planning Committee." Copy residents@christs-lane.com.

Come. Christ's College Library is item 6. **Forward this** to everyone you know in Cambridge.

With thanks,



CHRIST'S LANE ACTION GROUP
CAMBRIDGE

christslaneactiongroup.org | residents@christs-lane.com