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Mr Simon A.R. Hegarty
49 Aintree Road
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Our ref: NH6329

04 June 2007

Dear Mr Hegarty

I have now – at long last – received a response from Kay Andrews to my inquiry about Parklands Middle School, and a copy of it is enclosed.

As you can see, if the Council were minded to approve the application, it would be called in – which is interesting as I had not realized that the proposals were in conflict with the local plan.

I hope this is helpful to you – do let me know if you want any further information.

This letter is also going to Brian Cooper.

Best regards

Yours sincerely,

SALLY KEEBLE MP
NORTHAMPTON NORTH

enc

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Our Ref: YC/BA/018942/06
Your Ref: NH5852

Dear Sally,

01 JUN 2007

Thank you for your letter of 9 October 2006 addressed to the Rt Hon Ruth Kelly, requesting that the application to develop the Parklands Middle School Site, Northampton be called in for determination by the Secretary of State. I have been asked to reply. I apologise for the delay in responding - this was unfortunately due to an administrative error.

As you are aware, the general approach we adopt is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities or development corporations with planning powers, unless it is necessary to do so. Although we have the power to intervene by directing that an application is referred to us for decision rather than it being determined by the local planning authority, this is only used in exceptional cases, normally where planning issues of more than local significance are involved.

The planning application for development at the Parklands Middle School is due to be considered at a planning committee meeting in July 2007, although this is dependent upon continuing negotiations. As you know, it is possible to address the appropriate planning committee regarding your concerns. If you or any of your constituents wish to speak formally at the meeting considering the applications, they will need to send a request in writing to the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation prior to the event. Further information about this meeting including public files regarding the case will be available from the Development Corporation in due course.

If the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation planning committee resolve to grant planning permission for development on the Parklands Middle School site, the application will be referred to the Secretary of State, as the proposals do not accord with the current Northampton Borough Local Plan. When the application is received, planning case officers will consider all of the planning matters raised and all the representations received regarding the application, including your letter, to decide whether the proposal raises issues of wider than local importance to warrant intervention by Government.

I will of course inform you of the Secretary of State's decision, but I am sure you will appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage

Bertie Andrews

Baroness Andrews

BARONESS ANDREWS