Obs ack 10/9

THE RT HON THERESA MAY MP
Home Secretary and Minister for Women & Equalities

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

CASE
PLANNING
10 SEP 2010
COPIES
REPLIED

Mr Mark Turner
Planning Officer
Wokingham Borough Council
Civic Offices
Shute End
Wokingham RG40 1BN

9th September 2010

Dear Mr Turner,

Application VAR/2010/1795 – Star Works, Star Lane, Knowl Hill

I am writing in regard to the above planning application which, as you know, seeks to change Conditions 7 and 11 associated with the activities of the Grundon Star Works site in my constituency.

A number of local residents have contacted me to express their concern about this application, and I share many of these concerns. Local residents have had to put up with numerous inconveniences as a result of the work at this site, including high levels of noise pollution, unpleasant odours, and increased levels of HGV traffic. They have done this with the knowledge that the work would at least be completed by 2018. It is therefore extremely unfortunate that Grundon is seeking to extend the time in which work can continue, variously to 2020 and 2021. This will serve to extend the inconvenience suffered by local residents. Coupled with an increase in HGV movements, local residents will be potentially facing not only a further 11 years of disturbance, but higher levels of disturbance than they have faced at any time in the recent past.

There is understandable concern among local residents at the nature of Grundon's consultation with them on this matter. As you will be aware, Grundon presented residents with three options, none of which appeared particularly attractive. Option 1 was arguably the least palatable, and according to the Planning Statement received no support from residents. Despite this, Grundon have decided to press for precisely this option.

Conditions 7 and 11 represent important safeguards for local residents. Despite the difficulties they have encountered, they have at least known that there was a clear limit on the time in which work could take place, and the associated HGV movements. Weakening these safeguards will represent a blow to residents, and could set a precedent by which Grundon can continually apply for extensions. This would render the setting of such Conditions meaningless.

On this basis I would ask that the views of local residents are closely listened to, and that this application is rejected.

Tel: *Fax:*
E-mail:

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP