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Mrs June Lee
31 Wattsfield Road
Kendal
LA9 5JN

1st July 2021

Dear June

Abbey Care Home, Staveley, Kendal, Cumbria

Thank you for your letter of 23rd June 2021 sent on behalf of the Staveley and Ings Parish Council.

Thank you also for the update on the Abbey Development Group and their work to date. We endeavour to remain up to date on progress with the community engagement activity and Fran Richardson has kindly kept us updated on developments. We will be interested to see the results which emerge.

While there has been no formal update from ourselves to the Parish Council, I can reassure you that we have remained steadfast in our commitment to the community following our original decision in 2019/20. As you will recall, this was to broaden our options to include expressions of interest from the community before taking any decisions on the future of the site. This is an iterative process which is sensitive to the needs of the community and following our meeting with Mark Kidd and Fran Richardson in March, we noted that the community engagement activity was taken forward very positively.

In the meantime, our conversations have continued with those who had submitted expressions of interest in the development of the site. This included the conversation with Mark and Fran, representing Sustainable Staveley (we advised you of our intention to meet with them in our email of the 4th March), also recognising that Mark is the Chair of the Parish Council and would keep you updated. This has been useful for us to understand all interested parties' intentions but also enabled us to provide advice and guidance on ways forward.

As you know, David Brockbank is one of the interested parties who shared with yourselves the outline of our discussion with him (11th March), and also set out his proposals requesting support from the Parish Council. We also suggested to the other interested parties that they make contact with yourselves to share their proposals.

We have since provided the interested parties with sufficient time and space to further develop their ideas to demonstrate financial viability and deliverability through market need, identification of service delivery agents as well as funding to purchase the property. I responded to Fran on the 21st April to explain that the interested parties were at different stages of the process and that I am committed to giving them an appropriate amount of time to firm up their proposals. I also set out my intention to move to a final competitive process to identify a single entity to take the site forward, aiming to contract in September. The final decision will be taken in line with the Council's Constitution and Governance that provides

both for a Cabinet Decision or a delegated officer decision dependent upon what the final proposal encompasses and will take into account all of the above business requirements as well as the community views for the future of the site.

We are now in the process of setting up the follow-up meetings with each of the interested parties and will be in contact with Mark and Fran in due course to identify a suitable date.

I note your question about the Fire Station land and our medium-term expectations. Staveley remains within the Fire Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan and therefore the Rapid Response Vehicles will require a garage facility along with staff welfare facilities. This land would only be included within any proposal if the business case demonstrated strong and evidenced viability and it would be under the proviso that an alternative site is found for a suitable garage facility within the village.

The Council has always maintained that the proposals should have strong support from the community and it is hoped that your engagement activity provides evidence for the interested parties to further inform their proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Harty', written in a cursive style.

Allan Harty

Assistant Director – Economy & Environment

Cc Mark Kidd
Fran Richardson