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BASINGSTOKE & DEANE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

23 JUN 2010

21 June 2010

Dear Marion

It was a pleasure to talk to you on Friday and, as promised, I thought it would be helpful for me to write to you to outline my position regarding the Enabling Development Application at Highclere.

In his letter to you of 12 November 2009, David Brock concludes with the statement "There is thus nothing to stop any potential purchaser who believes that he or she can offer comparable benefits by buying the estate from making this case publicly, as a contribution to this debate". It seems that David Brock was possibly not aware of the letter I wrote to [REDACTED] on 21 August 2009 which stated:

"David Brock, in his letter of 20 July to Tony Curtis, Chief Executive of Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council, states that "it is up to the objectors to prove, for example, that a sale of the whole entity to an individual is a real possibility, that this would preserve the rights of access to land and collection which the public currently has."

I am longing to provide a permanent home for my art collection. The combination of Sydmonton and Highclere would provide exactly that.

If the Earl of Carnarvon were to sell the estate he would obviously want an open market price but this has not been tested. I must declare an interest bearing in mind that I could provide a secure future for the castle without any development of this kind in an AONB painted by arguably Britain's greatest twentieth century artist."

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In addition, [REDACTED], on behalf of The Sydmonton Court Estate, declared an interest in the acquisition of Manor Farm and its adjoining land, in a letter dated 1 December 2008 to Mr A R Tompson of H W Dean LLP (copy enclosed).

Very unfortunately the meeting that [REDACTED] and I were to have last autumn had to be [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I wonder whether for this reason my letter to [REDACTED] sadly fell somewhere between the cracks.

As I explained to you, the Enabling Development proposal for Highclere would not affect me directly but if there is another way to preserve the castle and at the same time prevent development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, I do believe it is at least worth discussing.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**THE LORD LLOYD WEBBER**

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