



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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Dear Andrew

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 July, regarding Dulwich Hamlet Football Club (DHFC) and the redevelopment of the site at Champion Hill. I am sorry to read of some of the difficulties you are having with Southwark Council.

As I am sure you will appreciate, local planning assessment and decisions sit outside my role and are best handled by those with more expertise in these matters, in consultation with the views and needs of the local community. I am therefore pleased that you are discussing these plans with the Greater London Authority.

I am also aware of Southwark's attempts to acquire the site through a formal bid. It is clear that both you and the council are pursuing different courses of action, where ongoing negotiations make it difficult, or where compromise will be hard to achieve. As I have stated previously, it is not for me to take sides in this matter. Owing to various issues, such as differing objectives between you and Southwark Council, legal considerations and Southwark Council stating they are not keen to enter into mediation at this stage, I have not as yet asked for an independent mediator to intervene. The offer of mediation must be predicated on all parties being open to this intervention.

However, my primary intention remains to help where I can to secure a future for the football club. I will therefore continue to monitor progress being made over the coming months and reserve the right to revisit the option of a mediator, if required. In the meantime, I will ask my officials to remain in contact with you. Please feel free to get in touch with me should it be helpful to discuss things further.

With best wishes,

Tracey Crouch MP
Minister for Sport and Civil Society

