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Sent: 06 December 2016 11:38

To: Planning

Subject: Application 16/0750 proposed erection of dwelling houses and impact on Grade II listed cottages 1 and 2 Fishers Lane. URGENT

I am responding to the letter you sent to my office on 304 Highfield Road (which was received by us on November 17, inviting us to comment on the above application.

I have now had the opportunity personally to look through the application and the accompanying documents. I have also read carefully all the responses from the statutory consultees that have been posted on the website.

I am aware that the Appeal which the applicants made over the original proposal for the construction of these proposed six houses was rejected. While I have read the 'heritage statement' submitted by Mr O' Flaherty in connection with the renewed application, it is clear from the consultee responses that there remain grave reservations about this application. These are reservations which I strongly share.

These include the observations of the Built Heritage Manager which underline the continuing concerns that the settings of the cottages remain strongly at risk under this application and that the significant road and driveway changes proposed in the application go against the emphasis in the Appeal judgment that prioritised their historic significance in relation to the layout of Marton Moss. That risks being destroyed under these proposals it would seem to me - and once done that cannot be remedied.

I believe that the LCC County Archaeology Officer was absolutely right to emphasise the potential for Bronze Age and Mesolithic materials of significance potentially in the area of the application and to urge major significant archaeological explanation in the event of any disturbance for development on the area proposed.

As a former editor of the magazine History Today and a Member of Parliament's all-party Archaeology group, I am well aware of the discoveries that have been made in boggy, watery and peaty areas not least in and around the North West. The most spectacular of these has been Lindow Man, the preserved body of a 2,000 year old man believed to have been a ritual sacrifice discovered in a peat bog near Wilmslow in 1984. Since then and indeed since the 1995 survey referred to by the LCC officer, the evidence for substantial ritual deposits, including weaponry and organic remains, in such places has grown further.

In terms of the effect on the area generally, I am acutely aware, given all the controversies in recent years about other building developments on Marton Moss, of the need for such proposals as this application to build six houses to be as watertight (literally) as possible. The Coastal and Environmental Partnership comment drew attention to the unstable nature of the area and the risk of 'surface water flooding' and Blackpool Civic Trust's comments also referred to the knock on effects of drainage.

I and my office are personally aware of some of the negative if unintended consequences there have been in the surrounding areas to this application from pumping and other impacts that have

disturbed the balance of the network of dykes and other natural features - and which have then surfaced in casework issues and concerns raised with us from residents and allotment holders.

For all of these reasons I agree with the observations that the current application should not proceed on its present basis, bearing in mind the detailed judgment of the appeal and the continuing question marks raised in the consultee responses.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Marsden

Member of Parliament for Blackpool South