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Dear resident,

Willow Farm, Chobham Road

I write to you regarding the planning situation at Willow Farm, Chobham Road. In recent weeks a number of residents have contacted the Council to advise that further activities have been taking place on the land.

You will be aware that an Order was made by the High Court on 13 June 2005 which restrained the owners from carrying out any works relating to the creation of a hardstanding on the land, required removal of all unauthorised hardstanding from the land and cessation of the use of land for the stationing of vehicles, mobile homes or caravans.

Planning permission to use the land was subsequently applied for. This application was refused and an Inspector upheld that refusal after hearing an appeal by way of Public Inquiry.

This refusal was challenged in the High Court and this challenge was dismissed with no right of appeal. Despite this decision the legal team, representing the land owners, are continuing to challenge that dismissal and as yet we have not received any notification of the outcome.

Following notification from residents regarding new activities on the site, Council officers have visited the site and met with the owners who advise that they are landscaping the site to enhance its appearance. The owners of the site have been formally advised that the Council will seek to have the site cleared.

Experience has taught us that taking precipitate action can be seen as inappropriate and not enforceable, opening up the Council to be challenged. Given the current legal situation and new activities on site the Council is seeking further legal advice as to what action, if any, may be taken against any unauthorised new development. On receipt of this guidance, the Council will consider the options available and progress the matter

As you will no doubt be aware staff time and resources are very restricted with cuts to the public sector. This site is one of a number of large enforcement cases across the Borough and unfortunately, enforcement investigations are very resource hungry and time consuming. However, I wish to reassure you that the Council is continuing to seek the removal of the unauthorised breaches of planning control at the site within the restrictive legal and planning powers available to the Council.

I appreciate that the recent activities on the site have been of concern to neighbours and I am grateful for the information that has come forward. However, I trust that this letter sets out the legal position regarding the site and the Council's continued intention to act upon those matters relating to a breach of planning control.

Yours faithfully,



Lucy Fenton
Enforcement Team Leader
Ext 5260