

**WINCHESTER
DESERVES
BETTER**

Campaigners win Judicial Review against 'dreary, monumental' development in birthplace of England

Campaigners today won a High Court battle against Winchester City Council over a controversial development scheme, known as Silver Hill.

The Judicial Review application was instigated by Winchester City Councillor Kim Gottlieb against his own Tory led Council. The case was heard in the Queen's Bench Division of the Royal Courts of Justice on 28 and 29 January 2015 by the Hon Mrs Justice Lang DBE, who reserved Judgment until today.

Cllr Gottlieb's claim was that Winchester City Council, in awarding the contract for a major £165 million city centre development scheme, pursued by Henderson and promoted by the Council, acted unlawfully.

Over recent months, Cllr Gottlieb has led the 'Winchester Deserves Better' campaign, which has attracted thousands of followers. The campaign group objects to the Silver Hill development's architecture for being "dreary and monumental" and because it is "set to cause irreversible damage to the historic character of the whole city, the former capital of England."

They also believe that the development's outdated retail concept will devastate the city's traditional and still thriving high street - reputedly the oldest in Northern Europe. This heritage battle comes soon after the last one Henderson encountered, when in July 2014 their proposals for London's historic Smithfield Market were overturned by Eric Pickles.

Councillor Gottlieb comments: "We are urging Eric Pickles to call in the application the Council resolved to approve in December but, in the meantime, we are delighted by the outcome of this legal action. It should pave the way for regeneration proposals for this major city-centre site to be overhauled and revitalised, and for the city to benefit from fresh ideas as a result of an open market tender."

"This decision is being welcomed by the thousands of residents who have been wonderful supporters of our campaign. They have been concerned not just by the damaging effects of a misconceived development, but also by the processes undertaken by the Council in order to progress this proposal."

"Having the Council's actions judged as unlawful brings great shame on the proud and ancient city of Winchester, and the positions of those who led and guided matters are now clearly untenable. The Council's Leader, its Chief Executive and both their deputies should step down immediately."

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Note: In all legal matters Cllr Gottlieb was advised by Dentons whose team was led by Stephen Ashworth (Partner) assisted by Carroll Dodd (Associate). In the High Court, Cllr Gottlieb was represented by Robert Palmer of Monckton Chambers.

For more information, interviews or images, contact:

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For more background on the Winchester Deserves Better campaign, see
www.winchesterdeservesbetter.com