



Knowsley Council

Chief Executive

Sheena Ramsey

George Howarth MP
Knowsley North and Sefton East
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

4 February 2011

Dear George,

Proposed 100-hour Pharmacy – Pilch Lane, Huyton

Thank you for your recent email in connection with the proposal for a new pharmacy in Pilch Lane and your request for officers from the Council's Planning service to attend a public meeting you have arranged for the evening of 4 February 2011.

As you set out in your email to me, this proposal is not a planning matter since the pharmacy would not require any planning permission. We have in fact been requested by a number of Elected Members to review planning legislation and guidance with a view to intervening if possible from a planning perspective, and it is clear that there are absolutely no grounds to do so.

Bearing this in mind, I hope you will agree that it would not be appropriate for an officer from the Planning team to attend what may well be an emotive meeting. If such an officer did attend, we would be putting him/her in a very difficult position, as it would be impossible for the officer to respond positively to residents' concerns or questions, as the proposal simply falls outside of their jurisdiction. This inability to deal with the issue could well be perceived as the Council being unhelpful, and I think that it would be better to avoid that perception when the situation is already difficult for the residents involved.

I hope you understand and accept my reasoning on this point.

Yours sincerely

Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive



2006-2007
Road Safety
2005-2008
Integrated Children's Services

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