



ROBERT NEILL MP

Bromley & Chislehurst

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2nd May 2013

The Porcupine public house, 24 Mottingham Road, London SE9 4QW

As you will know, Lidl's proposed demolition of the Porcupine pub in Mottingham has provoked a great deal of anger from local residents and businesses.

I request that you intervene personally in this case and withdraw the application to demolish the extant building. There is no guarantee that any redevelopment plans will be approved by Bromley Borough Council, so it makes little sense to proceed with demolition work in advance of submitting a full planning application. Premature demolition will leave residents with a derelict site during protracted planning negotiations, and it would be deeply regrettable to see a repeat case of Lidl's behaviour in Warlingham, where it destroyed the former Good Companions pub and has yet to even submit an application to redevelop the site.

Your representative informed me that immediate demolition is necessary to avoid the risk of vandalism, squatters and vermin infestation. I would point out, however, that such issues could easily have been mitigated if Lidl had the foresight to clear accumulated rubbish and excess vegetation when it first purchased the site.

Your Board has to recognise that Lidl's reputation has suffered irreparable damage by the manner in which it has handled this project. I have never seen any major supermarket firm adopt such a heavy-handed and dismissive attitude towards its prospective community and it does you no favours in trying to establish yourself in the local market. Should your intentions for this site change at any stage, I am aware of several pub operating companies actively looking to purchase sites in South East London, and they would very much like to view the Porcupine premises.

I am visiting this site on Tuesday 14th May, 10.30 - 11.15am, with Brandon Lewis MP, the Minister for Pubs, and I would be delighted if you would join us so that we can discuss this case in more detail. It will also give you a chance to survey the site in person.

I look forward to hearing from you, and please be aware that I am placing this letter in the public domain.

Bob Neill MP

CC Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council
The Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Brandon Lewis MP, Minister for Community Pubs
Cllr Charles Rideout & Cllr Roger Charsley