

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock  
and Members of the Council's Cabinet  
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Date 9 December 2016  
Our Ref LT-M-00433767

Dear Sirs

## **NEW BERMONDSEY REGENERATION – PROPOSED USE OF THE COUNCIL'S COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS**

We understand that a Report on the above is now to be reconsidered by the Council's Mayor and Cabinet on 15 December 2016, following the deferral of a decision on 28 September 2016.

We wrote to you on 16 February 2016 prior to consideration of this matter at the Council's Mayor and Cabinet on 17 February 2016. We also wrote to you on 2 September 2016 prior to further consideration of the matter on 7 September 2016. Copies of both our letters are enclosed.

To date we have not received the courtesy of an acknowledgment of those letters and have had no response whatsoever to the important issues raised, issues which relate to our clients' basic human rights and their ability to live and work in peace. The lack of contact from the Council leaves our clients in a position where the only dealings they have are with Renewal, a private development company. This is entirely unacceptable in the context of the use by a public authority of draconian powers which will enable them to deprive our clients of their homes and places of business.

Once again we would like members to be aware that no progress has been made in terms of discussion or meaningful negotiation with our clients since the February meeting. Ms Winston has requested a chance to speak at the meetings and will outline recent events from her perspective then but in summary she has had one visit from a Renewal representative who was not authorised to negotiate with her, and she has had one extremely derisory offer which would not enable her to remain in the area in which she has lived and worked for some years. Following the Aylesbury CPO decision these issues are critical and the failure to address her requirements could be fatal to the success of any CPO.

At the very least, even if the 7 September decision is reaffirmed, no CPO should be made until the Council (not Renewal – they are not the Acquiring Authority here) has properly engaged with all remaining third party landowners. As we set out in our previous letters there must be meaningful engagement by the Acquiring Authority. Renewal are not making the CPO, the Council are.

The points contained in our previous two letters, and to which we still await either an acknowledgment or a substantive response, remain valid and we would ask on behalf of our clients for a proper response from the Council before the previous decision is reaffirmed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shoosmiths LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

**SHOOSMITHS LLP**