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Dear Mick,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th March 2011. I will address the questions raised in your letter.

1 – In my letter of the 21st April 2010, I did use the word inept and I stick to that. Since then, GENR8 have held open days, rather than consultations, at Copley School. Again, publicity for the first event was sadly lacking, such that the public only had 48 hours notice. Cllr Nash and I were concerned that the residents were not being given enough time to consider any plans and asked GENR8 to hold a second event a week later.

2 – Whilst some slight road improvements were made on Copley Lane in autumn, this was totally unconnected to any development. There have been no improvements to the road network as such to facilitate any increase in housing in the valley. I still have major concerns about the traffic projections and the affect on Copley Lane, Woodhouse Lane, Skircoat Green and other surrounding areas, without any development in the valley.

3 – No. In a meeting with GENR8 and at the Open Evening in January, I raised concerns about the traffic. The view from the developer and ARUP was that the junction of Copley Lane/Wakefield Road would have 'minimal' impact whilst the junction at the bottom of Salterhebble would have 'some' impact. The issues of Copley Lane were not addressed and I was told that this was the responsibility of the Council. As yet, I have not seen any scheme that will resolve the traffic issue.

4 – As chair of the Ward Forum, I have brought the issue to various Forum meetings since last May. Both the Director and Cabinet member for Economy and Enterprise have addressed and taken questions from the public. At the Ward Forum on the 22nd March, the Chief Legal Officer of the Council was present to discuss the current situation with the Contract. The local Councillors are fully aware of the views of the public from both Ward Forums and other contacts and have been

trying to influence accordingly. We are currently in a situation where a developer was approved by Cabinet in September 2009 and a contract was signed (as confirmed at the Ward Forum last week). Planning Applications have been submitted and we will be objecting to such applications.

5 – I would advise residents that your Ward Councillors have been trying hard to encourage both the Council and Third Parties involved to engage the Public at every point in this scheme. I support a clean up of the Sterne Mills site as it currently is an eyesore (and is also contaminated) but what happens there should be sustainable and the infrastructure needs resolving before any development, whatever shape or form, is considered.

6 – Yes, as I cannot see any of my concerns being satisfied by June.

7 – I would like to think that the Sterne Mills site will be cleaned, cleared and utilised. The Rugby Club have plans to develop a second pitch off Hollas Lane and I hope that these plans are realised.

We are in a situation where a contract has been signed and a Planning Application has been submitted. If re-elected, I will be continue making representations on behalf of the residents who have contacted me from Copley, Skircoat Green and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Gow

Liberal Democrat Candidate, Skircoat Ward