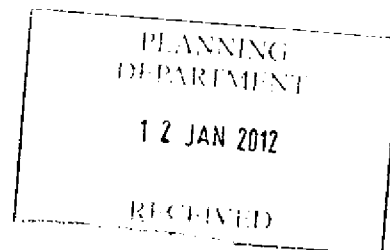




GASCOYNE CECIL
ESTATES

Mark Peacock Esq
Planning Officer
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Council Offices
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts AL8 6AE



10 January 2012

Dear Mr Peacock ,

**Planning Application S6/2011/1994/MA
Land at Salisbury Square, Old Hatfield**

I refer to the above application and understand that the County Council have identified a financial contribution of £18,422 to cover primary education, child-care, youth and library provision.

It is recognised within the application, and through the consultations to date, that the scheme has a significant funding shortfall. This is due primarily to the effect of major new public realm being created within the scheme, including new walkways, access-ways and public open spaces. In view of the above, and the considerable demands already placed on the scheme from a financial perspective, we do not believe that it is appropriate in any way to provide a further contribution towards local education, as currently sought. It should also be noted that we have previously made a significant contribution to primary education through our planning obligations in respect of the Dunhams residential housing scheme, which is situated within Old Hatfield and almost adjacent to the current application's site. We are not yet aware of how these funds have been spent or on what.

Gascoyne Cecil Estates provide considerable pro bono support to primary and secondary education within Hatfield through regular financial contributions, its Living History education programme, whilst also specifically providing support to de Havilland Primary School and Countess Ann Primary School.



HATFIELD PARK ESTATE OFFICE, HATFIELD, HERTFORDSHIRE, AL9 5NQ
TEL: 01707 287000 FAX: 01707 275719 www.hatfield-house.co.uk

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As the Council is fully aware, Gascoyne Cecil Estates are extremely committed to improving the public realm and general environment of Old Hatfield and has committed substantial funds in the recent past to this effect. The current application in respect of Salisbury Square will continue this commitment and we respectfully, therefore, ask that any further contributions such as that proposed for education above are not pursued further.

Yours sincerely,



P W J Clegg
for and on behalf of
The Gascoyne Cecil Estates

Cc: Sue Tiley, Head of Planning Policy
Tracy Harvey, Head of Development Control