



Department for Communities and Local Government

Ms Gill Payne

Please ask for: Mrs Satwant Beghal
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Your ref:

Our ref: NPCU/CORS/J2373/62900

Date: 7 February 2013

Dear Ms Payne

Demolition Of The Old ABC Theatre, Blackpool

Thank you for your petition addressed to The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in regard to the demolition of the Old ABC Theatre, Blackpool.

Local planning authorities have the statutory responsibility for planning and development matters in their areas. Authorities have to determine planning applications in the light of the local development plan for the area and any other material planning considerations, and take into account any representations received. They must also give reasons for their decision. The Government is clear that localism and decentralisation are at the heart of their planning agenda and the general approach of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of authorities on planning matters.

An important part of an authority's role is providing advice to prospective applicants about their development proposals at the pre-application stage. This can help prevent planning applications being submitted for proposals that have little or no chance of succeeding, or improve proposals that might otherwise be refused. I understand that the proposal which concerns you is at an early stage and no formal planning application has been submitted. Although there is no statutory requirement to consult before this stage, authorities and developers are encouraged to engage the public about any proposals as early as possible. Once a planning application has been submitted, authorities have to ensure that the appropriate statutory regulations on publicity are complied with, for example site notices and newspaper adverts, and where representations should be sent. So there will be another opportunity for you to make your objections known and for those objections to be taken into account.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Satwant Beghal
Planning Casework Officer