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31 March, 2019

Ms Pam Palmer  
Mayor  
Lane Cove Council

Dear Madam Mayor

**Re: Meeting between Councillors and Council Staff with HammondCare re Greenwich Hospital "Concept Proposal"**

I and a number of others in the Greenwich Action Group, formed as a result of HammondCare's "Concept Proposal", have grave concerns about the nature of the above meeting set for tomorrow, April 1, 2019.

As you gave me to understand when we spoke at the NAG's meeting last Thursday evening, Council's proposal to HammondCare (hereafter referred to as H/Care) to join in an Open Meeting with Council and residents was rejected outright. Instead, they proposed a meeting be set up just between them (H/Care) and Councillors and Council planning staff, which was then accepted and set for this Monday.

This seems to us to strike at the very heart of the principle of "due process" in this matter. H/Care submitted its "Concept Proposal" to the Department of Planning and the Environment, advising (a very few) nearby residents, who then were given four weeks to make a submission to the Department, giving their objections or approvals. As you know, after recourse to the Minister Anthony Roberts, an extension to this submission was granted for another three weeks, until Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>. During that time many Greenwich residents were made aware of the proposed re-development (mostly by our Group), as it happened thus broadening and deepening the opposition to the concept and many submissions have now ensued against a number of aspects of the plan.

This is all well and good and part of the legal processes in such matters. However, the growing opposition to their plan clearly has H/Care seriously concerned, hence their attempt to garner support and the Volunteer Co-ordinator last week circulating a letter to Greenwich Hospital Volunteers from their G.M. Health, Ron Thompson, along with a plea from her for the Volunteers to send in a submission supporting the proposed development. They are entitled to do this, I am sure.

However, it is a concern that H/care senior executives now seek to speak with the Council before the latter's submission goes in. They had the opportunity to speak in an open forum, as did residents at the Council meeting, but refused it. Why should they be accorded

another opportunity to put their case when their "Concept Proposal" **IS** their case and others have not the opportunity to also meet with them?

On Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> your Council passed a resolution to submit an Objection against the "Concept Proposal", and the minutes lists your many adverse points in regards to it. Council's submission should be able to be made in the normal way, by April 5<sup>th</sup>, without any undue influence attempted to be placed over Councillors or Staff by H/Care, which is possible to happen at this meeting. I also understand that no minutes will be taken or records kept for later public dissemination to ensure that probity and openness is maintained. I abjure this type of process.

It seems to us utterly wrong to go ahead with this meeting only four days prior to the Council making their Submission, with the strength of opposition to the development that it exhibited at that Council meeting, and which is reflected in the publicly-published Minutes.

I respectfully ask you to postpone this meeting and let HammondCare use the normal, legally-published routes as does everyone else and to leave the meeting with them **until after the submission period closes**.

Yours sincerely

**Hilma A. Else**

Co-Ordinator, Greenwich Action Group

Disclaimer: This letter does not yet have the approval of other members of our Group due to time constraints, though many hold the same or similar opinions that I express in it.

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