



Professor Andrew J Parker, ScD, FRSB

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

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Dr Carol Peaker

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03 March 2021

Dear Dr Peaker

I am writing to you as a fellow member of the University on account of the concerns you have about the development plans for the Oxford North site. I am aware that you have circulated your concerns directly to the Governing Body of the College. I thought it might be helpful for me to write directly to you, as I was until recently Bursar of the College and I remain in post as a Fellow, with a specific role to address the Oxford North development.

I know that Mr Donger has written to you very fully on this matter in his capacity of Director of Thomas White Oxford. Naturally, I am personally very concerned to learn about your reservations over the scheme and I hope we can address those for you. I was directly involved in reviewing the content of Mr Donger's letter before it was completed and I endorse its statements, particularly in regard to the benefit of this scheme for the City of Oxford.

I know that you have suggested, in your second email arrived this morning, that Mr Donger's letter is simply the response of the developer, such that it does not represent the views of the College, and I thought it might be helpful to make the following observations:

1. The College is the sole shareholder of TWO and takes its responsibility very seriously.
2. The College is aware that there is strong support from the City Council for this development, who have been engaged in discussion with the College over many years about this site.
3. The College is in constant contact with the Directors of TWO and it is my role to provide regular reports to the College's Governing Body on this project.
4. On behalf of the College, I can say that I have carefully reviewed the contents of Mr Donger's letter to you and I confirm that it accurately reflects the College's view


I know that you are not content with Mr Donger's response, but this matter has been considered now for a very long time. The City Council's planning portal contains 394 documents relating to

Oxford North. There has been a full public hearing over the Area Action Plan and there have been several meetings of the planning committees of the City Council at which representations have been heard. I feel at this stage that there has been ample opportunity for the City to hear and evaluate all the diversity of opinions. No scheme can expect to have universal approval, but these proposals have been tested carefully and the benefits have been objectively demonstrated.

I can assure you that the College is not content to proceed unless we continue to have the full backing of the local democratic processes and it is on this basis that I also give my personal support to the scheme.

I hope these remarks are helpful in letting you understand the College's position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Parker". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Official Fellow and Tutor in Physiology, St John's College
Professor of Neuroscience, Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics