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Cllr Val Barrett  
Kirkside  
2 Station Road  
Melbourn  
Royston, Herts  
SG8 6DX

31<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Dear Cllr Barrett,

### **Dispensation request - Section 33 Localism Act 2011**

I have considered your request for a dispensation to take part in the discussion at Planning Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> August in relation to the application for Melbourn by Hundred Houses Society (S/0571/12/FL).

The application relates to an affordable housing development and village community hub in Melbourn. The application was considered at the July planning committee meeting and deferred until the August meeting to give you an opportunity to apply for a dispensation, as the standards regime was in a transition period.

Your interest arises as you are a member of Melbourn Parish Council and the hub part of the application is closely linked to the parish council as the PC is a joint stakeholder. I do not consider it likely that you have "disclosable pecuniary interest" as such, as any financial interest is in relation to the parish council as a body and does not relate to you personally but under the newly-adopted Code of Conduct it would appear you have a non-pecuniary interest due to your close association with the parish council.

In line with SCDC procedures I have consulted the Independent Person, Kathy English, and the Chairman of the Civic Affairs Committee, Cllr Mick Martin and taken into account their views.

As part of the decision-making process I have taken into account:

- (a) the nature of your interest
- (b) the need to maintain public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business
- (c) the possible outcome of the proposed vote

- (d) the need for efficient and effective conduct of the Council's business
- (e) any other relevant circumstances.

I have decided to grant you a dispensation **to participate in the discussion of the matter, but not vote**. This dispensation is granted for this committee meeting only on the grounds that the dispensation "is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area" as it gives you the opportunity to present the views of local people to the committee.

Please make the committee aware of this dispensation (and I have copied this letter to Gary Duthie, the lawyer advising the committee) before you start speaking.

Yours sincerely



**Fiona McMillan**  
Monitoring Officer