

Good evening chair, Councillors and all those listening

My name is Patrick Thomas and I am the senior Planning Manager at Inland Homes. Councillors will recall that the original planning application, for 78 new homes was presented at Committee in September 2019 and subsequently approved by Members.

Following the resolution to grant we have worked with your officers to complete the s106 agreement which was signed in February 2020. Shortly after this, the development industry and the world were turned upside down by the Covid-19 virus.

The application before you tonight seeks to vary five planning conditions of the original permission and add a further planning condition. The purpose of the amendments is to allow an expedient start on site, which will allow site clearance and demolition to occur in the near future. As set out in the officer's report, statutory consultees raised no objection to the amendments proposed. We have worked with your officers to agree suitable wording, that is practical, and which is ultimately supported by officers.

Members will note that within the officers the report there is reference to a further planning application submitted for this site, in relation to amendments of plans. I understand that this application will be before Members shortly for their consideration. Care has been taken to ensure that the character and appearance of the overall scheme is preserved, with the extent of changes kept to a minimum.

The Condition amendments before you tonight, will allow an expedient start on site. The minor changes are supported by statutory consultees and officers. We look forward to starting on site and turning this former industrial site into a great place to live, which will help meet Braintree's demanding housing targets.

Thank you for your time.