

STATEMENT C6 – Aileen McLaughlin

Following on from my request to speak at Thursday Dev Committee here is my statement

Development Control Committee A – 4th March 2021 Full Planning Application 20/04934/F

Statement Aileen McLoughlin 49 Bayham Road Knowle BS4

We are forced to operate under the constraints of national planning laws and regulations and Tory obsessions with de-regulation. I am tired of this. Trying to play within these rules is depressing and can feel futile. Citizens of this City pore over planning documents trying to find arguments that will work to stop extractive over-development on their doorstep but the odds are stacked against them.

If you are the person on the Council waiting list how is this development helping you? This is the only thing that matters to me. We are building loads of housing but we are not helping the people who desperately need homes. How can we hold our heads up high as a City when we let this happen?

There is a lot of land here – thousands of people need homes in this area. What is the reason we are not using the land to meet needs? The answer is priorities, land values and systems that protect the land-owners and the wealthy over the people who just need a home

It is just not OK to build 180 homes and not make 30% of them available for social and affordable rents. 180 dwellings are being built in South Bristol but they are not being built for the people who need them. Who are they for?

Look, Firmstone are not evil or solely responsible for this situation we find ourselves in. But it is also not the Cities problem that they paid an over-inflated price for land and now have to maximise yield to make this viable. That is their error of judgement. Who should pay for this? It seems to me that the people on the Council waiting lists are the ones paying the price and that is not OK by me.

I have great respect and sympathy for officers and the members and Chair of this committee who have to make apolitical considered decisions demonstrably linked to planning regulations and guidelines. Not to do so would risk appeals and potential fines.

I do not want to be where we are. I call on councillors to refuse on the basis that this development does not meet our needs for affordable homes

Aileen McLoughlin