



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27th January 2025

CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS CALL FOR WBC TO IMPLEMENT DISCRETIONARY REVIEW OF CIL

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO PAY THOUSANDS BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a legislative charge designed to require developers to contribute towards essential infrastructure. While self-builders, residential annexes, and smaller home extensions are exempt from CIL payments, in Waverley applicants must first complete the necessary paperwork to secure this exemption. Unfortunately, errors in paperwork or residents not being aware that they have to apply for an exemption has led to some residents unexpectedly facing CIL charges and enforcement action.

Conservative Councillors have identified numerous residents who have become unintended victims of CIL Legislation which was never intended to apply to householder applications.

Mr and Mrs Steve Dally (contact details below) are one such case - they were granted planning consent to demolish and replace an existing extension that was exempt from CIL. However, after seeking permission to make some minor amendments for which consent was granted they suddenly and unexpectedly faced a £70,000 CIL charge, with no right of appeal. Mr. Dally, a 65-year-old man, has been forced to increase the mortgage on his home by £400 per month, pending full repayment when he turns 70. He may have no choice but to sell the home he has worked his entire life for, just to settle this debt.

In a groundbreaking move in May 2024, West Berkshire Council made a landmark decision to address this issue head-on. The Council announced plans to commission a comprehensive review aimed at improving the CIL Customer Journey. Additionally, they committed to adopting a new Enforcement Policy for Householder Applications, offering greater flexibility in enforcing CIL liabilities when genuine homeowner mistakes have occurred. Most importantly, the Council also introduced a discretionary repayment policy, ensuring that CIL charges deemed to have been wrongly applied can be refunded, providing much-needed relief to affected homeowners.