



Jeremy Hunt
*Member of
Parliament
South West
Surrey*



By email to Matthew Evans, Head of Planning, Waverley Borough Council:

27/8/14

Dear Matthew

Re Planning Application WA/2014/1227 for Change of Use for Undershaw, Hindhead, Surrey

I write regarding the Change of Use Planning Application being made by the DFN Foundation on behalf of Stepping Stones School for which I give my full support.

Undershaw has been under threat for many years and has become increasingly derelict with little prospect of finding someone willing to carry out the costly restoration work necessary to bring it back into use. I am delighted that the DFN Foundation has stepped forward and offered to take on this important task which will ensure that Undershaw can serve the community once again with a new and worthy role. This organisation is well aware of the importance of Undershaw not only to the local community but also to the many Conan Doyle enthusiasts and I know they will do their utmost to ensure that the building is treated with the respect it deserves while being made fit for its new role as a school.

Over the past nine years the building has stood empty. There has been no demand to reopen this building as a hotel, as visitors now demand higher standards of accommodation and an increased range of facilities. I understand that the application being made by Stepping Stones School is a positive and viable option. This school has an excellent reputation for providing education, therapy and care for children with special educational needs. I am aware that this small and very successful school is now completely full and has no choice but to seek additional accommodation which can be adapted to their specific needs. I am certain Conan Doyle would be delighted to know that his old home was to be used in such a good cause and will benefit children with special needs for years to come.

I would most grateful if you would give this application your full support in order for work to commence as soon as possible.

Best wishes

Jeremy

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Member of Parliament for South West Surrey