



HERTSMERE FIRST INDEPENDENTS – PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS.

6th August 2026

Dear Councillor Nik Oakley,

Re: Ugly and dangerous scaffolding on Shenley Road, Borehamwood

We welcome the assurance given by the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Net Zero and Public Health, Cllr Paul Richards, at the Full Council meeting on 15 July, that the ugly and dangerous Shenley Road scaffolding will be removed by the end of the summer. This assurance was in response to a supplementary question from Cllr Dan Ozarow.

We are therefore both surprised and concerned that Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC) has granted permission (application 26/0487/FUL) for Leathbond to undertake external alterations to replace defective elements of the façade — under a very weak condition requiring only that the development be **begun** within **three years** of the date of permission.

Given that the scaffolding has already been in place for a full year, causing significant disruption and harm, and given that Leathbond has carried out very little work during this period, many residents and local businesses are disappointed that HBC did not use its discretion to impose a shorter, more appropriate timeframe. A condition requiring completion by the end of the summer would have given effect to Cllr Richards' public assurance and demonstrated that HBC was acting decisively to protect the community.

Local authorities have full autonomy to set reasonable time limits for development works. A shorter period would have placed necessary pressure on Leathbond to complete the works urgently. Instead, the extended timeframe granted by HBC has effectively rewarded Leathbond for the disruption and injuries caused to local people. Business owners and residents have been let down, and we are disappointed that HBC did not take the opportunity to safeguard their interests.

Should Leathbond continue to delay or frustrate progress, we trust that HBC will amend the three-year condition and enforce a swift resolution to what has become an unacceptable situation.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Graeme Alexander

Hertsmere First
Ward Councillor for Borehamwood Brookmeadow
People before politics.