



Ms Carol Ridings,
Planning and Development
Ashford Borough Council
Civic Centre
Tannery Lane
Ashford
Kent TN23 1PL



7th May 2010

Dr Ms Ridings,

Re: Application 10/00116/AS

I oppose the proposed plans by Imperial College to convert Withersdane Hall into a care village development and demolish the existing halls of residence and related buildings also on the site. The University of Buckingham, in association with a group of Wye alumni, is planning the creation of an independent university college of liberal arts and agricultural sciences at the Wye College campus, which is an initiative designed to harness the burgeoning independent sector of higher education in the UK.

The sites in question are integral to the development of such a facility. The Borough Council, in conjunction with Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council, has formulated a policy that prioritises educational and research related uses for the old Wye College buildings and sites, and our scheme supports the two Councils' policies. And since all three sites, including the Withersdane Hall site, are integral to the development of a university college, the development of one into a care home directly affects the future development of the other two. Therefore by considering the creation of this care home, I must urge you to consider the future of all the sites as one entity.

The creation of an independent educational establishment in the old Wye College buildings is of a more sustainable nature than a care home. It would mean the renovation of the existing buildings and revival of the attractive campus site that Wye

was once home to. In addition, the changing higher education system in Britain is showing that an independent university like Buckingham not only flourishes in its freedom of research, teaching, governance and development, but also that the students benefit from better value for money, smaller staff:student ratios, and increased employability. Buckingham is at the forefront of an exciting shift in the direction and funding of UK higher education and the revival of Wye College is the next step in this.

We are serious about using the site for educational purposes, so an approval of the application in question would jeopardise its future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terence Kealey', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Terence Kealey
Vice-Chancellor

cc: Dr Oram, Parish Clerk, Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council
Mr Len Budd, Chairman, Phoenix Wye College