

**January 2019 - Email Exchange between the Moordown Local History Society (represented by Jill King) - and Bournemouth Borough Council. This exchange concerns the now dire state of Moorside Cottage.**

---

**From:** Moordown Local History Society (MLHS)

**Sent:** 15 January 2019 15:49

---

**To:** Caroline Peach – Bournemouth Borough Council

**Subject:** Moorside Cottage 1 McWilliam Road

Dear Ms Peach

Further to our email of 16 Nov 2018 and the reply from Mr Sean Burke dated 29 Nov 2018, a further meeting of the Moordown Local History Society was held last month.

The Society has had an interest in the above listed property since 2013, and wishes to draw your attention to the serious deterioration of this historic building.

In the Echo of Friday 11 Jan 2019 (page 9) it was stated that Bill Bryson in one of his publications had spoken about "the glory of his home town Bournemouth" and is quoted as saying " in Holdenhurst and Muscliffe, for example, there are old village farmsteads - places where artisans and labourers would have lived". Moorside Cottage pre-dates these farmsteads by reason of its cob construction.

We have been in constant contact with Bournemouth Council and after 5 years of endeavour, we feel that insufficient progress has been made. Therefore, it is our intention to write to the Local Government Ombudsman seeking his help in saving the Cottage.

We would appreciate your comments before taking this action.

MOORDOWN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

**From:** Andy Sherriff - (Trading Standards, Planning Enforcement & Regulatory Support Manager Communities, Enforcement and Regulatory Services ) - Bournemouth Borough Council

**Sent:** 21 January 2019 10:53

**To:** Jill King (MLHS)

**Subject:** RE: Moorside Cottage 1 McWilliam Road

Dear Ms King,

My colleague Caroline Peach has passed me a copy of your email in the hope that I might be able to help you further.

My team deal with planning enforcement issues, and officers have instituted legal action on a number of occasions in the past few years, with a largely positive effect.

The Local Government Ombudsman can consider whether a council has caused an injustice to an individual or acted irrationally, but he cannot influence planning decisions. Matters such as the current application for land adjacent to Moorside Cottage are determined by the appointed planning officer within the Council: that officer will reach a decision based on a number of planning reasons, including heritage concerns where applicable.

You will probably recollect that there is already consent for the construction of two properties on part of the large plot that surrounds Moorside Cottage, and the planning officer said at the time that:

*“it is not considered that these proposed dwellings have any impact on the setting of the listed cottage at 1 McWilliam Road. The Inspector on the previous appeal made it clear that there was no harm from the one dwelling previously approved on this part of the site. “*

In this light, I am unsure of the direction of your complaint, but I remain happy to help if I can.

Does your concern relate to the current planning application? Or to previous applications? Do you have a query about the Listed Building Enforcement process?

The Ombudsman would normally expect that a matter would be considered through the relevant Council's complaints procedure before being referred, but if there is some reason why this is not the case, please let me know.

I look forward to your response in due course

Yours sincerely

**Andy Sherriff**

**Trading Standards, Planning Enforcement & Regulatory Support Manager  
Communities, Enforcement and Regulatory Services**

T 01202 451440 W [bournemouth.gov.uk](http://bournemouth.gov.uk)

**From:** MLHS

**Sent:** 22 January 2019 15:33

**To:** Andy Sherriff, Bournemouth Borough Council

**Subject:** Re: Moorside Cottage 1 McWilliam Road

Dear Mr Sherriff

Thank you for your reply to our email to Ms Peach with regard to Moorside Cottage.

It would seem from your email that we did not explain clearly that our concern is the cob and thatch BUILDING at 1 McWilliam Road, known as Moorside Cottage.

We totally accept that planning permission has been granted, through the proper channels, to build on the land adjacent to the cottage and this is no longer a concern of Moordown Local History Society.

The controversy over the planning application has diverted attention away from our request for preservation of this Grade II listed building.

In 2013 we presented a Petition, signed by many local people, to the Council, requesting action by them to preserve this important part of Bournemouth's heritage. Details of the two presentations made by one of our members and subsequent correspondence should be available on file.

After 5 years very little progress has been made and time is of the essence in this case.

The thatch has received no attention since 1974, and has been covered by a tarpaulin for over 2 years. Further delay in renovation will result in a total collapse of the thatch.

On 29 November 2018 Sean Burke emailed us in reply to our earlier letter saying that he was not receiving any co-operation from the owner with regard to repairing the building, but we have heard nothing since.

We are of the opinion that Bournemouth Council have not engaged seriously with our concerns and have failed in their Duty of Care to look after their Listed Buildings.

As a result of this conclusion, we are now seeking help and advice from other sources.

Yours sincerely

MOORDOWN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

---

**From:** Andy Sherriff - Bournemouth Borough Council

**Sent:** 22 January 2019 16:02

**To:** Jill King (MLHS

**Subject:** RE: Moorside Cottage 1 McWilliam Road

Dear Ms King,

Thank you for your response. As I have explained, the Council has an established complaints process which remains open to you. However, I recognise that you are exploring other channels towards your preferred outcome and don't wish to engage at this point.

In this light, I will advise my officers not to contact you any further.

Best Wishes

Andy Sherriff