



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sent via email

Interim Director of Place
Cabinet Member for Finance, Legal and Enforcement
Cc: Nantwich South and Stapeley ward councillors

Wednesday 10th June 2026

Dear Richard,

Proposed disposal and auction of Brookfield Hall, Nantwich

I am writing regarding the proposed disposal and auction of Brookfield Hall, Nantwich, currently scheduled for 22nd to 23rd June 2026.

Over recent days, I have been made aware of significant local concern regarding the future of the building and the apparent lack of time available for meaningful community engagement before the site is potentially sold. I understand that Councillors Geoff Smith and John Priest have also been engaging with local residents and campaigners on this matter, following correspondence they received from the newly formed 'Keep Brookfield Hall for Community Use' campaign group.

I fully appreciate the financial and operational pressures facing Cheshire East Council, as well as the difficult decisions that are often required in relation to council assets. However, given the strength of feeling locally and the emergence of an organised community group interested in exploring viable future uses for the site, I am asking the Council to pause the current auction process temporarily to allow further discussions to take place.

This is also an issue that I have discussed with local Nantwich councillors on several occasions over recent months, during which updates have been provided regarding conversations they have had with Council officers around the future of the site and the challenges surrounding its ongoing viability. As part of those discussions, I have also previously helped facilitate introductions to a national charity to explore whether the building could potentially be taken forward as a sustainable community/public asset.

Brookfield Hall clearly holds significant value to many residents in Nantwich, not only because of its historic role within the community, but because of the potential it offers as a future space for community activity, wellbeing support, voluntary organisations, creative and cultural use, and wider partnership working.

I understand that previous discussions may have concluded there was insufficient capacity or interest locally to take forward a community-led proposal. However, it appears that position has now materially changed, with residents organising and expressing a clear desire to explore sustainable alternatives before the building is permanently lost from community use.

Member of Parliament for Crewe and Nantwich

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CONNOR NAISMITH MP



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In light of this, I would be grateful if the Council could:

- Consider temporarily pausing the proposed auction process to allow further dialogue to take place
- Clarify whether Community Asset Transfer opportunities were formally explored prior to the decision to market the property
- Confirm what engagement has taken place with local community organisations and stakeholders regarding the future of the site
- Facilitate discussions between relevant officers, local ward councillors and representatives of the emerging community group to assess whether a credible community-led proposal may be achievable.

I believe a short pause in the process would provide an opportunity for constructive conversations to take place and would help reassure residents that all reasonable options for retaining community benefit have been properly considered.

I would appreciate any update you are able to provide regarding the Council's position and the next steps in the process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Naismith'.

Connor Naismith MP
Crewe and Nantwich

Member of Parliament for Crewe and Nantwich

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