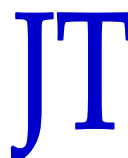


Press Release
Monkseaton Medical Centre
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Jon Tweddell
Planning Limited

68 Acklington Road
Amble
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 0NG

Tel/Fax: 01665 713303
Mobile: 07709 342 120
Email: jon@jontweddell.co.uk

Web: www.jontweddell.co.uk

North East Council Proven to be Unreasonable in Planning Appeal

Jon Tweddell Planning Ltd (JTPL) has been successful in winning a Planning Appeal on behalf of their Client, MediX Property and Ansley Developments (MPAD) for a new Medical Centre and Pharmacy at Monkseaton Medical Centre, Whitley Bay. North Tyneside Council originally refused the planning application, contrary to their Planning Officers advice. The application was refused on design and parking grounds.

In the Appeal submission, lodged by JTPL, the Appellants argued that they would deliver a well designed, high quality replacement building with additional parking. The existing site already contains a Medical Centre but is not fit for purpose following a large increase in the Centre's patient list. A new, modern facility, with a new pharmacy is required to cater for the existing patients. The existing car park has 10 parking spaces while the new one would have 37 plus a 4 bay drop-off/ambulance bay.

JTPL also pursued a costs claim against the Council and argued that they had been unreasonable in refusing the planning application because their refusal reasons were without foundation. The Secretary of State agreed, and granted an Order for a full award of Costs. Commenting after the decisions were issued, Jon Tweddell, Managing Director of JTPL stated that *'MPAD and the Architects, Koru Property Services Ltd, spent a lot of time and effort putting together a planning application and were able to gain the support of the Council's Planning and Highways Officers. For the Council to then refuse permission, without giving good reason, is unacceptable and unreasonable, and explains why costs claim was successful.'*

It is expected that the Medical Centre will be constructed later this year.