

June 18th, 1934.

Dear Mr. Murray,

A difficult question has arisen over the historical spot at Faringdon known as Faringdon Folly or Crosswells Batteries. It is well-known throughout the country, and can be seen for many miles round, but Lord Berners has submitted to the Rural District Council the enclosed plans of a proposed tower to be erected in the middle of the clump of trees, the top of which will be from 10 to 15' above the top of the trees. The sole idea of the tower is for Lord Berners and his friends to obtain a complete circular view of the countryside. The Town Planning Sub-Committee have met this morning to advise the Rural District Council as the Interim Development Authority whether they should approve of the proposal, and after interviewing Lord Berners, they are of the opinion that the tower is unnecessary, as the clump of trees is already on the top of a hill, from which an uninterrupted view of the countryside can be obtained, and further, it is likely to spoil an historical point. Lord Berners, however, is very anxious to proceed with the tower. Before coming to a final decision, the Town Planning Committee would be glad if the C.P.R.E. would take the matter up and give them their opinion as to whether the proposal to build the tower on the site suggested should be opposed by the Rural District Council in the interests of Town Planning and the preservation of a well-known historical land-mark.

I should be glad if you would kindly treat the matter as urgent, and let me have the opinion of the Council without delay, and at the same time, return the enclosed plans.

It was suggested whether Lord Berners could be persuaded to drop the proposal and save the necessity of the Rural District Council giving their decision against him, as you will appreciate the difficult position, as Lord Berners has

an estate in Faringdon, and the townspeople naturally wish to have friendly associations with him.

Would it be possible for Lord Mayo or some other influential member of the Association to interview Lord Berners with a view to getting the proposal abandoned.

Yours faithfully,

Donald G. Murray Esq., 217 Great Marlborough Street, London, W. 1.

Secretary, Council for the Preservation of Rural England, 217 Great Marlborough Street, London, W. 1.