

EBENEZER HOWARD

TELEPHONE
71 LETCHWORTH

HOMESGARTH,

SOLLERSHOTT, E.,

LETCHEWORTH.

June 1919.

Dear Bidwell,

I have just been able to seize a unique opportunity of acquiring what I have for some time been convinced is one of the best possible sites for a second garden city in the neighbourhood of London. Part of the site has just come into the market, and, after taking expert advice, which more than confirms my own opinion, I have, with the help of a few friends, paid a 10% deposit on 1,450 acres of land on extremely favourable terms. The remainder of the necessary land, I have good reason to believe can be obtained at a fair price from an adjoining owner who is in real sympathy with the garden city movement.

The position is almost ideal from the point of view of providing for some of the industrial and housing needs of the London region. It is 21 miles out from London on the G.N.R. main line and at the junction of two branch lines connecting with the Midland and G. E. Railways, and there are excellent factory sites. Road access is also good. Gravel, brick-earth and chalk are plentiful, the lie of the land lends itself remarkably to inexpensive development and there is no difficulty about water.

On certain parts of the estate building could begin at once, and much of the property is extremely beautiful.

As soon as possible a Company will be formed to develop the estate as a garden city, that is, a complete town with its own industries, power-plant, public services and so on, surrounded by a permanent rural belt. Steps to this end must be taken with the utmost possible energy in order to obtain full advantage of the present Government Housing Scheme.

Of course a good deal of capital will be necessary to this end, and I expect to make a public appeal in a month or two.

What I require immediately is a further £6,000 in order to secure, through my Agents, Messrs Savill & Sons, 51 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. a piece of land of great importance to the scheme which has been offered to me at a fair price, and to pay the expenses of preparing a preliminary scheme.

I very earnestly ask you to help me with your immediate assistance, by way of a temporary advance to myself for this purpose, to be returned in cash with interest at 5% when the Company is formed, or, if you prefer it to be liquidated by the issue to yourself of fully paid shares in the Company. I enclose a form which I hope you will fill up and return to me.

I need hardly add that I shall be glad to give you any information you wish for about the project, or we can arrange a meeting if you desire it.

Yours sincerely,

E. Howard