

JEREMY QUIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Owen Hydes OBE
Nuthurst Parish Council
C/O Mrs Sarah Hall
107 Morris Drive
Billingshurst
West Sussex
RH14 9ST

28 September 2020

JQ20522

Dear Mr Hydes,

Thank you for your letter dated 18th September, regarding proposed planning reform.

I am pleased to read that both the Chair and Vice Chair of planning at Nuthurst Parish Council have taken the time to read and study the White Paper. I know that planning is an important issue locally and particularly for Nuthurst Parish Council.

The area in which we are lucky enough to live is hugely well loved for its combination of good infrastructure and services, attractive market towns and villages and internationally renowned countryside on our doorsteps. It is no wonder that in the recent Halifax survey we were rated one of the most attractive places to live in the country. An appreciation constantly shown by the number of people who wish to live here.

I know how much people in our area want to retain all these characteristics not only for us to enjoy but for future generations.

I am also aware from regular meetings with many who simply cannot find a way of getting their own roof over their heads, to rent or to buy, that we do need more homes for people to live in. In my lifetime the population of the UK has increased, mainly by people living longer, from 55 to 66 million. Sadly, house building has not kept pace with need.

It is to meet this imperative that the Government has brought forward proposals which would have the effect of increasing the number of houses built nationally and therefore also in the Horsham area.

There is also a recognition that we need to be smarter about the way we build: residents are not convinced that new housing delivers improved services and

infrastructure to their local area; there is more we must do to ensure that environmental standards are raised in new builds and that infrastructure is properly coordinated. The current system is far from perfect and without doubt can be improved.

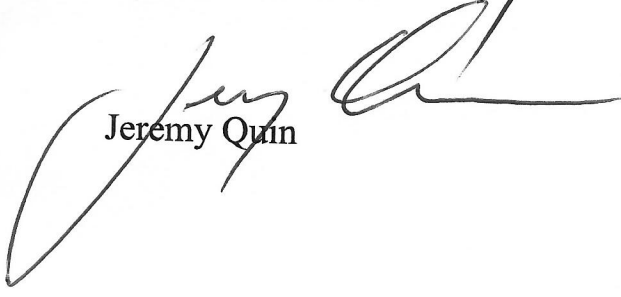
The proposals have been published and have been out for consultation for a 12 week period. It is incredibly important to understand the detail that underpins them and the effect that they will have locally. I am working with the local councils to ensure that these factors are fully understood by my ministerial colleagues. I continue to work with colleagues locally and in Parliament to ensure that our perspectives and the concerns that I know are being strongly raised locally are communicated very effectively to Government. There is an intense debate around these proposals and I can assure that I am very focused on the issue.

I recently spoke with both Glen Chipp, Chief Executive of Horsham District Council and Ray Dawe, Chairman, to discuss this matter further. I want to assure you that I am very much engaged with our local Council on this matter and with parliamentary colleagues.

I do hope you had the opportunity to respond to the public consultation.

Thank you once again for contacting me.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Quin