

Mr. Alan Mak, MP,
House of Commons,
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Mrs. A. Skennerton,
[REDACTED],
Hayling Island,
Hampshire.
[REDACTED]

November 13th 2020

Dear Mr. Mak,

I am writing, on behalf of residents, to express profound concern that key elements of 5 residents' and Cllr. Satchwell's Deputation arguments were neither understood nor meaningfully answered at Havant Borough Council's Development Management Council (DMC) on October 29th 2020. Fundamental issues were either inaccurately referred to or dismissed as irrelevant despite resident Deputies' factual evidence. Councillors' own words during that debate and even during the vote, state that the vote was being driven by "the threat that hangs over us all" of central Government's self-evident policy to approve housing developments even against a local council's carefully considered view that a site is unsustainable. To bolster this argument, Cllr. Guest, present and on the DMC, even stated that Councillors must follow their officers' recommendations, and Councillors' "obligations are to central Government of which we are a part" and central Government policies require intensive housing developments. It was refreshing to hear Cllr. Lloyd remind her fellow Councillors that Councillors "are here to represent the residents of the borough" and that the many conditions and unsuitability of the site's location made her reject the Application after rigorous examination.

As an experienced and conscientious Member of Parliament, I am sure that you share your constituents' concerns for the well-being of Havant and in this case particularly the vulnerability of Hayling Island. You are doubtless aware that, constitutionally, Members of Parliament in the UK are elected by voters "to represent [voters'] interests and concerns in the House of Commons." "MPs look after their constituency and their constituents. In the British system... they tend to take the welfare of the constituency and of the constituents, whether or not they voted for them, seriously." Whilst you may not wish to be involved in local planning issues (re your email to me 28-10-20), in this case it is clear that we, your constituents, have taken our concerns to our Council but that these were not rationally debated. Instead the majority approval was dictated by their fear of being over-ridden by the Secretary of State with no subsequent control of Section 106 and CIL Developer funding agreements. How can this be reasonable or even democratic when this layer of representation is effectively stripped of meaningful action?

On Hayling our local physical, geographical and environment constraints (to which you allude in your email to me 28-10-20) have already become severely strained, partly as a direct result of steadily increasing housing numbers and population activity, partly resulting from corresponding diminishing jobs on the Island. As I very clearly set out in my Deputation, there is no evidence that Havant, including Hayling, can or will provide the jobs for its current population let alone the Government desired future population increase. House-building jobs are finite and short-term, even adding to the gridlock on our single access road on which our 17,000 permanent residents plus 5,000 annual tourists rely for everything. There are no definable correspondingly high number of jobs in the proposed Local Plan.

Equally the Hayling Island Transport Assessment is seriously flawed. Within Hayling Island Infrastructure Group, that includes Hayling Island Residents' Association, Save Our Island Group and an independent roads' expert Professor Nick Hounsell have spelled out its short-comings to our Council. The Council does not have the moneys now, even to make the proposed, but widely viewed

as insufficient, alterations of roundabouts and lights to our single access road on/off the Island. As for the dramatic rise in Hayling's coastal erosion that has, in one year, exceeded even Coastal Partnership's (previously named ESCP) 20 year forecast, there is no Government money for flood protection – beyond our single road bridge – nor can our Council wait until the Partnership's planned coastal management strategy in 2022, because they fear that the Government will impose its national agenda.

I ask you to take our concerns to our Government and encourage Ministers to hold back such planning interventions where constituents and brave Councillors make rational, evidence-based arguments for limitation of house-building numbers. Sadly a few Havant Borough Councillors are in favour of over intensive house-building. We also know that building substantially more, expensive homes draws in more people to the area who are neither local nor in need. They will continue however to add to the current traffic congestion throughout Havant and our southern region, which itself cannot be remedied and adds to air and run-off pollution. What price owning a new home when congestion blocks the new owners' basic transport needs and infrastructure needs cannot be remedied in advance if at all?

I have attached 6 Deputations from local residents so that you can read the quality of research each has undertaken but which was only taken up by one Councillor who rigorously questioned the appropriateness of the housing development in question; sadly only one additional Councillor had the courage to make the rational 'no' vote to the Application.

Our residents eagerly look forward to hearing the answers to your representations of the foregoing concerns to central Government on our behalf. Please note that this is an Open Letter and will be sent to the individuals listed below, because I and the joint signatories believe that this is an issue that affects many other constituencies and their towns. We recognize that this requires demonstrable and ongoing work particularly by our elected representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Skennerton

Chair, Hayling Island Residents' Association [REDACTED]

Joint Signatories:

Cllr. Clare Satchwell, Hayling Island [REDACTED]

Dave Parham, Hayling Island [REDACTED]

Rosie Law, Hayling Island [REDACTED]

Mike Owens, Hayling Island [REDACTED]

Robin Davison, Hayling Island [REDACTED]

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