



KEMI BADENOCH MP

Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden

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Mrs R Clifford
Stansted Mountfitchett Parish Council

17 September 2020

Dear Mrs R Clifford

Firstly, I would like to thank you and your fellow parish councillors for supporting our towns and villages during these unprecedented times. I have been moved by the time and dedication offered by so many of our local residents and believe we will come out of this pandemic a much stronger community.

The issue that parish councillors contact me about most frequently is planning. As you are probably aware, last month the Government launched the 'Planning for the Future' consultation to reform the planning system in England. Today, I am writing to every parish council across the constituency urging you to engage with the consultation before the deadline. There is strength in numbers.

To help shape the proposals to meet the needs of our constituency, it is absolutely critical that we get as many residents as possible engaged in the consultation.

Since my election in 2017, parish councils, local groups and individuals alike have expressed to me their frustrations with the current planning system, frustrations which I have continued to raise with government ministers. These have included a lack of focus on design, little incentive for high quality new homes and developers dodging their obligations to improve infrastructure, and most frequently the housing need numbers.

It is clear our current system is outdated and ineffective as evident here in Uttlesford, which is now once again without an adopted local plan and has seen a consistent increase in speculative development. The government's proposals include radical reforms to address a number of issues and the aim is to make planning simpler, clearer and quicker to navigate.

The government will be making decisions based on the responses received during the consultation period. I kindly ask that you and your colleagues respond by the 29th October 2020 and also share my letter with as many of your residents as you can contact so they do so as well.

To view the proposals and find out how to respond to the consultation, visit:
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future

Kind regards

Kemi Badenoch MP
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