



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Roger Miller, Esq.,
The Heathers,
44A London Road,
Liphook,
Hants. GU30 7AN

4th February, 2014.

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for copying me on your letter to the Prime Minister. You will appreciate that, as an MP, I cannot intervene in individual planning applications. However, I do, of course, take a close interest in planning and development in general and I fully recognise that it is natural for people to be anxious about proposals which they feel will change the face of their local area and over-burden local infrastructure or, as in this case, mean the loss of a green space. These must be considerations and development, especially on a significant scale, should be sensitive, in keeping with the surrounding area and be seen as enhancing local amenity rather than blighting it.

This is why local plans reflecting the views of the community on how much development should take place and where are so important. Unfortunately, the production of these plans takes some considerable time, partly because of the need to demonstrate sufficient rigour and public consultation (lest it might be subject to legal challenge). However, I have been making the case to Ministers that, in the meantime, more account should be taken of guidance such as East Hampshire's Interim Housing Statement to make sure that there is a balance of development across the area. An agreement for more weight to be given to guidance of this kind and to any local plans which are well advanced would provide some protection from unsuitable and over-development.

Thank you again. I am grateful to you for keeping me informed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Damian Hinds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Damian Hinds,
Member of Parliament for East Hampshire.