



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: SLV/CAS/281016

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

*Dear Sajid*

**Sibson Garden Village – Expression of Interest**

I write regarding the Garden Village Expression of Interest submitted by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) for land at Sibson Aerodrome in my constituency.

The proposal at Sibson is for some 2500 homes in open countryside between the villages of Stibbington and Wansford. The expression of interest was submitted by HDC to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by way of a covering letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, a copy of which is enclosed.

You will be aware that part of the criteria for a Garden Village expression of interest is, according to page 7 of DCLG's paper *Locally Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities*, as follows:

***'Local authority-led***

*15. To support wider housing and growth ambitions, expressions of interest must be led by local authorities...'*

Given DCLG's own criteria, it is important to highlight that in its letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, HDC did not give its wholehearted support when it said:

*"The project is at an early stage with discussions with the Local Planning Authority only beginning in April this year, and some of the proposed elements do require further exploration."*



This point can be further explained by reference to a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 from Cllr Graham Bull, Executive Member for Planning Policy, Housing and Infrastructure at HDC to Mrs Margery Beuttell, Chairman of Sibson-cum-Stibbington Parish Council, a copy of which is enclosed. You will see in the letter that not only is HDC at a very early stage in its consideration of Sibson Garden Village but the Council also makes the point that it may well not proceed with the development at all. It is clear from the letter that HDC's interest is only of an exploratory nature rather than the more fulsome support that is required by DCLG's criteria.

Moreover, on page 4 of *Locally Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities* it says:

*"...we made a commitment in our manifesto to support locally-led garden cities and towns in places where communities want them."*

You should be in no doubt that this part of DCLG's criteria is not met either, as the local community does not want this development. There is huge opposition, including from all the parish councils in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site.

Another very important factor is that the site at Sibson is on the periphery of HDC's area and to all intents and purposes the nearest Council to the proposed development will be Peterborough City Council (PCC). In view of this proximity, I hope you will agree that it is important that PCC's view is also taken into account. PCC is totally opposed to the scheme. I enclose a copy letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 from Cllr John Holdich OBE, Leader of PCC to Mr Mark Mann, Planning Director of Larkfleet Homes, which leaves no doubt as to PCC's opposition to the development.

By way of summary, I would emphasise that the Sibson Garden Village proposal does not meet DCLG's own criteria for expressions of interest as the proposal does not have the necessary support of HDC, the local authority. There is also total opposition from PCC, the neighbouring council which is on the doorstep of the proposed site of the development.

Moreover, the proposal completely fails to meet DCLG's criteria that developments should take place 'where communities want them' because there is very considerable opposition from the neighbouring communities.



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In view of the above points I would urge you in the strongest possible terms not to give further consideration to this proposal and to not shortlist it to proceed any further.

I would be happy to discuss the matter with you if required.

Yours ever

*Shaila*

Enc.

Cc. Cllr Rita Matthews, Huntingdonshire District Council.

P.S

I would urge you to read HDC's letter of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 very carefully. You will see that in the penultimate paragraph, Cllr Graham Bull specifically says "HDC is not leading this project."

*AM*