

The aim of this letter is to seek an immediate halt to the plans to develop Salden Chase, west of Newton Longville. An outline planning application for this development has been lodged with Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC).

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP has already written to all council leaders¹ highlighting the government's commitment to rapidly abolish regional spatial strategies and to return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. This includes decisions on the amount of housing within individual local authority areas.

The Secretary of State stated unequivocally in his letter of 27 May 10 that: *"I expect Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to have regard to this letter as a material planning consideration in any decisions they are currently taking."*

The submission of the planning application for Salden Chase at this time is clearly a cynical attempt to try to accelerate the housing project in the face of considerable local political and community opposition, and to try to gain approval before this development is stopped, like many others in the region.

I wish to place on record my unequivocal opposition to this development, which now is operating in breach of the spirit and letter of the Secretary of State's recent communication to you.

I also wish formally to record the following points concerning the proposed Salden Chase development²:

- Both AVDC and Bucks County Council (BCC) have consistently opposed the expansion of Milton Keynes into Aylesbury Vale at the public examinations into the Milton Keynes South Midlands and The South East Plan and in other associated public consultations. I seek confirmation that remains your position in light of the Secretary of State's letter.
- Save our Villages (SOV) has canvassed the views of the local surrounding communities and has campaigned tirelessly to encourage villagers to make their own, direct objections. I therefore invite you now, as our democratically elected representatives, to accept and acknowledge this strong tide of public opinion from your electorate, and to press their views most firmly to the Local Planning Authority.
- The consistent public opposition by AVDC and BCC to the plans is welcomed, and accords precisely with the views of the communities that voted for you, and I seek reassurance that in the light of the Secretary of

¹ Letter "Abolition of Regional Strategies" 27 May 10

² 5,390 dwellings in the Milton Keynes South West Strategic Development Area, near Newton Longville, as defined in the South East Regional Plan.

State's letter this proposed development will be halted.

- Furthermore the Secretary of State's letter implicitly indicates that the new government will not endorse, support or condone the previous requirements which imposed on AVDC and BCC the requirement to plan (via the emerging Aylesbury Vale Local Development Framework) the proposed housing growth which threatens the way of life of tens of thousands of people in Mursley, Drayton Parslow, Newton Longville, Bletchley and Milton Keynes.

Accordingly, as a member of the community most affected, and in advance of the Secretary of State's formal announcement noted in his letter of 27 May 10, I also request the following:

- An immediate halt to the plans to develop Salden Chase, including an immediate rejection or freeze on the outline planning application for the development.
- In line with Secretary of State's letter you reject the housing numbers imposed by the South East Plan on the Aylesbury Vale District and review the requirement subsequently.
- Call for an immediate moratorium on the adoption of the Aylesbury Vale Local Development Framework, which is drawn from previously imposed legislation that sought to force the Milton Keynes Expansion on Aylesbury Vale in the first place.
- Consider whether or not there is a requirement to commission new work so that the Local Authorities democratically engage with communities to address the issues of housing need against the clear, deep and legitimate local concerns of inappropriate and unsustainable development. Some of my deepest concerns are: loss of agricultural land (and the concomitant effect on local food supply chains); unacceptable impact of increased load, density and volume on the local roads leading to greater risk of accidents, injury and death; adverse visual impact; adverse noise and light pollution; loss of natural habitat and wildlife species and an adverse impact on our conservation area
- Ensure that if housing growth is required in the light of demographic trends, the deep economic recession and its impact on the public purse, then it is planned and carried out in the most sustainable manner possible to meet Aylesbury Vale's housing needs, and not to accommodate housing growth for other Local Authority areas.

Finally, I look forward to being able in future - through our democratically elected representatives - to have a substantive voice in local planning issues that impact upon communities within our own administrative areas.