



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr John Milne  
Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure  
Horsham District Council  
Parkside  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 1RL

12 June 2023

JQ48826

*Dear John,*

Your office wrote to me on 19th May asking for me to brief you on "Central Government planning policy and its implications for the Horsham District"; I replied on 25th May. Since then your office have once again invited me to a meet you on the subject of "planning policy and implications for Horsham District".

As set out in my letter of 25th May the Planning Policy is set out in law and in guidance formally issued by the Department.

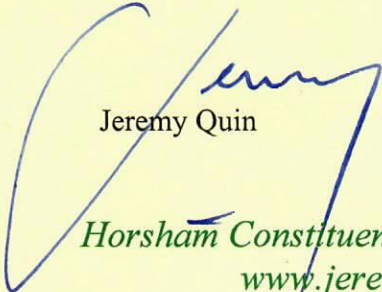
I know you have a department dedicated to supporting you on Planning Policy and, specifically, its implications for Horsham District. Horsham District's position is exceptional due to the issue of Water Neutrality. I understand HDC has sought and received specialist environmental and legal advice to ensure it fully understands the implications for the District. I have not received (nor would I expect to) any of these reports, they are for the benefit of the District Council in determining its strategy. If you do not believe these are sufficient for your purposes, the previous administration has left you very significant reserves to draw on to commission more work if required.

Planning is probably the most important issue for any District Council. Many of your colleagues over a period of time have been vociferous on planning issues which is absolutely their right. I am sure in aspiring to lead the District you have a developed planning strategy. In making difficult choices I know you will be acting with the benefit of the significant resources and external specialist advice which is made available to you.

Given that it is now over a month since the Liberal Democrat administration took over control of the Council with a strong majority I know residents will be keen to hear your strategy on this important issue.

I am copying my colleague Andrew Griffith MP who also represents a significant part of the Horsham District.

*With best wishes*

  
Jeremy Quin

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