



ANDREW GRIFFITH MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ARUNDEL AND SOUTH DOWNS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Martin Boffey
Leader of Horsham District Council
Chartway
Horsham
RH12 1RL

Dear Martin,

The Deputy Leader of the Council recently presented at a public meeting held in Rusper regarding his proposed Local Plan.

It was reported by the County Times that he announced that he is "exploring plans to apply for land to be designated Green Belt" in Horsham District between Horsham and Crawley.

- If achievable this would be welcome news - is it real?
- Has this proposition been put to Cabinet and is this council policy?
- What advice had the Council received from officials before making this announcement (which if correct would have considerable implications)?

Your Deputy Leader is quoted in the County Times saying "It is not an easy or quick process". Having asked for advice from the House of Commons Library, they are not aware of any process through which a Local Council can apply to designate land as Green Belt if it does not already have Green Belt in its District - we do not.

If a route existed to establish Green Belt, we feel sure that other Councils in the South East (and previous administrations of Horsham District Council) would have adopted it.

If there is such a route we would be keen to hear what it is? If there is no such route and therefore there is no reasonable expectation for such an application to be made, the Council should make that clear.

Is this a serious proposal? In such a case we'd be grateful if you could please explain how it stacks up. If it is not, residents must assume it was said off the top of the head at a public meeting but actually has no basis in fact.

Kind regards,

Andrew Griffith MP

Rt Hon Sir Jeremy Quin MP