



THE RT. HON. SIR ALAN HASELHURST, M.P.

Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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N. Baker, Esq.
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Dear Nick,

Thank you for your email of 5th October about the NPPF.

On your point about Uttlesford's vulnerability to opportunistic planning applications, I confirm that I will do my best to ensure that the Framework, amended or not, does not give undue leeway to developers. I understand the particular sensitivity of this in Henham and Elsenham, although we should be clear that other large-scale schemes in the District have not gone away. I thought it wise to speak to the Council's Chief Executive, John Mitchell, on this subject and interestingly I did not find him in any state of agitation about it. Apparently there have been recent cases where Uttlesford's refusal of planning permission was upheld on appeal. In the particular case of the attempt by Wickfords to get a large-scale increase to the Woodlands Park development in Dunmow, the Inspector acknowledged that the District Council had not yet got sufficient provision for new housing to meet its declared objective, but that was not a sufficient consideration to outweigh other arguments against the proposed development. Whilst one or two swallows do not a summer make, there is nevertheless evidence that the failure to have a Local Development Framework in place is not going to be a green light for every scheme which developers might wish to advance. John Mitchell's view is that the more that the Council feels able to approve relatively small scale schemes here and there, the stronger its defence will be against anything of a seriously challenging nature.

All that said, Uttlesford still have the task of determining how and where it will put the mercifully reduced total of new homes which will be the core of its LDF, although for the moment I do not believe that there are grounds for alarm in Henham and Elsenham. You may be sure that I remain vigilant.

Yours sincerely,

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