

Campaign against Hellsenham must move up a gear

THE withdrawal of the application to build an eco-town at Hanley Grange, just across Uttlesford's northern border, drives another stake into the heart of the Government's misconceived strategy.

It shows how difficult it is to pass the test of what is truly an eco-town. What is known of the Fairfield Partnership's plan for Elsenham does not bolster confidence that the Government's criteria can be met.

The campaign against an Elsenham eco-town now needs to move up a gear. Fairfield's proposals need to be taken apart. The Hanley Grange project was provably flawed in environmental terms. The same tests need to be applied rigorously to the Fairfield bid. The prospect of car use being minimal if there is a circulatory bus every 20 minutes is almost beyond parody.

At Hanley Grange, the landowners were in the end

Westminster View

By SIR ALAN HASELHURST,
Conservative MP for Saffron Walden



persuaded to withdraw their support. People power in Henham and Elsenham must mobilise. Good and polite neighbourliness is all very well, but it should work both ways. It is all very well tilting at distant targets such as the Government and the district council, but infilling between Elsenham and Henham can only take place with the co-operation of the landowners.

Many people feel that it would help the cause if Option 4 for dealing with the Local Development Framework was withdrawn. But that is spilt milk, and in any case Options 2 and 3 pointed significantly towards

Elsenham. Looked at the other way, withdrawal of the eco-town proposal would probably have a knock-on effect on Option 4.

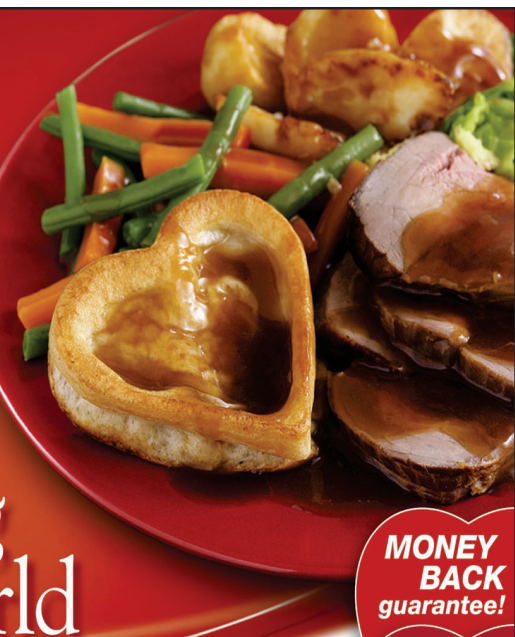
If that sequence of events was achieved, there would remain the problem of exactly where and how in Uttlesford provision could be made for the 4,200 extra homes which are demanded under the Regional Spatial Strategy. I represent the whole district and I have no partiality whatsoever in defending any one community more strongly than another against this monstrous imposition. It will be known that I took an initiative to test whether it might be possible to identify a

dispersed solution to the problem in a way which might command community-wide agreement. My efforts were not immediately successful, but I thought that seeds of hope had been sown. Alas, I am now not so sure.

In an attempt to build on what I had begun, the Joint Parishes Steering Group circulated a proposal to all local councils envisaging a 15 per cent solution. However, at its meeting at the end of August, Great Dunmow Town Council unanimously decided it would not accept any part of the 4,200. As Liberal Democrat councillors voted in unity with Conservatives and Independents, this appears to be a mighty blow to the Lib Dem principle of dispersal with sensitivity — or any form of proportionate dispersal.

Should Elsenham/Henham get knocked out of the picture, one could conjecture UDC being left with Option 1 (over 2,000 homes in Great Dunmow). Then I would see another political hurricane descending.

love
your
Sunday
roast
love your
Slimming
World



**MONEY
BACK
guarantee!**

**SAVE up to
£5
JOIN NOW!**

Come inside, enjoy the warmth and find more success than you ever believed possible:

MONDAY

Sawbridgeworth

The Hailey Day Centre,
Bell Street
5.30pm and 7.00pm
Emma 01279 506890

TUESDAY

Bishops Stortford

Hockerill Sports and
Social Club,
Beldams Lane
6.00pm
Emma 01279 506890

THURSDAY

Thorley

Thorley Christian Centre,
Vicerons Place,
(Opposite Sainsbury's)
7.00pm
Teresa 01279 864476

TUESDAY

Bishops Stortford

Bishops Park
Community Centre,
Lancaster Way (By Tesco)
9.30am and 11.30am
Kim 01992 584286

WEDNESDAY

Bishops Stortford

Bishops Park
Community Centre,
Lancaster Way (By Tesco)
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Kim 01992 584286

THURSDAY

Stansted

Quaker Meeting House,
Chapel Hill,
7.00pm
Helena 01279 819049

0844 897 8000

www.slimmingworld.com

**Slimming
WORLD**
discover the amazing you

I said goodbye to the old me with LighterLife

- Lose weight fast and keep it off
- Friendly, encouraging Counsellors who are qualified to help you
- Small supportive groups with people just like you

3 stone or more overweight?
Call LighterLife today

'I've kept the weight off for 3 years!'

Sharon Webb
Saffron Walden
01799 523044
www.lighterlife.com/sharonwebb

Tracy Sexton
Braintree
01376 551700
www.lighterlife.com/tracysexton

Janette Humphrey
Harlow
01279 841478
www.lighterlife.com/janettehumphrey

Fiona Kelly
Hertford
01992 535796
www.lighterlife.com/fionakelly

LighterLife
Life in balance

CLINIQUE BONUS TIME



A selection of Clinique Classics,
especially for you*

Available from
Thursday 11 September to Saturday 27 September 2008.

*Yours with the purchase of any two or more Clinique products.
One gift per client, while stocks last. Gift contains promotional size products.

Pearsons
Department Stores

North Street, Bishops Stortford. Tel: 01279 653131