



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Draft Local Plan Consultation Team
South Kesteven District Council**

23 April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Response to Draft Local Plan re Mill Field, Market Deeping

I am writing in response to South Kesteven District Council's Draft Local Plan Consultation, specifically in response to the plans to develop Mill Field in Market Deeping in my constituency.

I was disappointed to see that Lincolnshire County Council, which owns Mill Field, has proposed it as a site suitable for large housing development, with South Kesteven District Council now considering developing the green space for at least 200 houses, as set out in the Draft Local Plan.

Mill Field is one of the few remaining undeveloped green spaces within the parish of Market Deeping, and is an intrinsic part of the rural character of the local area. Given its historical use for community events, such as sporting and gala events, and the long-standing Deepings Agricultural Show, as well as providing a green space for informal recreation for local residents, it should be protected from development in perpetuity.

Given that South Kesteven District Council rejected proposals brought by Lincolnshire County Council to build 260 houses on Mill Field as recently as 2020, it is clear that the decision to include Mill Field in the latest proposed site allocations is surprising, contradictory and misplaced. Incidentally, in 2020 the plans were rejected on the basis of lacking community support; being inappropriate in size and character to the area; and extending obtrusively into the open countryside – all of which apply now too, as none of this has changed in the interim.

I support the further designation of Mill Field as a Local Green Space, and I recently wrote to support Mill Field Road being designated a Quiet Lane, which would further support the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who use it. This designation would protect the tranquillity of the lane and its



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

surrounding community, and so makes the plans to develop Mill Field yet more jarring.

Whilst respecting the need to earmark sites for future housing development, surely this must take into account the impact of losing green space on local people and the effect on the open countryside.

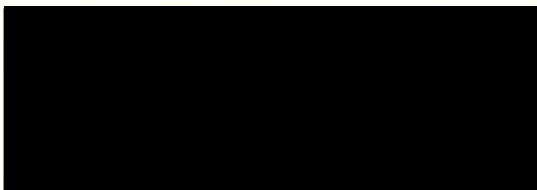
Furthermore, Government planning policy is clear that local communities should not have unwanted development forced upon them, and I will raise this with Ministers to seek their continued commitment for a planning system which is fair and proportionate. To go against the aims of Neighbourhood Plans – intended to empower people to be able to make decisions about the places where they live – seems to clearly contradict this policy.

From my regular meetings and discussions with residents of Market Deeping and the surrounding locale, I know there is strong opposition to the plans, and a petition I have organised signed by residents has already attracted in the region of 2,000 signatories.

I request that South Kesteven District Council removes Mill Field from their draft local plan and designates it as a Local Green Space, so protecting it for future generations and removing the risk of development now and in the future.

I would be grateful if you could treat this letter as a formal objection to the proposals in the Draft Local Plan in respect of Mill Field.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE MP
South Holland and The Deepings

Cc

Ms D Barnes, Chief Executive, Lincolnshire County Council