



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Nick Tustian  
Chief Executive  
Eastleigh Borough Council  
Eastleigh House  
Upper Market Street  
Eastleigh  
Hants  
SO50 9YN

8th August 2018

Dear Mr Tustian,

Ahead of the extended deadline for Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan, I wanted as the MP for Chandler's Ford (and Winchester) to write and set out why I consider the Local Plan to be unsound.

You will recall that back in November 2016, I wrote to you jointly with Mims Davies MP (Eastleigh) and George Hollingbery (Meon Valley) to set out our concerns.

As set out at the time, there is no objection in principle to housing development when it is done correctly. There is a housing crisis in the south of England and that can, of course, only be solved by building more homes. The other council in my constituency is doing so and has a long signed off Local Plan.

But I remain concerned about the consequences of Eastleigh's proposals, and I know that Winchester City Council has also made a submission.

A large part of my Winchester & Chandler's Ford constituency borders Eastleigh, as you know, and I have had a large volume of correspondence from residents in, but not limited to, Colden Common, Otterbourne and the surrounding villages – as well as Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury - who also believe the Local Plan to be unsound.

First of all, I do not believe that the proposals have been led by the evidence. I have been made aware that EBC did not examine the expert advice of the Highways Authority when looking at the consequences of extra traffic, and that would be a hugely significant problem for residents across the south-western part of my constituency.

I have also been made aware that the Environment Agency was not able to comment on the final Habitat Regulations Assessment before the Plan was published.

In addition, with regard to selecting the most appropriate Strategic Growth Option, the NPPF required EBC to give the bordering National Park protection of the highest status.

I therefore cannot see how the Plan is sound.

**Steve Brine MP**

Winchester & Chandler's Ford





Moving on, and looking at the planned new communities lying north of Bishopstoke and east of Fair Oak, I have seen no objective evidence that the current proposals are the most appropriate.

I have seen no traffic analysis that would demonstrate the impact on local villages in my constituency, such as Twyford (which of course sits within the South Downs National Park), Colden Common and Otterbourne, which already suffer from congestion. In addition, I have done a lot of work on the M3, and I am well aware of the pressure on Junction 12 at Chandler's Ford. I have seen no evidence on how congestion will be eased, in fact data I have seen indicates that average delays across the Borough will increase by 6%, and in Chandler's Ford will increase by 40%. I have lost count of the number of constituents who have been in touch to say they agree with me.

There will be work needed at the bridge at Allbrook and I believe that with regards to the financing of the project, if the funding is not in place then the road is not feasible, and the Plan is therefore not deliverable. Once again, this says to me that the Plan is not sound.

I am also concerned about the impact on the River Itchen (SSSI) as well as ancient woodland. The River Itchen SSSI is an internationally renowned chalk stream which merits the highest protection for future generations. Experts have raised grave concerns that run-off from proposed development in close proximity could have a detrimental effect on the river and ask why development has not been proposed in less environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, Options B&C and the proposed new by-pass will endanger the adjacent areas of ancient woodland.

Again, experts have raised legitimate concerns over the impact of development on ancient woodland and I agree with them that there is insufficient evidence to guarantee that development will not negatively impact on the ancient woodland which has recently been afforded greater protection in the latest NPPF. Therefore, this Plan is unsound in terms of its potential ecological impact.

In addition, with 2000 more homes than needed, there will be additional cars on the roads, and more air pollution, as once again I have seen no evidence there will be less congestion.

Finally, you can once again access the open letter from November 2016 here:

<http://www.stevebrine.com/local-news/three-hampshire-mps-write-to-eastleigh-borough/2763>

Yours sincerely,

