



7th July 2021

Dear Councillor,

Re: Planning reforms

The Government has published highly controversial proposals to reform the planning system. One aspect that has raised particular concern is the proposal to remove local residents' right to object to individual planning applications in their own neighbourhood if the area is zoned for growth or renewal.

Last month, the House of Commons called on the Government to protect residents' rights to retain a voice over planning applications, recognizing that the best way to get necessary new homes built is to support communities, councils and developers to work in partnership.

I include below a copy of the motion passed by the House of Commons with support from MPs of all political parties. I urge you to ask your council to pass the same motion so we can show widespread support for the principle of protecting residents' right to a say over individual planning applications in their own area. Many local people have already expressed anger that this long-established democratic right is under threat.

This House believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

Please let me know if you intend to ask your council to support the motion. I would also welcome other views you may have on the proposed planning reforms and your ideas for how we can best protect the voice of local people and their elected councillors over planning decisions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Reed".

Steve Reed MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government