



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Department for Communities and Local
Government

www.gov.uk/dclg

Your Ref:

Date: 19 August 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 10 July 2016 to the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, then Minister for Housing and Planning, about the Park Effect and Derbyshire Dales Local Plan, and enclosing a petition of 543 signatures. I have been asked to respond on his behalf and regret the delay in sending you a reply.

I am sorry to hear of your concerns about development in your area. But due to the Secretary of State's role in the planning system I am unable to comment on individual Local Plans or the conduct of local planning authorities. In these circumstances I regret that it would not be appropriate for the Minister to meet you to discuss the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. However, I am able to offer the following general comments in response to the issues you raise.

The Government trusts local councils to make the right decisions to ensure that the options taken forward in plans are justified and take into account local people's views. Local Plans are subject to a public examination before an independent inspector. Before the examination anyone with an interest in the plan will have an opportunity to make representations and may request to appear before the examination.

I understand that a consultation on the draft the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan was held during the Spring; that a pre-submission consultation began this month; and that there are further public consultation events planned in the next few weeks. I hope you have made your views known – and will continue to do so – direct to Derbyshire Dales District Council.

A local council must satisfy itself that the plan it submits for examination to the Planning Inspectorate is sound. For a plan to be sound it must be positively prepared, justified, effective, legally compliant and consistent with national policy. This will include showing that the council's proposals are supported by a robust evidence base, and that they have sought and considered the views of local communities and interested parties. Councils also need to ensure there is sufficient

infrastructure available to accommodate proposals brought forward in their Local Plan. This is an integral part of an evidence base, and will be tested at examination to determine whether the plan is effective and can be delivered.

Carrying out an assessment of housing need is just the first step as a Council looks to draft a Local Plan. As the plan-making process develops further, consideration is then given to identify constraints and barriers to an assessment undertaken by a Council in how they can work with neighbouring authorities through Duty to Cooperate to address their housing needs.

The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid, where possible, flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk. Local Plans should be informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, so that development can be allocated in areas at lowest probability of flooding as far as possible, through the application of the sequential test.

Finally, if you consider there are grounds for complaint against the council, you may wish to make a complaint through Derbyshire Dales District Council's complaints procedure. If you remain unsatisfied you may then refer the matter to the local government ombudsman. Further details can be obtained from <http://www.lgo.org.uk/making-a-complaint/>

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the official.