



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

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Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Your ref: [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 27 September to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP seeking the Secretary of State's thoughts on the planning decisions made on two planning applications to the south east of Maidstone. I am replying as the Minister for Housing and Planning. I should explain that the letter and petition was only received by my office on the 22 November.

The first planning application was for development south of Sutton Road (local authority application 15/509015). As you are aware, the Secretary of State declined to intervene on 14 September, leaving the local authority to determine the application. I understand that the decision granting permission for the application is yet to be issued by Maidstone Borough Council as the associated legal agreement has not yet been completed.

The second application for development at Boughton Lane, Loose, Maidstone (Reference APP/U2235/A/14/2227839), was allowed at appeal by the Secretary of State in March. This decision was subsequently challenged in the High Court and quashed on 27 April. As a result, the appeal is to be re-determined and a further inquiry held by the Planning Inspectorate to inform the eventual decision.

Although there are often similarities between planning proposals, each one must be determined based on individual merits, taking account of all the evidence available at the time. As the local authority decision is yet to be made and the Secretary of State is also yet to re-determine the appeal, I am unable to comment further on these two cases.

GAVIN BARWELL MP

