

**From:** Cllr Nikos Mikelis <[Cllr.Nikos.Mikelis@Chiddingly.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Nikos.Mikelis@Chiddingly.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Monday, 20 December 2021 at 11:54  
**To:** all parish and town councils in Wealden  
**Subject:** Re: Over-development in Wealden

Dear Parish/Town Clerk,

Having written to you last Friday, I subsequently received in the early evening the attached reply from the Ministry.

The reply is impersonal and in my view superficial in that it avoids to discuss the issues the letter raised. Perhaps the Ministry thinks that this is an effective way to frustrate complaints and to make them go away.

Thinking about it, there is nothing surprising in the reply we received. What will be surprising to me would be that we accept the Ministry's response to our objections. I say this having just seen a draft letter to the Minister from **ten** parish Councils within the Lewes District Council, raising the same issues we did.

Looking forward to hearing from you in due time.

With season's greetings

Nikos Mikelis

**From:** Cllr Nikos Mikelis <[Cllr.Nikos.Mikelis@Chiddingly.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Nikos.Mikelis@Chiddingly.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Friday, 17 December 2021 at 14:39  
**To:** all parish and town councils in Wealden  
**Subject:** Re: Over-development in Wealden

Dear Parish/Town Clerk

As you may now be aware seven Parish Councils who make up the Central East Cluster Group within Wealden (Chiddingly, East Hoathly with Halland, Heathfield & Waldron, Horam, Hellingly, Laughton and Warbleton) wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Rt. Hon Michael Gove MP, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 expressing their concern about the number of new houses being granted planning permission and being built in our district, and also about the level of housing development that is being demanded by the Ministry from our Local Planning Authority (LPA) - Wealden District Council. We are also deeply concerned about the number of houses that have been approved but are not being delivered.

For your reference please see the following link for a copy of the letter of 6<sup>th</sup> December to the Minister:

<https://www.chiddingly.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Letter-to-The-Rt-Hon-Michael-Gove-MP.pdf>

There has been considerable discussion about the letter within news outlets and on social media, and the letter has received supportive emails from several parish councils stating that they wish to be included in an expanded initiative. Please note that we have yet to receive a response from the Secretary of State.

The purpose of this letter is to invite your Council to join us in our effort to convince central government to modify their planning policies that are having a devastating effect on the communities that we represent.

Once we have a reply from the Secretary of State, we intend to draft a response that will be distributed to all Councils included within the circulation of this letter. If we do not get a response from the Secretary of State, we intend to send a chaser letter. It is our intention that as many Councils as possible join us in signing one of these responses.

We request that you ask for the matter to be, either added to the agenda of your next full Council meeting for discussion and ratification or agreed via delegated decision, that you wish to see your Council working in concert with other Councils in and around Wealden, in expressing concerns about central government planning strategy and its impact on our constituency areas. Together we can provide a powerful voice to lobby central government. Within the current seven signatories we represent 18,827 voters, within Wealden we can collectively represent 126,886 voters.

The Chiddingly Parish Council Working Group also intends to host a meeting in February where invited councils will be able to send one or two representatives to discuss a collective approach in more detail – we will keep you informed of this meeting as it develops and a date is decided.

With kind regards

Cllr Nikos Mikelis