

Dear Ms Ghani

Further to the earlier approaches made to you by the Working Group on Over-Development set up by Chiddingly Parish Council, we are reiterating our request for you to write on the subject of over-development in Wealden - notably the massive surge in proposed housing developments - in one of your regular contributions to the parish magazine. We would very much like to understand your stance on the matter to assist with our research and planning, and to inform our actions. You will already be aware that parish councils across the district and beyond are linking up to coordinate policy-making and collective actions to address the mounting apprehension on the part of those we represent about the existing and proposed plans for housing and related construction projects of a scale and intensity that is wholly inappropriate to a rural habitat that is already under great environmental and infrastructure pressure.

We first wrote to you four months ago on 20th September 2021 and again two months ago on 22nd November 2021. We know that you are very busy with your other responsibilities, national party matters and your international concerns. We also know that you have to take into consideration the general interests of the nation as a whole but we are disappointed that we have not had a response to our earlier approaches to you on this matter of grave concern to so many people in Wealden, even if it is a simple statement that you would prefer not to write such an article to illuminate us on your stance on over-development.

Our expectations have been raised by Parliament's own published guides and public information in which, for example, it is stated in the Code of Conduct: Duties of Members: III (6): "Members have a general duty to act in the interests of the nation as a whole; and a special duty to their constituents." With respect to policy, legislation and regulations promulgated at national government level, such as the algorithmic setting of housing targets for districts, Parliament's website further states: "The UK public elects Members of Parliament (MPs) to represent their interests and concerns in the House of Commons. MPs consider and can propose new laws as well as raising issues that matter to you in the House. This includes asking government ministers questions about current issues including those which affect local constituents." Given the key role of central government and Parliament in this matter, those we represent would be most grateful if you were to take advantage of your prerogatives and rights as an MP to address our concerns.

We know from your voting record in the House that you have on a number of occasions spoken out and voted with an independent mind on matters of principle, and we would very much appreciate hearing your voice in our parish magazine on the causes of concern to so many of your constituents represented by the district's other parish and town councils and our own.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Nikos Mikelis

On behalf of the Chiddingly parish council Working Group against Over-Development