

FW: Open letter to Clive Betts MP (Case Ref: ZA25295)

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Clive Betts MP

10:23 AM (3
hours ago)

to me

Good morning,

We have noticed that your website has not updated to include the below response from Clive Betts to your letter.

Clive has requested you add his response to the website and correct the record regarding the claim that he intervened with regards to the Secretary of State as it is false.

Could we confirm this has been done by Tuesday next week?

Best,

Office of Clive Betts MP

From: officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk

Sent: 14 April 2023 17:09

To: ecologicalowlthorpe@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Open letter to Clive Betts MP (Case Ref: ZA25295)

Dear Michael,

Thanks for your email of 22 March about many planning issues including the Owlthorpe F site. I will try and respond to as many of the issues as I can in a reasonable way.

First of all, with regard to Owlthorpe F, to put the history right and I have taken advice from the Council's planners on this who have got all the documentation, Owlthorpe F was first designated for housing along with the Moor Valley Close area as it has now become, in the UDP back in 1998.

At the time Moor Valley Close was built on the land next door Owlthorpe F was zoned for housing.

You are correct that there were some changes proposed in 2013 as part of the consultation on the City Policies and Sites document in 2013 and the Draft proposals there proposed to designate Owlthorpe F as countryside area. The reason for this was that this document looked only 5 years ahead as opposed to the current Local Plan and previous local plans which look 15 years ahead.

However, because of changes of Government policy at national level I am informed that the draft proposals were never put to council for formal approval so in essence the formal position of the council has been that the site has been zoned for housing. Hence, the fact that it was therefore included in the current local plan for such purpose.

In terms of brown field sites, 80% of the proposed housing over the next 15 years will be built on brown field sites which I think is quite a major achievement by the planners in the city with all Party support. The Norton Aerodrome site which you reference has of course now been included for housing development.

A very important point however is unfortunately the maps which you circulated are wrong. The wildlife area and the nature trail are not included in the proposed housing development as your map indicates. It is very misleading for people to feel that housing is going to be built right over towards the Owlthorpe Fields area. In fact, it is just the grassland and a small area with trees adjacent to Moor Valley Road and exactly the land which was included in the UDP along with the Moor Valley Close area. I expect at some point you will correct that because a lot of people have

become concerned as a result of the misleading information you have circulated.

In terms of other issues you have raised. With regard to traffic, yes, I am concerned about the problems around Crystal Peaks in particular. I have made my point of view clear about that and believe there should be a halt to future development until there is a proper infrastructure plan put forward, consulted on and agreed as to how the traffic problems and the associated pollution levels are going to be addressed.

People are honest enough to admit to me that many of them have benefitted from the development over the years in this area, people who live in homes, people who shop at Crystal Peaks, people who have got jobs in the area, can all see the benefits of development but equally are now concerned that the infrastructure has not kept pace with that and I share those concerns.

On another issue, you have made mention of the fact that I have stopped your reference to Secretary of State, no I have not, I would not have the power to do that. I request you correct the record.

Finally, in terms of an approach to the Ombudsman, before a case can be referred to the Ombudsman it has to have been right through the Council's complaints process both the initial stage and the second review stage. The Ombudsman will not look at cases that have not been formally considered by the local authority to the full extent of their complaints process.

I hope I have addressed the main points you have sent to me.

Yours Sincerely

CLIVE BETTS

Clive Betts MP
Sheffield South East