

8 July 2010

Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU



Formerly Cambridge Preservation Society

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Dear Secretary of State

I write as chair of our Planning Committee about various government proposals related to CLG.

- We broadly welcome the devolution of responsibility for planning and development back to local authorities, but would expect the third sector and the wider community to have a meaningful input.
- Nevertheless, structures across local authorities must be retained to share expertise and promote common policies on the provision of infrastructure – water, energy, waste disposal, transport, medical services.
- We urge the development and promotion of new ways of funding infrastructure.
- We welcome that the work that has been done to formulate regional spatial strategies should not be discarded, but local authorities should review it in the light of the impact of the recession.
- Our economic health demands improvement of the transport system and the provision of affordable housing. In particular, the A14 is of vital importance, not only to Cambridge but to the national economy.
- We welcome simplification of the planning process, so as to reduce costs and increase speed, but care must be taken to preserve rights of appeal on the one hand, by both developers and householders, and protect against nimbyism on the other.
- We attach high importance to adequate green-space provision within new and existing developments, and welcome the commitment to retain green belts.

Yours sincerely

Professor Peter Landshoff

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