



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Reference No. HW63173

21 January 2025

Dear Angela

**Highsted Park Planning applications in Faversham & Mid Kent  
(Planning references: 21/503906/EIOUT and 21/503914/EIOUT)**

I would like to thank Rushanara Ali MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Homelessness and Democracy, for replying to the letter I sent you on 19<sup>th</sup> November. She also sent me a copy of the letter that was sent to Swale Borough Council highlighting the reasons for the call in.

These include consistency with the NPPF to build enough homes, a strong economy and sustainable transport; as well as conserving and enhancing the natural environment and its consistency with the development plan for Swale.

I am writing to seek assurances that as well as deciding this application against the reasons you cited in your letter to Swale, that the protection of agricultural land will be a material consideration by whoever determines the Highsted Park planning applications.

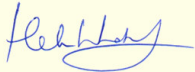
Highsted North is made of 85% excellent, very good and good quality agricultural land, while Highsted South is made up of 87.6% of good quality or better farmland. I am sure you will agree that destroying hundreds of acres of good quality farmland will have a detrimental impact on the country's food security, and areas of poorer quality land should be built on instead.

As you cited in your letter to Swale sustainable transport is one of the reasons this application was called in. I would like to stress to you again that there is no sustainable transport near Highsted Park. This development will inevitably lead to an increase in traffic on local country lanes, which residents already find alarmingly busy with cars and lorries often trying to avoid queues on main roads. There is no train station nearby nor reliable bus service so new and existing residents are very car dependent.

As this decision has been taken out of the hands of local decision makers, I would also like reassurances that the new decision makers will be visiting the locality on a regular basis during different times of the day to experience first-hand the increase in traffic that this proposed development will inevitably have on local country lanes.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whately', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Helen Whately MP  
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

I write a regular newsletter to keep people up-to-date with what I'm doing for Faversham and Mid Kent. If you're interested in my campaigns on local and national issues, please sign up at: <https://www.helenwhately.org.uk/newsletters>