

Email from Cllr Alan Dean to Cllr Howard Rolfe @ 09:03 on 18 November 2014

Dear Howard

The attached correspondence came to my attention last night. In it you will read that the local MP, Sir Alan Haselhurst, has been attempting to influence the planning appeal process as it passes through the hands of government ministers for party political ends. Sir Alan refers to copies of emails which he passed to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning. I am writing to you to ask you to publish any correspondence between you, any other cabinet member or any officer of Uttlesford District Council and Sir Alan Haselhurst that addresses the current appeals by Fairfield and Land Securities. I will have no hesitation in submitting a Freedom of Information request if you do not respond to my request within the next seven days.

You will see from the following press coverage that the honesty and integrity of Sir Alan Haselhurst MP is being brought into question by what are quite clearly contradictory positions between his publicly avowed neutrality over planning applications and his attempt at covert engagement with government ministers. He is plainly promoting the upholding of one planning appeal – at Elsenham/Henham – whilst attempting to undermine the parallel appeal at Little Easton. <http://www.hertsandessexobserver.co.uk/Uttlesford-s-MP-sir-Alan-Haselhurst-accused/story-24545865-detail/story.html>

I have resisted the widespread opinion that the selection of Fairfield's "Hellsenham" proposal by your Conservative colleagues in September 2007 was driven by party political spite against the Liberal Democrats, who hold that Elsenham & Henham district ward. I can no longer do so. From this morning the onus will be on you, your Conservative colleagues, and the council's planning officers to demonstrate at the Examination in Public that this latest episode is not simply another episode of public deception driven by the local Conservative party. This is the second time in as many weeks that I am calling on you to come clean about what has been going on behind the scenes within Conservative circles.

I will be publishing this correspondence later this morning at: <http://alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Cllr Alan Dean
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Leader of the Liberal Democrat Opposition
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