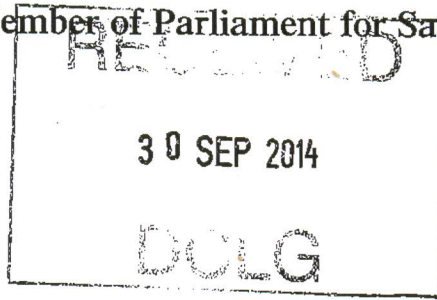




THE RT. HON. SIR ALAN HASELHURST, M.P.

Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden

House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA



17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

B. Lewis, Esq. MP,  
Department for Communities and Local Government,  
Eland House,  
Bressenden Place,  
London SW1E 5DU

Minister	
Subject	
Official	

*Dear Brendan,*

Subject: **UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

\* This is just to remind you that I handed to you some copy emails in the Lobby on 9<sup>th</sup> September relating to the calling-in of two substantial planning applications within Uttlesford.

This is causing some concern, because the Fairfield proposal at Elsenham forms a substantial part of the Local Plan whilst the Land Securities proposal at Little Easton does not. There has been much blood on the carpet (Conservative blood) during the processes leading to the formulation of the Local Plan. I know that a proper distance has to be kept between planning and politics, but I would be failing in my duty if I did not alert you to the political risk attending this matter. Whilst the Land Securities proposal at Little Easton is for 600-700 houses, there would be land available for many hundreds more. This after all is the site which was initially proposed by Uttlesford District Council in 1991 when having to find a location for 2500 airport-related houses in the wake of the Stansted Airport Inquiry. When this proposal was put to one of your departmental inspectors, it was dismissed in favour of a dispersal strategy. You may imagine therefore why Uttlesford District Council on this occasion chose not to look in the direction of Little Easton to meet its current housing needs.

I cannot understand why the Department is potentially upsetting the applecart by the calling in of these two proposals. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours ever,*

*PS BL*

*This is a check to copy emails handed to BL on 9<sup>th</sup> SEPT. No record of these on our system.*



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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10 NOV 2014

Dear Alan

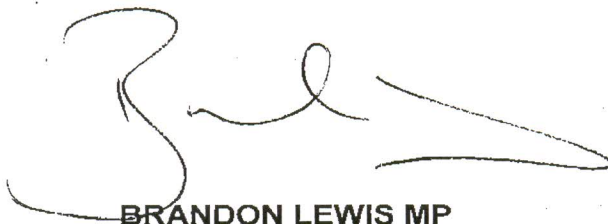
Thank you for your letter of 17 September about two appeals that have been recovered for decision by the Secretary of State. The appeals concern large-scale housing proposals at Little Easton near Great Dunmow and at Elsenham.

I understand that the inquiry into the appeals is currently adjourned, and that it will resume on 24 November 2014 for one day, so that closing submissions can be presented to the Inspector by the appeal parties. The Inspector then intends to close the inquiry and commence the preparation of his report. Once the inquiry has formally closed, the Planning Inspectorate will write to all parties to announce the date by when the Secretary of State's decisions on the appeals will be issued.

I have noted your thoughts on how the proposals sit with the Local Plan, and your views on this will be taken into account by the Secretary of State in due course. In the meantime I hope you will understand that I cannot comment on either scheme as I must not prejudice the Inspector's consideration of the evidence, or the preparation of his report.

The Secretary of State has wide discretion to recover appeals, and he decided to recover both appeals on the grounds that they involve housing proposals of more than 150 units, or are on sites of over 5ha (the Fairfield proposal at Elsenham involves 800 dwellings and the Land Securities proposal at Little Easton involves 600-700 dwellings). It would not be appropriate for me to comment further, but I can assure you that they will be determined in light of all the facts.

A copy of your letter and this reply will be sent to the appeal parties, and to the Inspector, so that the views expressed can be taken into account.



**BRANDON LEWIS MP**