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Tel: 01702 531513**

Miss Laura Graham BSc MA MRTPI
Planning Inspector
C/O The Programme Office
Rochford District Council

16th August 2010

Dear Miss Graham,

Rochford District Council – Core Strategy Public Examination

I am writing on behalf of the West Rochford Action Group having read your recent correspondence with the Council on the Council's website regarding the Council's proposed changes to the housing numbers in the Core Strategy as a result of the abolition of the RSS.

We were pleased to note that you have requested the Council to prepare a topic paper on the subject and that you are initially of the view that this latest change will need to be subject to further consultation. This is a view we entirely endorse as we had a number of queries as to the background for the Council's new proposals when they were approved by the Council. Some of those queries may be answered by the Topic paper but we are particularly concerned about the implications for redrawing the green belt boundaries and the implications of the Council's proposals on the requirements of PPG2 and were very pleased to note that you had raised this issue with the council.

In all the circumstances we are writing to request that you do subject the Council's statement and forthcoming topic paper to consultation so that all participants have an opportunity to make representations. It is noted that the Council do not want this further exercise because of the delay it will cause and their concern about receiving further ad hoc schemes from developers in the meantime. However we would respectfully suggest that the Council are not obliged to approve unsuitable schemes and given the appeal decisions recently given in the district, if further unsuitable schemes were to come forward and be refused by the Council there is every expectation that the Planning Inspectorate would endorse the Council's decision. The integrity of the proceedings is obviously vital for all concerned.

I have submitted this to you personally on behalf of the Group because we have been unable to contact our planning consultant at Smart Planning who have made all previous representations to you on our behalf.

I look forward to hearing your decision on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Henwood
Chairman, West Rochford Action Group