



**Chris Hinchliff**

Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 7569

20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parish Council,

I am writing to you about the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (PIB).

It is my firm belief that the planning process should be a democratic one, led by local representatives, with input from every level of our local political systems. As a parish council you are key to this process as you know and understand your corner of our county better than any other. This is why I want to highlight with you the amendments I have proposed to the PIB and will look to you for your input and that of your residents.

My first set of amendments look to improve our nation's ability to deliver truly affordable homes. This series of amendments will better define and deliver "affordable homes", to tackle underperforming developers, and to empower local authorities in the planning process.

The second set of amendments look at how we can build for the future and protect our environment. I am proposing to strengthen environmental delivery plans, reframe the planning system to better deliver sustainable development, encourage spatial development, and protect our chalk streams.

The third series of amendments address how we can put communities at the heart of planning. I have put forward amendments to ensure that there is a right to be heard for Spatial Development Strategy (SDS), a community right to appeal against approved applications, and, to protect against potential misuse, powers for the Secretary of State to dismiss frivolous appeals.

I am pleased to say that these amendments have been variously supported by a wide range of organisations including CPRE, the countryside charity, the Town and Country Planning Association, Shelter, the Wildlife Trusts and more.

If you want to hear more about my proposals for the future of our planning system, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with residents of your Parish to discuss the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and my amendments.

If you want to pursue this further, please let me know a date, time and location that works for your council, and, subject to my parliamentary calendar, I will be there.

It is incredibly important that parish councils remain central to the planning process and therefore I believe strongly that you should be at the heart of discussions surrounding the PIB.

Additionally, I have launched a petition on my website calling on the Government to reform the planning system to put people and nature before profit. Should you or your residents wish to sign it, you can visit:- [bit.ly/CHMPpp](https://bit.ly/CHMPpp)

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Royston | Thundridge & Standon | Walkern | Watton-at-Stone | Weston & Sandon

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Furthermore, I will be holding two online public forums focusing on planning and housing. These will take place at 14:00 on Tuesday 20 May and 18:00 on Thursday 22 May. You and your residents can register to attend these by visiting:- [bit.ly/CHMPforums](http://bit.ly/CHMPforums)

Finally, please feel free to email me at [chris.hinchliff.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.hinchliff.mp@parliament.uk), or to write to me directly at:

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House of Commons  
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I hope to hear from you on this matter in particular, but please do also get in touch if you have any other concerns or issues I might be able to assist with.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hinchliff MP**  
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