

BEN WALLACE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Colin Hirst  
Head of Regeneration and Housing  
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PRN 7419  
30 MAY 2014

ack'd by post

3/6/14

copied for files 3/6/14

27 May 2014

Dear Mr Hirst,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May, received today, regarding the Council's consultation on the modifications which have been made to the Council's Core Strategy. As you are aware, I responded to the Council's consultation early on in the development of the Core Strategy, back in October 2010. The proposals outlined for the Core Strategy will have implications for surrounding boroughs and so I take an interest as the Member of Parliament for Wyre and Preston North.

In my earlier response I expressed concern at the Council's plan to focus housing development in Longridge over the next 15 years, given the certain impact this would have on traffic and congestion levels through Goosnargh, Grimsargh and (to a lesser extent given the development of the by pass) Broughton. Longridge residents must travel through these areas to reach the M6 or Preston. In the original consultation the Council proposed that 450 dwellings would be developed in Longridge. In the latest version of the Core Strategy has increased the proposed number of houses for Longridge to 633. This is a significant increase, from an already high baseline. My concerns are, therefore, significantly heightened. I can also see that the Council has decided to increase the number of dwellings built across the Borough from 4000 to 5600. I am not convinced that this increased in need can be demonstrated and am anxious that, the larger conurbations – such as Longridge - will be developed disproportionately. This will have worrying consequences for my constituents to the west of the Borough.

I should be most grateful if you would ensure that my comments are taken into account as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

  
BEN WALLACE

Member of Parliament for Wyre & Preston North