



The countryside charity
Sussex



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

By Email Only

23rd September 2020

Dear Andrew Griffith MP,

Stop the 'Mutant Algorithm' for the sake of Sussex

We are writing to you on behalf of CPRE Sussex, the countryside charity and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Both charities campaign for a planning system that empowers local communities and protects and enhances the rich biodiversity of Sussex. A fit-for purpose planning process has the power to ensure everyone has a decent home, that meets their needs and that they can afford. New homes should be inspiring and beautiful places to live, where people and nature thrive together.

Thank you for instigating a recent parliamentary debate which coined the phrase 'mutant algorithm' in respect of the current consultation on changes to the planning system. We were very pleased to see your acknowledgement of the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the information we provided to you.

We agree with you, that adopting this flawed method for setting housing targets in Sussex will require a substantial loss of our rural countryside and associated habitats and will result in unsustainable, car-dependent developments that do nothing to meet the Government's commitment to net zero. The targets are also plainly undeliverable. It is part of no housebuilders business model to build so many houses that you have to sell them at a discount and this was illustrated within the Letwin Review of 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-build-out-final-report>

When the new numbers prove undeliverable, the consequence will be to declare all Sussex Local Plans "out of date" and effectively abolish the democratic planning system, which has played such a crucial role over the past half century in maintaining the beauty and ecological integrity of our Sussex countryside. That will not be at all popular with your constituents.

Earlier this month, housing minister Christopher Pincher said the method set out in proposals "is not set in stone" and that the government would consider a "better methodology." We hope that you will continue to challenge the government's proposals and put forward a positive vision for planning that can deliver on our collective economic, social and environmental objectives, such as the debate on motions related to planning on Wednesday 30th September.

We would be happy to meet to discuss this issue further. We would be grateful if your office could email info@cpresussex.org.uk with some suggested times and dates and we can arrange a meeting with specialists on this topic from both our organisations.

To promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside for everyone's benefit

President: Lord Egremont

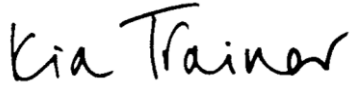
Campaign to Protect Rural England Sussex Branch CIO | Registered charity number: 1156568

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We know that you feel passionately about the landscape and environment of your constituency and we hope we can support you in defending it in the face of this unprecedented threat.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,



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Yours sincerely,



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