



James Cartlidge MP
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

19th August 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

RE: PLANNING REFORM & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

I am writing to understand the implications of your planning reform proposals on Neighbourhood Plans, but I would firstly like to congratulate you on becoming Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

I strongly believe that Neighbourhood Plans are a way of adding to our housing supply but in a more sustainable manner, and above all, they ensure a local say in where new homes are actually built. It was for this exact reason that I held a meeting in 2018 for all of my towns and parishes to encourage them to pursue a plan for their area. In the Babergh district, which now encompasses the whole South Suffolk constituency, we have 21 plans adopted with a further 16 currently in progress. You will be aware of the huge amount of work and voluntary effort that goes in to creating these plans. I am therefore contacting you to request clarity on the impact, if any, that your proposals will have on the legal status of Neighbourhood Plans.

More broadly, can you please confirm if your department will continue supporting villages and towns with their applications for Neighbourhood Plans?

Thank you in advance for clarifying these important concerns and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Cartlidge MP