

12 Main Street
Weston Turville
Bucks
HP22 5RR

10 January 2019

Dear Ms Aldworth,

HMG CONSULTATION ON REFORMING DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

You will be aware of this consultation, currently running. Reading it, we noted what a strong emphasis Government was placing on transparency and accountability over infrastructure funding. We agree 100% with this emphasis and regret that AVDC have not thought fit to operate in this way over the S106 agreements for Hampden Fields and Woodlands in negotiation since the SDMC in October 2017 but, we assume, not yet completed.

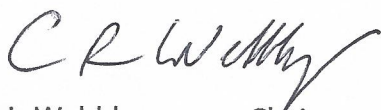
We have therefore taken the opportunity to comment within the consultation from our experience and as the comments are critical of AVDC, without naming the authority, I think it only fair for me to let you see what we have sent in.

Response to Q8: "This will depend on the willingness and capability of the Local Authority to embrace the principle of transparency and openness that — quite rightly — runs through the proposed regulations. Our current experience has been that requests for greater transparency have been met with resistance. It is also important that the transparency should be suitably specific. The public should not be faced with a set of bland and generic statements that leave them unsure of the actual sources and application of the funds that apply to their area."

Response to Q9: "As above (Q8) the desire to operate more transparently has to be felt and enacted by the LA. Being able to charge a monitoring fee is a useful enabler but is not by itself enough to instil the desired behaviour by authority."

On this topic, no AVDC document later than 24 October 2017 has appeared on the Hampden Fields planning portal. I recognise the complexity and sensitivity of a S106 negotiation for such a huge development, but if you were able to publish any sort of process update, I am sure it would be of great interest to the thousands of local people affected by these applications, and their elected representatives.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Webbley, Chairman, Hampden Fields Action Group

Ccfi David Lidington MP and AVDC Councillors Paternoster, Chapple and Collins



Hampden Fields Action Group

Ms Tracey Aldworth
Director,
AVDC

By email