

Sample letter to your MP

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When you get a reply please send it (or a copy) to:
Julian Kirby,
Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London, N1 7JQ

Dear MP NAME

I am writing to you because I am deeply concerned by the proposals detailed in the Planning White Paper.

The proposals to deregulate the planning system are bad for the environment, bad for local communities, and bad for democracy.

The Planning White Paper threatens to make a mockery out of local democracy, stripping away fundamental rights to participate in matters of community development. These proposals would dismantle the key checks and balances that the planning system offers.

I am particularly concerned that:

- The proposal to give National Policy Statements "more weight than any other statement of national, regional or local policy" could threaten vital policies such as the sustainable development strategy.
- The proposals are bad for local democracy as people would lose their rights to be heard at Public Inquiries, being only allowed a possible "open-mic" style airing of views at the end of the Inquiry with no right to cross examine and no guarantee their concerns will be considered.
- The proposals are bad for climate and the environment as the Government will be able to force through major expansions in airports, roads and incinerators that will lead to a huge rise in green house gas emissions.
- The proposals are bad for town centres as removing the "need test" for retail development will result in more out of town stores, putting local shops and businesses at risk of unfair competition from the big four supermarkets.

I am not against development, but I am against policies that undermine effective action on climate change and sustainable development, and erode people's rights to participate in a democratic society.

I would be grateful if you could raise my concerns with the relevant Ministers, and ask that the Government rethink these regressive proposals and introduce a planning system that protects community voices through local democratic controls and promotes sustainable development.

Yours sincerely,
NAME, ADDRESS