



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Pauline J Raymond
Clerk
Sedlescombe Parish Council
Woodland Cottage
Chapel Hill
Sedlescombe
East Sussex
TN33 0QX

Our Ref: GB/LS/5128

03 July 2013

Dear Mrs Raymond,

Further to our previous correspondence, I have now received the enclosed copy reply from Mr Derek Stevens, Chief Executive of Rother District Council.

As you know, I have also written to Nick Boles MP, Planning Minister, on this issue and I will forward you a copy of his reply when it is received.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Barker', with a horizontal line underneath.

Enc

Your ref: GB/LS/5128
Our ref: DMS/JM
Please ask for: Mr. Stevens
Direct dial no: 01424 787800
Date: 25 June 2013



The Rt Hon Gregory Barker MP
(Bexhill & Battle)
6a Amherst Road
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex TN40 1QJ

Derek Stevens MA, CPFA, FRSA
Chief Executive

Town Hall
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 3JX

RECEIVED 25 JUN 2013

Dear Greg

**Sedlescombe Parish Council of Woodland Cottage, Chapel Hill,
Sedlescombe, TN33 0QX**

In response to the communication from Sedlescombe Parish Council attached to your letter dated 21 June, I can empathise with the views expressed concerning the capacity of the District's rural communities to accommodate substantial new housing development.

As highlighted in my response to similar comments from Beckley Parish Council, we are similarly concerned about the burden of expectation arising from the current process. While, as officers, we feel there is scope to increase the level of new housing over and above the South East Plan's requirement by 1,000 homes, to a new total of at least 5,700 new homes, this is now "biting" on other local as well as national priorities, notably conservation of the character of the High Weald AONB.

In fact, the delay in getting the Local Plan Core Strategy adopted is also impacting on identifying suitable sites through both our own Site Allocations process and through Neighbourhood Plans, such as being progressed for Sedlescombe.

Therefore, I would urge acknowledgement in Government that, because of the constraints upon development in Rother and Hastings (the physical capacity of Hastings, relatively weak economies of both Councils' areas, and environmental designations, most notably AONB, international nature conservation sites, and flood risk, covering most of Rother) it is right to look to places like Ashford to meet some of the migration-based housing growth projected for this part of the South East.

Yours sincerely

Derek Stevens
Chief Executive

