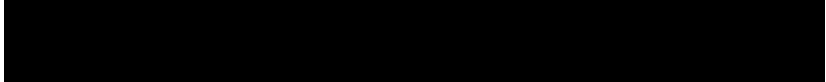


Todds End, Todds Green, Stevenage, Herts., SG1 2JE.



N.H.C.

13 AUG 2024

NORTHGATE

Alistair Strathern, M.P.,
Member of Parliament for Hitchin,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1 1AA

Friday, 9th August, 2024.

COPY

Dear Alistair,

Firstly, congratulations on being elected M.P. for Hitchin, although as Chairman of the Hitchin British Schools Trust, 1999-2005, I would have thought remaining a teacher of mathematics would have been a more rewarding and satisfying occupation!

We are wondering what interest you might want to take regarding Hitchin Town Centre and the surrounding rural area, particularly in this time of such strong demand for new housing.

With regard to the former, enclosed is a copy of my formal objection to the current planning application to redevelop the former Woolworth's building in Hitchin High Street, and to the latter, a summary of the 1990 Chesterton Report into the expansion of Stevenage westwards. Planning permission was granted for part of it in 1999 under the Labour Government but was rescinded by the Conservatives, and kept very quiet since. The CPRE seems to be fanatical in defending the Green Belt and have made life hell for some in Todds Green. My next door neighbour has just been refused permission to build a bedroom extension on Green Belt grounds, which we feel is very unfair. *R*

According to the local paper, in which you feature, planning permission has just been granted by NHDC for 2 developments, in Gravely and Spurberry Hill, St. Ippolyts, the latter being surprising as the road pattern is appalling.

Personally I found the planning regime under Labour, with its regional organisation and views better than the Local Plan system under the Conservatives. For example, under the former one could take a view of infrastructure matters such as the need for a south Hitchin by pass linking the Offley By Pass with the dual carriageway Wymondley by pass, thus removing heavy goods traffic from Hitchin Town Centre and opening up the industrial area to expansion plus providing much better linkage of the Motorways M1 and A1(M) and Luton and Stanstead airports. The Local Plan regime is unable to consider such matters

Also, a new "Park" style railway station situated between Hitchin and Letchworth with direct access to Gatwick airport and removing commuter traffic from the respective town centres would be of huge benefit in improving the locality for all.

When I raise these ideas with local councillors, they laugh. We shall see.

Yours sincerely,



S.T.Smyth.

Dear Tom
enclosed is a copy of my
letter to Alistair Stralton,
our M.P. referring to
the Coach House

S.T.Smyth, FRICS.
Chartered Surveyor & Land Agent,
Todds End, Todds Green,
Stevenage, Herts., SG1 2JE.

With compliments.