



Open Letter to Stephen Baughen, Head of Planning Services, TWBC

Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Civic Way,
Royal Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN1 1RS

Sent via e-mail

18 February 2020

Dear Mr Baughen

I am writing to you as Chair of Save Capel with a number of questions which our supporters would wish to have answered.

The TWBC website suggests that the Regulation 19 process may be extended given the volume of responses to the draft Local Plan. Can you confirm the timetable remains the same and Regulation 19 will take place later in 2020?

In a report of December 2019, you mentioned new sites have been put forward for consideration ("...approximately 20 further parcels of land have been provided"). Does this mean that the 'call for sites' for the Local Plan is unending and new sites can be submitted at any point for development, or will these sites be considered outside of the Local Plan process? Can you also please list these new sites, as I am sure residents across the Borough will be keen to know where these sites are?

You will be aware of the extensive flooding in Capel Parish this winter, and will have seen our videos on the BBC of the devastation caused by Storm Ciara in Five Oak Green. I attach a photograph of the effects of Storm Dennis on the land which lies adjacent to the site in Tudeley; it is now a lake. There is ample evidence that the areas in Capel where you propose to build have suffered severe flood damage and it must be apparent that construction in these areas can only exacerbate the risks to Capel residents and communities in neighbouring boroughs. Will you therefore now confirm that TW Planning Services will review the Local Plan and erase the current excessive development plans for Capel, in favour of something less environmentally destructive and more evenly distributed across the borough?

Finally, would you be willing to prepare a statement on behalf of TW Planning Services to be read out at the Save Capel AGM on 09 March 2020 at 19:00 at