

From the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

21 February 2020

Dave Lovell
Chair of Save Capel
[By email: savecapel@gmail.com]

Dave Dave

Thank you for your letter of 12 February.

The events of the last two weeks have underlined the reality of the threat from flooding across the country, and, of course, particularly in our area.

My view is very clear. No Local Plan should be approved unless it demonstrably reduces the risk of flooding to existing residents, and, obviously, does nothing to add to that risk.

The soundness of any Local Plan in this respect should be demonstrated independently, objectively and publicly as a precondition of adoption, and any draft plan should be revised until it meets this condition.

I will give evidence to the Council and any Examination in Public by the Planning Inspector to this effect.

It will be important for local residents to scrutinise closely the revised Local Plan when it is published later in the year and I will be happy to meet residents to give my assessment when it is published, and to help co-ordinate efforts to ensure that my proposed test is upheld by the Inspector. As you know, to be valid, submissions must be made on strict, rigorous planning grounds – on which I have experience.

Thank you for taking the trouble to write.

with best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G Clark'.