

From: Daniel Bech
Sent: 03 January 2010
To: Michael Doe (Programme Officer / Inspector Roy Foster);
Jim Kehoe (Head of Planning, TWBC)
Subject: Tunbridge Wells LDF Core Strategy Submission - Independent Examination
- your letter to Philip Whitbourn / RTW Town Forum

Dear Mr Doe

Tunbridge Wells LDF Core Strategy Submission – Independent Examination (12/2009)

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2009.

We strongly agree with the preliminary conclusion reached by the Inspector, that the threshold of affordable housing in Royal Tunbridge Wells should be aligned with that for the rest of the Borough. There seems no sensible reason why the requirement in Royal Tunbridge Wells should be different from that in Paddock Wood, for example, and we hope that the Inspector's preliminary conclusion will be adhered to.

Indeed, we should think that it would be quite wrong if the planning system, through a more lenient provision, were to offer house-builders a financial inducement to indulge in further "garden grabbing" in Royal Tunbridge Wells, rather than developing suitable sites elsewhere in the Borough.

The RTW Town Forum questioned in the SHLAA consultation process the strong reliance of local planning on windfall sites and pointed out that 'we strongly disagree with any site size threshold and a laissez-faire approach to windfall sites for the good reasons of uncertainty for communities, developers and planners alike, touched upon in Government advice'.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Bech
Community Champion

Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum
www.townforum.org.uk

cc: Jim Kehoe, TWBC, Head of Planning – for information