

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities
House Of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



19th November 2021

Dear Mr Gove

Re: Green Belt and planning reform

In my role as President of the Colne Valley Regional Park, the first large taste of countryside to the west of London, I am increasingly encountering a distorted view of the purpose of Green Belt as a negative block to development.

We view the green belt as a positive thing that provides recreation opportunities and access to nature to improve physical & mental health for the benefit of millions of people who live nearby. To that end, and in the face of an onslaught of development proposals, **we make seven practical suggestions in the attached document to improve the National Planning Policy Framework.** I would be grateful for you and your department to consider incorporating this into planning reform.

The element of most concern to us is that multiple large development proposals are happening on the edge of five counties with no overall masterplan, vision or strategy to guide and inform any understanding of their cumulative effects. We put ourselves forward as a uniquely valuable and relevant case study by which to examine how planning policy must be reformed relating to the Green Belt.

I invite you to discuss this in more detail. Please contact our Managing Agent, Stewart Pomeroy, on spomeroy@groundwork.org.uk

Kind Regards

John Randall
Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

Cc The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP Minister of State (Minister for Housing)

Colne Valley Park Trust
Charity Registration Number: 1181303
Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company
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