PROTECT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Jeremy has long supported more local involvement in planning decisions and is concerned at the number of applications being upheld on appeal because Waverley has not secured a five year planning supply. He wants more protection for painstakingly negotiated Neighbourhood Plans such as those agreed in Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and many of our villages.

What Jeremy’s doing

- Successfully campaigned in parliament to drop zoning plans.
- Successfully stopped massive rises in Waverley’s housing targets.
- Met Housing Secretary Michael Gove to argue for more protection for Neighbourhood Plans.

What the government has done

- Introduced Neighbourhood Plans to give local people more say over planning decisions.

What you can do

1. Sign the letter to Michael Gove to give Neighbourhood Plans five years protection even when a planning authority has not secured housing supply.

Dear local resident,

In my constituency surveys you have regularly said that protecting our beautiful local countryside is one of your top priorities. So here are four campaigns we can all work together on to make that happen. Please show your support by returning the short questionnaire in the reply-paid envelope.

Best wishes,

Jeremy Hunt MP
South West Surrey

Jeremy Hunt MP has met Michael Gove three times to press for more local say in development and better protection for Neighbourhood Plans.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Neighbourhood Plan is where the local community with a powerful tool to guide the long term future of Farnham and its surrounding countryside for the period 2013 to 2032.

The Farnham Neighbourhood Plan is part of the Government’s new approach to planning which encourages local communities to play a greater role in shaping the development of their communities. The Plan therefore provides the need for the community and has been revised to join other part being the Waverley Local Plan Part 1 (2018). It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan attracts the support of 88% of those voting, the Neighbourhood Plan was approved on 20 February 2018 and adopted in 2019.

Waverley Borough Council, as the local planning authority, designated a Neighbourhood Area for the whole of Godalming parish in July 2013 to enable Godalming Town Council to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. It also provides a snapshot of the current situation in the area and the key challenges it faces. The Plan identifies a number of challenges that are critical in achieving the Vision, only the policies will have legal effect (although adoption of the Plan will provide evidence of community support for future action).

The Plan is a document prepared by the local community to reflect the priorities for the area. It sets out what the local community wants for the community and provides a shared understanding of the principles and values that will be used to guide planning decisions in the area.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a legal document that provides a framework for future development in the area. It identifies the development needs of the area and sets out the policies that will guide the development of the area.

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The Plan therefore provides the need for the community with a powerful tool to guide the long term future of Farnham and its surrounding countryside for the period 2013 to 2032.

At the moment, water companies are allowed to discharge effluent and treated sewage into rivers in emergencies such as storms to relieve pressure on the sewage network and prevent flooding. However, the figures above, from last year, show this happens far more often than in ‘emergencies’, posing both a major risk to public health and local wildlife.

What Jeremy’s doing

- Successfully campaigned in parliament for legislation to require water companies to reduce discharges.
- Met local angling group.
- Meeting the CEOs of Thames Water and Southern Water.
- Arranged for Environment Secretary George Eustice to visit South West Surrey.

What the government has done

- Introduced statutory duty on water companies to reduce discharges.
- New duty on government to have a plan to reduce storm overflow discharges.
- New strategy to eliminate discharges over time.

What you can do

1. Sign the petition to Thames Water.
2. Support Jeremy’s campaigning for better monitoring of sewage discharges and overflows including phosphates, for safe swimming zones in all rivers and to eliminate plastic from wet wipes.
3. Come to a public meeting with Philip Dunne MP, Chair of House of Commons Environment Audit Committee who is currently holding an inquiry into water quality in rivers.

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Jeremy has been campaigning for planning reforms with Waverley and Farnham Councilor Caroline Gainsbourgh.

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### 2 REDUCE SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Single use plastics are terrible for both climate change and the environment. It takes a single use plastic water bottle up to 450 years to decompose in a landfill. With community action we can reduce the use of single use plastics and recycle any we do use.

**What Jeremy’s doing**
- Campaigned in parliament to speed up introduction of deposit return scheme.
- Asked Waverley Borough Council repeatedly for their new plans now they have abandoned 15% a year residual waste reduction target.
- Organised litter picks in Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Milford.

**What the government has done**
- Announced nationwide deposit return scheme to help change consumer behaviour - increasing the recycling rate of drinks containers and reducing littering.

**What you can do**
1. Sign the petition to Waverley BC so that all litter bins have a recycling alternative.
2. Write to town councils asking for water refill stations to encourage reusable bottles.
3. Join one of Jeremy’s upcoming litter picks by emailing huntj@parliament.uk.
4. Ask your local supermarket to install recycling points for single use plastics.
5. Switch to plastic free tea bags and other such products that currently use plastic.

### 3 MAKE THE SURREY HILLS A NATIONAL PARK AND EXPAND OUR AONB

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty enjoy the highest level of protection in terms of landscape and scenic beauty. Following an intervention by Jeremy, Natural England announced last year that the Surrey Hills AONB was being considered for a boundary extension. If this is successful there will be not just more protection but a renewed drive to support nature recovery within the designated area. Jeremy now wants to go further and turn the entire Surrey Hills into a National Park which would give it an independent governing body, planning powers and potentially more funding - so it would be better able to prevent inappropriate development.

**What Jeremy’s doing**
- Successfully campaigned for first AONB boundary review.
- Met Surrey Hills AONB chair Heather Kerswell to mobilise local support.
- Made submission to review.
- Supporting campaign to increase nature recovery inside all AONBs.
- Fighting the UKOG drilling plans in Dunsfold.
- Written to Environment Secretary to ask for National Park status and secured his agreement to visit Surrey Hills.

**What the government has done**
- Announced the first review to Surrey Hills AONB boundaries since 1958 meaning that legally local councils are responsible for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the designated area. They must produce a plan for the area and consider the effect of new developments.

**What you can do**
1. Sign the petition to George Eustice urging him to support the area’s proposed AONB extension when the decision is made.
2. Support change in Surrey Hills status to a National Park.

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**Litter bin with a recycling option:** Jeremy wants all litter bins in Waverley to be like this.

**One of the single option litter bins we have in Waverley:**

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**Litter bin with a recycling option:** Jeremy wants all litter bins in Waverley to be like this.

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**JOIN ONE OF JEREMY’S LITTER PICKS**

**17th September 2022**
- **FARHAM**
- **HASLEMERE**

**1st October 2022**
- **GODALMING**

**22nd October 2022**
- **FARHAM**

**COMPTON**

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**Jeremy’s getting stuck into a litter pick in Milford (and getting soaking wet!):**

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**POTENTIAL NEW AONB AREA**

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Jeremy met campaigners in Tice’s Meadow, Farnham, one of the areas being considered in the review.