



## George Hollingbery MP

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Mr P Hole  
Acting Chair  
Curbridge Preservation Society  
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17 June 2010

Dear Mr Hole

Thank you for the letter and the detailed brief.

As I'm sure you are aware, there is good news. The secretary of state for Local Government has laid out plans to remove the undemocratic Regional Spatial Strategies, which means that no plans can proceed without considering this as an 'emerging policy'. Indeed, from now on it will be up to local communities to decide what housing is built and where.

As I understand it, legislation will also be coming forward shortly to empower not just local councils but communities to have a much more active role in shaping where housing developments are built.

You will know that plans for North Whiteley were extensively consulted by Winchester City Council during the formation of its Core Strategy. Indeed, I chaired the meeting at the Solent Hotel where a great many local residents gave input. Across the Winchester district some one and a half thousand people attended the consultation and over thirty thousand written submissions were received.

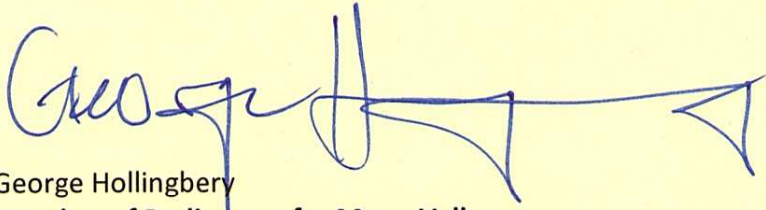
I very much understand concerns about the fragile nature of the environment but this was considered when the development was planned. Under the new planning legislation, this will now be a matter for local people to decide, just as it should be.

You will be aware that there is now a 'North Whiteley Forum' which has been set up to examine any developments. My view is that this is the place for you to make your views known, as well as represent your community with the loudest possible voice in any consultation which comes forward under the new rules.

For what it's worth, I believe that more development is required at North Whiteley is required if Whiteley is to become a community that can stand on its own two feet. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't seek to shape it in a way that suits you too.

Finally, you might like to know that in my view the Botley SDA is the wrong development in the wrong place and I will be objecting and attempting to remove it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Hollingbery'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, ending in a small triangular flourish.

George Hollingbery  
**Member of Parliament for Meon Valley**