



THE RT HON NICK HERBERT CBE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ARUNDEL & SOUTH DOWNS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

14 January 2019

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to ask that you call in planning application SDNP/15/01862/FUL which was approved by the South Downs National Park Authority on 8 November 2018. Petworth Town Council has written separately to your Ministry requesting that the application is called in.

The application contravenes a number of the policies in the Petworth Neighbourhood Plan which was 'made' in July 2018. It is therefore a document of material consideration when deciding on planning applications, and any new housing must be determined using the policies contained within it.

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group reviewed and scored the site carefully and designated it as a site which could be developed. Policy H5 proposes 23 residential dwellings on Rotherlea. The approved application is for 34 houses, thereby increasing the density and making it non-compliant with the Neighbourhood Plan. More housing adds pressure to local infrastructure, including car parking provision. Policy GA1 of the Neighbourhood Plan sets out parking space requirements for new housing. The approved application, however, does not make provision in accordance with the policy.

While the South Downs National Park Authority stated that "the scheme ... is considered broadly to be in accordance with the Policies and aspirations of the Petworth Neighbourhood Plan", this is emphatically not the view of Petworth Town Council. They feel very strongly that their Neighbourhood Plan should be adhered to, and I agree.

As you know, drawing up neighbourhood plans entails a herculean voluntary effort, and the plans are endorsed in a local referendum, as was the case in Petworth. Too



many development proposals are being permitted in breach of neighbourhood plans, a practice which is undermining local support for the entire policy. I therefore hope that you will call in this decision, and that it will be overturned.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Nick Herbert.

NICK HERBERT