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WITHAM

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## Hatfield Peverel Planning Decisions

I am appalled and extremely disappointed by the decision taken by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to grant planning permission for the development of the sites off of Gleneagles Way and off of Stone Path Drive.

The decisions were originally taken by Braintree District Council to approve both applications for a total of 260 new dwellings and we were all hopeful that by getting the applications called-in there was the prospect that the Secretary of State would refuse them. Unfortunately, the reports compiled by the Planning Inspector and the decision taken by the Secretary of State ignored local concerns and predominantly focused on delivering an increase in housing supply rather than protecting and safeguarding these sites.

Hatfield Peverel is already accommodating considerable new levels of housing growth, placing strains on our public services and highways infrastructure. It is unacceptable that the village faces the consequences of these decisions taken by the Secretary of State. I am also angered by these decisions as they undermine localism and the brilliant work that has been put into formulating a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The Neighbourhood Plan, which seeks to protect these two sites while supporting sensible housing growth in more appropriate sites, is close to completion. But these decisions undermine that work.


I have issued a full statement on the decision and have written to the Secretary of State to express my concern and anger with his decision. These can be viewed online at the weblink below:

<https://www.priti4witham.co.uk/local-mp-is-angered-over-shameful-hatfield-peverel-planning-decisions/>

Although we are all very disappointed and angered by these decisions, the local community can be incredibly proud of the way it came together to oppose these developments. I want to commend and praise the outstanding efforts undertaken by local residents who set up the Stone Path Meadow Residents Group and the Parish Council in fighting these applications. The odds were always stacked heavily against us fighting against developers with extremely deep pockets who had Braintree District Council siding with them and working against our community. But the case the community put forward was incredibly strong and robust.

It is appalling that the Secretary of State granted planning permission and I will continue to support the local community in taking action to oppose these plans and challenge and question these decisions.

If you have any comments about this matter or any other issue, please do feel free to get in touch.

*with all good wishes*  


**The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**  
Member of Parliament for Witham