

Harborough District Council

The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7AG
01858 828282 • www.harborough.gov.uk



29th September 2023

Sent by email: neil.obrien.mp@parliament.uk, alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk,
alberto.costa.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Neil, Alicia and Alberto

I have been informed that the date we have suggested for us all to meet in a public forum of 20th October 2023 was not suitable for you, and although we could suggest alternative dates that may fit with your diaries, you do not wish us to look for any other dates for a meeting and instead to put any questions in a letter.

We are deeply disappointed in this as we would welcome the opportunity for the differing views on the needs the council has to sign the Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) to be debated openly and transparently before we as a council have to take the final decision on this important issue.

With regards to any questions we may have, we would like to understand why you believe the evidence we have had from external and internal planning advisors is not a compelling reason enough for us to consider signing the SOCG. We include copies of further information we have received on this for your information.

Mr O'Brien has publicly stated in the local media " I will carry on campaigning until we get them to change their mind and drop this completely unfair, unnecessary, ungreen huge increase in the housing target". We are therefore confused as to why when we have offered to engage with you all that our offer has been rejected if it is truly your ambition to influence the decision. We have not made up our minds yet and so there is no need to try and change them, but you could have been part of the evidence gathering we are undertaking to ensure we consider all the views and thoughts before we consider the motion again at council. We took the decision to defer to give you this opportunity to engage with us.

We ask again for you to consider meeting us in open forum to debate the issue. There is over a month before the next council meeting and I am sure we can find a date to suit us all.

Kind regards

Cllr Phil Knowles
Leader
Harborough District Council

