

Hi Nigel,

Thank you very much for your email and I'm grateful for the opportunity to respond. I am, as you'll know, a member of NMGBS.

Comments below...

1. Do you agree that a Green Belt Policy is necessary to prevent urban sprawl and that the Home Counties in particular are in special need of protection against the expansionary pressures from London?

Yes. Absolutely.

2. Do you support the National Planning Policy Framework which permits development within the Green Belt only in "very special circumstances" and alteration of Green Belt boundaries only in "exceptional circumstances"?

Yes. I am part-author of the National Planning Policy Framework and so strongly support these words, which I helped to write!

3. Do you agree that it is wrong for Local Authorities to set housing targets in the Local Plan without also providing for a proper increase in the supporting infrastructure?

Yes.

4. Do you agree that WHBC should not be pressurised by Central Government policies to agree to inflated housing and development targets in the Local Plan if these cannot be met without building in the Green Belt?

Yes. And the NPPF specifically covers this.

5. Do you agree that the housing target of 12,024 chosen by WHBC in its Local Plan is too high for the area, reflects pressures from Central Government and is driven by "London" rather than "local" needs?

Yes.

6. If elected will you:

- Press for the immediate review of the methodology being used to calculate housing targets (the OAN) promised in the recent Housing White Paper?

Yes.

- Positively seek to work with other Hertfordshire MPs to stop development expansion in the County at the expense of the Green Belt?

Yes. I have been previously active on this front, working particularly closely with Oliver Dowden in Hertsmere.

Kind regards,

Grant.