

Thank you for writing to me about these matters. The Green Party is committed to developing more sustainable living with minimal impact on the environment.

In answer to your questions:

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?

The Green Party strongly supports keeping the Green Belt to avoid urban sprawl. This should be reviewed periodically to stop new development leapfrogging into open countryside.

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. Any land taken out of the Green belt should be replaced, efforts should be made to improve the habitats in the Green Belt including agricultural policy.

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?

Absolutely

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, the Green Party supports all housing planning to be agreed at the lowest level, making sure that they follow

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?

I would need to see the projections and needs as they stand to see if that figure has been inflated by pressure from "London". There is another issue here, that the government should be looking to support developing other areas around the country rather than just London, for example Leeds and Manchester. There is a lack of forward thinking in this type of reactive planning.

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

Thank you again for raising these issues. I hope to have your support on June the 8th so we can work on them in Parliament.

Kind regards,

Christianne

Christianne Sayers

Green Party Candidate for Welwyn Hatfield