

Jinder Ubhi

From: Mayor of London <mayor@london.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 January 2018 08:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Londonplan
Subject: RE: MGLA290118-1926 Planning regulations

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Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for your further correspondence. I have copied in the London Plan consultation email, noting your comments on the draft London Plan.

As you will appreciate, the Mayor receives a significant amount of correspondence and teams in the GLA are responsible for providing responses on his behalf, where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Wells
Development and Projects Team

Your ref: MGLA141217-7691

Dear Samantha Wells

Thank you for your email of 20 December, but it doesn't actually address the concerns in my original message; I was writing about the Mayor of London's proposal in his draft London plan to relax planning regulations, in particular those protecting local character.

I live in New Barnet, a Victorian suburb which has already lost a good deal of its pleasant character - predominantly family housing, with gardens and mature trees - and residents are anxious that what remains should be preserved. Many attractive family houses have been demolished and replaced with blocks of flats quite out of keeping with their surroundings; now many office blocks are also being converted into flats, so the population of the area has increased enormously in recent years and it is becoming dangerously overcrowded. Roads are congested, buses and commuter trains are packed, schools are oversubscribed and health services cannot cope with demand. Developers make huge profits but do not contribute to local infrastructure.

As someone who suffers from asthma, I also notice that air pollution is becoming worse. Intensive development often entails the loss of green space and mature trees, and

this has a detrimental effect on the environment, causing loss of habitat for wildlife and biodiversity as well as damaging human health.

I understand the need for more housing, but planning regulations are necessary to protect an area from overdevelopment; in any case most of the flats being built are unaffordable for the people most in need.

It seems counterproductive to allow the character

of an area to be destroyed, making it less desirable as a place for people to live. Much more could be done to ensure that empty flats and houses are brought back into use and to encourage the conversion of existing older homes into smaller units.

I would very much appreciate the Mayor's own comments.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Wardle

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