



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

## **Statement for presentation at planning meeting**

### **Miriam Cates MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge**

As Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge I wish to register my objection to the consideration of this application for outline planning permission for the land at Hollin Busk.

It is widely accepted that across the UK as a whole, we need more homes. But these homes need to be built where local evidence shows that they are needed and where the negative impact on local communities is minimal. Local Plans are to be produced for this very purpose; to assess long-term housing needs at a local level, to identify land that is suitable for development, and to create a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure provision so that growth across towns and cities is sustainable. Furthermore, the adoption of a Local Plan is a democratic process that involved consultation with local residents to ensure that future development takes into account local knowledge and broadly has consent.

In the absence of a Local Plan – it is impossible to make an informed decision on an application such as this one at Hollin Busk. The land at Hollin Busk is an important part of the rural fringe and green corridor that separates and retains the distinctiveness of the communities of Stocksbridge, Deepcar and Bolsterstone. Sheffield's Housing Land Map does not identify this land as either a proposed allocation or an identified site. Whilst other identified sites are available this application should be refused.

In the Upper Don Valley already more than 1,000 homes have been approved for development. Most of these are on brownfield sites or are infill developments. These current developments themselves put pressure on local infrastructure, and there has also been no recognition of the impact that additional proposal will have on the sustainability of local population growth.

Even if research showed a need for more local housing, there is no evidence that brownfield sites in the area have been exhausted. Stocksbridge and Deepcar are towns with a rich industrial history, and as such there are plenty of potential brownfield sites that could be considered if there was a need for additional development.

In conclusion, with significant building on brownfield sites underway, existing policies and protections should be upheld. Since the land at Hollin Busk is still safeguarded under existing provisions, I believe that it is wrong even to consider this application. The considerable local opposition provoked by this application highlights the urgent need for consultations on our Local Plan to begin, so that future planning applications and developments are in line with local need and sensitive to local communities. In the meantime, this application should be refused.

**Miriam Cates Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge**