

Mill Lane Development

From : The Hitcham and Taplow Society

To : Residents attending the Annual Parish Meeting

For many years the Society has recognised the need for the regeneration of the Mill Lane area and most especially so since the closure of the paper mill. The Executive Committee of the Society has worked to this end during recent years, contributing to the Mill Lane Policy 15 in the South Bucks Core Strategy which was adopted by the District Council in February this year. We believe the policy strikes the right balance between the need for regeneration and the protection of the narrow green lung of Green Belt land which separates Maidenhead and Slough.

The Core Strategy is the key document in the South Bucks Local Development Framework. It presents the 'big picture', setting a long-term vision, objectives and broad strategy for accommodating future development in the District in the period to 2026.

In the adoption statement on the 3rd March, South Bucks District Councillor Roger Reed, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development, said: ***“The significant investment made by the District in the preparation of our Core Strategy makes its adoption great news. It will enable South Bucks to continue to protect our Green Belt and the character of our District, which is what our residents have made clear they expect from us.”***

In the House of Commons on Mon 4th April this year Grant Shapps, Minister for Housing and Local Government stated in answer to a question about the preservation of the Green Belt: ***“The Green Belt is entirely protected; that is in the coalition agreement and we stand by that position.”*** Later, Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government confirmed the Government position in stating: ***“Our general policy is this: we intend to ensure that the Green Belt is held solid and absolutely inviolate by this Administration.”***

Green Belt guidance is given by Government in a document entitled PPG2 published in 1995. Annex C of PPG2 refers to Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt and the constraints on their development.

The Mill Lane site is designated in the newly adopted South Bucks Core Strategy as a 'Major Developed Site in the Green Belt'. We believe that Annex C strikes a balance between the wasting of economic resources and the undesirable impact of over-development.

Karl Lawrence
Chairman, Hitcham and Taplow Society

Copies of Core Policy 15 and Annex C of PPG2 are attached.