

From: Michael Meredith Sent: 26 May 2020 20:21 To: [george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk)

Subject: Planning Application

to George Eustace MP Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dated 26th May 2020

Dear Mr. Eustace,

I am writing to you because a Planning Application on Owlthorpe Fields is to be determined at the Sheffield City Council Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday 2nd June. I formally request that you review this application with a view to calling it in. The planning application made by Avant Homes to build on Owlthorpe Fields in Sheffield does not comply with Government directive concerning upstream flood defences and climate change policy. I set out below my reasons for requesting this action for your own determination. <https://planningapps.sheffield.gov.uk/online-applications/reference/number/19/03143/FUL> I believe The Secretary of State has the power to take the decision-making power on a planning application out of the hands of the local planning authority when it is of national interest.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN00930> , which states: "The Secretary of State has the power to take the decision-making power on a planning application out of the hands of the local planning authority (LPA) by calling it in for his own determination. This can be done at any time during the planning application process, up to the point at which the LPA makes the decision. Who can request calling-in? Anyone can ask for a planning application to be called-in. Applicants should give clear reasons why they think that the application should be called-in, including why it is of more than local importance." Published 23 January 2020 Press release <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environmental-bodies-set-joint-vision-to-tackle-climate-change> Environmental bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England outline a shared vision to use nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency. Owlthorpe Fields is a nature-based solution. The Wetlands of Owlthorpe Fields holds vast quantities of rain water which it releases gently into the Ochre Dyke. If more houses were built on Owlthorpe Fields the Ochre Dyke would surely flood downstream, first into the River Rother and then into to the River Don which flooded Fishlake in Doncaster. Sheffield City Council is aware of this because in 2012 The Owlthorpe Heritage and Nature Trail, the Moorhole Lane Trail, the Ochre Dyke & Wooland Fringe and Buttercup Meadow were officially opened by Clive Betts MP for Sheffield South East, David Caufield - Sheffield City Council Officer, Sheffield City Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris and 795 children from three local primary schools. I enclose a photo of one of the notice boards on display on site. Surveys carried out by Sheffield City Council Ecology Department indentified 843 species of fauna and flora, 96 species of vertebrates and 295 species of invertebrates alive in Owlthorpe. The land management was taken under the monitoring of Natural England. A further 12,243 trees and hedgerow plants were planted also 64,000 bulbs and 1,500 square metres of wildflowers seeds sown. Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall & Retail Park helped support the project. Local school children and community have enjoyed using the trails for many years. There are many mature trees in Owlthorpe Fields and ancient hedgerows which support the wildlife in their natural habitat. My wife and I enjoyed a walk on Monday 25th May 2020 in Owlthorpe Fields and cannot understand why Sheffield City Council wants to destroy this paradise. I enclose a picture showing the maturity of the trees that will be destroyed by Sheffield City Council. On the Sheffield City Council Planning Department Portal, under public comments, there are 261 household objections with only 2 supporting the application. My objections are detailed under 22 Royston Avenue Sheffield S20 6SG (Objects) Comment submitted date: Fri 21 Feb 2020. There are many objections by residents who

explain their concerns better than I can. I will be grateful if you would please read them and make your judgment. I personally feel that there may be other planning applications with similar concerns for the environment. There may also be other areas similar to Owlthorpe Field which need protection from unnecessary development.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Meredith