



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

20 August 2008

Ms Hilary Severn
Branch Chairman
Campaign to Protect Rural England (Avonside)
The Countryside Room
Poole Court
YATE, BS37 5PP

Our Ref: Seve002/1

Dear Ms Severn

Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West

Thank you for your letter of 14th August concerning the above. I very much share your concerns about these proposals; you may have seen my comments in local press which described them as simply barking mad!

Housebuilding has almost ground to a halt in light of the global economic downturn, and this project looks beyond deliverability in the 15 years it has to come to fruition. Across Bath and North East Somerset, 66 per cent of the authority area is either an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or green belt land and the Government itself has admitted building to the south will be limited due to inadequate transport links.

I am currently trying to persuade the Minister to include new accommodation for students in the district's contribution to the target. Since we have two large and expanding universities who are planning to expand accommodation on their own sites this will free up affordable housing within the city and therefore should count towards our target.

I will continue to do all I can to get the government to see sense.

Thanks again for writing.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Don Foster MP

Please reply to 31 James Street West, Bath, BA1 2BT
Tel: 01225 338 973 Fax: 01225 463 630

Whilst Don Foster MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, he may need to allow his staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. Don may pass on all or some of this information to agencies such as DWP, Inland Revenue or Local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. We may write to you from time to time, to keep you informed on issues that you might find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish him to contact