



the county branch of CPRE

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COPY

Mr D Burnip,
Chief Executive
Forest Heath District Council
College Heath Road
Mildenhall
Suffolk
IP28 7EY

23rd March, 2005

Dear Mr Burnip,

Watermark Development Proposals – Kentford Heath and Surrounding Countryside

At a recent meeting of the Forest Heath District Committee of the Society, the Watermark development proposal was discussed. I was asked at the end of the meeting to write to you to express the Society's concerns regarding the proposal.

The Society is aware that the Council and developer cannot agree who first thought or instigated the proposal and this is not an issue for the Society. However, it appears that a major development proposal to almost create a new township is being put forward for consideration. This proposal incorporates several land uses and is located around the villages of Red Lodge, Tuddenham, Kentford, and Herringswell along with a considerable amount of intervening open countryside.

Given the contents of draft RSS14 the Society accepts that some limited additional housing may be needed in Suffolk to serve local people. The planning process will determine where this additional housing will be accommodated. While the Society accepts it is useful for land owners and developers to identify potential sites at an early stage, such a process must not appear to be seen as trying to influence the Local Planning Authority's site selection process. Pre-empting the LDD process by the submission of a planning application for such a controversial site and one which does not accord with national planning policies may give the impression that any site selection or allocation process is a foregone conclusion. It may well turn local people against the proposal purely because of the feeling they may gain that the proposal is already agreed.



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

SPS is a registered charity (No. 249981) founded in 1929
working to safeguard the buildings and landscape of Suffolk