

Local Plan Sub-Committee – 16th July 2020

Statement / Question by Ms Rosie Pearson

“The Council has a one-off, and time-limited, opportunity to NEARLY HALVE the local plan housing target. The inspector requires a response by 24 July.

A halved target would go a long way towards preventing the unpopular sprawl of recent years. It would also prevent the ‘garden community’ promoters behind Silver End, Kings Dene, Monks Wood, West Tey and West of Braintree from trying again.

This new housing projection has a huge impact on the district. You could lock in the lower number now, benefitting from the plan being examined under the old NPPF.

91% of 790 residents I polled WANT THE COUNCIL TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HALVE THE HOUSING TARGET.

Yet astonishingly, you have not added an extraordinary agenda item to address this surprise good news. Why not?

Why are members willing to allow the very same officers who submitted not just one but TWO sets of unsound evidence to the inspector (despite numerous warnings from residents) to decide what to say to him this time?

Residents (your voters) need you to stand up for us and fight our corner.

Your refusal to address this issue seems to prove one thing - that it is NOT government forcing you to build thousands of homes. It is your wish to build more than double what the district needs, without supporting infrastructure, changing our district forever. Please explain why you are not going ‘all out’ to seize this opportunity to work for your residents. Thank you.”