

**Rosie Pearson, Resident of Pattiswick, question for Full Council, 1 June 2020**

Only a few days ago, I, together with residents from the north, west and south of the district, launched a petition.

The petition calls for Braintree Council's Leader to do the honourable thing and resign.

Astonishingly, 1000 people have signed the petition already.

There is extraordinary anger in the district about the garden communities project. That anger is fuelled by the repeated failure to heed warnings about the fatal flaws to the local plan, by the riding roughshod over local communities, and by the waste of £8 million of tax-payers' money.

I myself have regularly attended meetings to raise legitimate and evidence-based concerns. Questions have never been answered. Concerns I raised have now turned out to be correct.

In addition, people are angry that our villages and rural district have been changed forever. This is because speculative developers are making hay from the endless delays to the plan.

Residents deserve the truth.

It is not true, as Councillor Butland stated in last week's newspaper, that the public were behind the garden communities. Consultation responses, petitions, letters to the paper, placards and public meetings demonstrated that.

The suggestion of a democratic mandate is also remarkable given Conservative leaflets did not mention Garden Communities in the most affected wards.

It is not true that the failure of the garden communities will lead to sprawl. That sprawl is already happening. And as a result, with the unplanned speculative applications and Section 2, there is no need for further sites to be brought forward.

Section 2 needs to be examined as soon as possible. I am sure the planning inspectorate will help to find a pragmatic solution, as they are obliged to do.

The only way to begin to restore the trust of local people, is for the Leader to resign.

**My question therefore is, will Councillor Butland will do the right thing and resign?**

If not, please confirm that the petition will be debated at the next Full Council meeting, in line with procedure set out on the council website.