

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*Jean Conditment,*

**RE: PROTECT THE GREEN BELT.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of protections for the Green Belt.

I am a strong advocate of protections for the Green Belt which checks urban sprawl, preserves the character of historic towns, and safeguards our countryside from encroachment. As such, I was pleased that the recently announced revised National Planning Policy Framework will give further clarification to the existing strong protections for the Green Belt.

While the current Framework stipulates that Green Belt boundaries can be altered by local authorities only in "exceptional circumstances" it fails to define what these exceptional circumstances might be. The new draft of the Framework sets out steps that a local planning authority must take before concluding such exceptional circumstances exist, including the consideration of suitable brownfield sites.

However, I do believe that it is wrong that there is brownfield land within Green Belt boundaries which is often left unused. That is why I welcome that the new Framework will allow brownfield land in the Green Belt to be used for development, provided that this does not impact the openness of the Green Belt. Greater use of brownfield sites will reduce the need for development on greenfield sites, protecting previously undeveloped land outside of the Green Belt and reducing pressure on the undeveloped Green Belt land we value.

I am confident that the revised National Planning Policy Framework will help protect our Green Belt land for years to come, building on the Government's strong record since 2010.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

*Tom*  
**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**