

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan. This plan represents a sustainable approach to growth, addressing the challenges involved with new developments while preserving the unique character of our local areas.

The Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan ensures that growth is not only sustainable but also respectful of the environmental, social, and economic heart of our community. Its commitment to not making additional site allocations, while still providing for employment, residential, and community needs, demonstrates a balanced approach to development. I am sure all can agree that more housing is needed to support our growing population, but this needs to be matched with adequate infrastructure which can provide a reliable service for each and every member of our community. Moreover, the plan's emphasis on design, environment, and transport policies aligns with the goal of sustainable development.

A key strength of the plan is its commitment to preserving the distinctive character of Hoo St Werburgh, Chattenden, and their rural landscape settings. The area's location on the Hoo Peninsula in the Greater Thames Estuary, home to rich biodiversity, makes environmental considerations especially important. Medway still cherishes these of countryside with abundant wildlife and farmland, therefore, it is pleasing to see the plan recognise its importance.

I appreciate the plan's attention to local businesses and community facilities. The enhancement of our local assets, such as supermarkets, churches, public houses, schools, and surgeries, are crucial, whilst the consideration to protect Hoo's industrial, military, and war heritage, is vital for maintaining our community's identity.

Addressing the lack of sporting facilities for young people, particularly in light of the housing developments at Arethusa Field and the former BAE site, is a welcomed inclusion. The proposed enhancements to Deangate running track, including new facilities and a dedicated youth worker, are steps in the right direction to addressing the needs of our younger population.

Furthermore, the plan's alignment with the recent changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act ensures that the community's voice is heard and respected. These changes, which I have actively advocated for, promise a more tailored approach to development, prioritising local needs and infrastructure.

I support the Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan. It represents a responsible and community-focused approach to development, balancing growth with sustainability and respect for our local environment and heritage. I am confident that this plan will serve the community responsibly through its community-focused approach.

Kind regards,

 MP

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