

Dear Mr Costa

I have been asked to write to you by my Parish Council to express its ongoing concern at the recent submission of three planning applications for housing development in Countesthorpe.

These applications are currently awaiting a decision by Blaby District Council, and an application for a further 100 dwellings is imminent. Should all the applications be given approval, this would amount to 526 new dwellings in the village which has the potential to increase the population of Countesthorpe by a third which will inevitably impact on local services, including health and school spaces, and infrastructure, including highways and flood risk. The Parish Council has stressed the importance in its responses, that mitigation measures to improve access to local services and infrastructure should be in place prior to any further development taking place within Countesthorpe.

The Parish Council is aware that, to receive all these applications at the same time is unprecedented, however, it is clear that this has happened as a result in the delay in the District Council updating its Local Plan. The Parish Council is therefore concerned that, until the District Council has an up to date Local Plan, Countesthorpe is at risk of appeals, should any of the applications be refused, or further speculative planning applications.

The parish council acknowledges that it will need to accept some development in the future, but without a current local plan being in place, it has fears that it will be taking excessive housing development brought forward at the expense of the larger settlements within the District.

I have attached for your reference, the Parish Council's response to the three current application consultations. These responses were formed with the assistance from feedback from residents via public consultations.

The Parish Council wishes to be able demonstrate with local residents that it has raised its concerns with you as the MP for the area, and would appreciate your view on this current situation of how the lack of an up-to-date Local Plan is affecting Countesthorpe.

Thank you in anticipation and I look forward to your response.