

Alan Mak MP

Enquiries to: Phil Munday

By Email:

Email: Cllr.Phil.Munday@havant.gov.uk

Alan.Mak.MP@parliament.uk

Date: 7th January 2025

Dear Alan Mak MP

Re: Southleigh Development Site – Link Road

As Leader of Havant Borough Council, I am writing to you with regards to the proposed Southleigh development site and to thank you for the clear concern you have raised about link road infrastructure to support any such development.

The Southleigh Strategic Site represents the single largest residential development opportunity in the borough, and as such should have sufficient infrastructure to support it. With the potential for at least 2,100 homes on site, Southleigh represents a development opportunity of such scale it can potentially support its own identity and community. It is vital we get this right from the outset.

Southleigh – whose proximity to the A27 could be sensibly used to alleviate pressures on older, smaller roads like the A259 – is well recognised. As Leader, I am eager that supporting infrastructure is commensurate to development and - like yourself in your recent letter to residents - have been campaigning to draw attention to this need at a national level.

This month, I have formally written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking for his support in providing the infrastructure that will help new developments such as Southleigh to successfully integrate into existing communities. I have done this with the welcome support of Councillor Lulu Bowerman (Executive Member for Highways and Passenger Transport at Hampshire County Council) in the hope of not only showing the importance of this issue, but the solidarity behind it.

It is with this public solidarity that I ask for your support. In your recent letter to residents, you clearly articulated that Havant Borough Council was solely responsible for any outcomes (or lack of) for Southleigh. I think this does you a disservice; you represent our borough and many of its constituents and there is a clear place for your voice to be heard at a national level regarding issues that matter to us locally. You could help make a difference.

With that in mind, I would therefore like to ask you to also contact the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and to reiterate the concerns that are being raised at so many levels – in sentiment, letters, meetings and committees - throughout the

borough. In your position representing our constituents, you also have leverage with bodies like National Highways to influence their allocation of funds through their Road Investment Strategy, as well as supporting Councillor Bowerman in securing investment from Hampshire County Council. In recent weeks we have seen such investment locally, with Fareham securing connectivity between the M27 and the new Welborne Garden Village development; you are well placed to help leverage similar investment in our borough.

I would also welcome your attendance at the **Southleigh Development Consultation Forum Event**, which is to be held at 5pm at Emsworth Baptist Church on Tuesday 27 January to hear the concerns of residents as they raise them. Although you will not be able to contribute directly to the event as it must follow strict parameters, it will provide an invaluable opportunity to experience public sentiment at first hand.

As Leader, I am content I've acted promptly, accurately and at the right levels to draw national attention to what is required at Southleigh. I look forward in anticipation to any support you could provide to address this concern – which left unchecked could have a profoundly negative and long-term impact on the borough and our residents.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Munday', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Phil Munday
Leader, Havant Borough Council