



## NEIL PARISH

*Member of Parliament for Tiverton & Honiton*

Mr John R Ballantyne  
3 Bishops Rise  
Kentisbeare  
Cullompton  
Devon EX15 2BA

24<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Mr Ballantyne,

Thank you for your email on proposals for a garden village near Cullompton.

I have lived in the West Country all my life and care deeply about protecting our rural communities and way of life. However, I am very conscious about the need to build more homes. As it stands, too many young people cannot get onto the housing ladder as demand has far outstripped supply. Especially in counties such as Devon, young people cannot afford to live locally and decide to move away.

I am afraid that 20-30 new homes in each village in Mid Devon is just not going to be sufficient. We will need to consider options like the new 'Culm Garden Village' to provide the homes we need. The new garden projects will also have access to infrastructure funding programmes across government, such as the new £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund.

I am committed to ensuring that the Garden Village proposals have the support of the local community. It's vital that these new homes are of the highest quality. We mustn't re-make some of the mistakes made in the 1960s and 1970s, where we built the sort of homes which were deeply unpopular with the public and undermined further support for local housing development. Moreover, no-one wants to see cheap and unsympathetic design, particularly on Green Belt land. All the evidence suggests that people prefer to live in conventional street-based designs with traditional architectural styles. We need design which helps protect agricultural activities and the unique character of rural communities.

As you may know, the Mid Devon Council is currently consulting on proposals through its Local Plan Review. I hope you will have your say via this link: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/local-plan-review/>

Thank you again for your email.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Parish MP

*Agreed by Neil Parish MP and signed on his behalf in his absence.*