

I'm speaking on behalf of Galliard Homes which is one of the 2 principal controllers of land at the proposed West of Braintree location for a Garden Community. In fact this evening

Robert Bucknell who is the other main controller of the land, and unfortunately is unable to attend this meeting, also wishes to be associated with these comments. The 2 have been working co-operatively on their 'vision' for some time, and will continue to do so.

We are very pleased to see that the Council has continued to make garden communities one of the cornerstones of its delivery of new housing through the local plan. We support the confirmation in the draft plan of West of Braintree as a proposed location and confirm our ability to deliver homes with infrastructure in a viable manner in accordance with the principles the Council has set out. We will continue to engage with the Council, its consultants and local communities to ensure this new place is of the highest quality with supporting infrastructure delivered when it is needed. We will also work to ensure impact on the local area is minimised, and that residents of existing communities will feel they are benefitting from this new way of looking at housing delivery and not being asked to put up with only negative impacts.

We have met with representatives of the nearby communities, and we hope we will continue to have that opportunity. At Stebbing Green, for example, we are aware of residents' principal concerns and have offered to work with them to look at not only mitigation measures but most importantly community benefit opportunities that could be included in a future more detailed master plan.

We will also be doing all we can to support this joint Braintree/Uttlesford vision as it is described in the draft Plan, as this will be a superb example of a co-operative cross-border initiative. Not just co-operation for the sake of it and to tick a box, but to deliver new homes and supporting community infrastructure that would really make a difference.

It is excellent that in a future master plan the fact that an administrative boundary crosses the site should be of little consequence. The land owners are the same on both sides, and including land in Uttlesford will enable the whole community to be better planned with a higher quality environment, more open space, with better access to the main road network, served by

more efficient infrastructure that can be provided sooner.

MARTIN HERBERT, DIRECTOR – TOWN PLANNING, WYG

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