

Mike Newman, Independent.

38 High Street, Hunsdon, Ware,

Improvements in healthcare coupled with a reduction in average household composition mean that, across the western world, extra homes are required to meet the needs of every community. I am working alongside Parish Councillors to explore how and where a few homes could be provided each year to ensure our villages can accommodate the young families that will be their lifeblood in years to come. The nature of that new housing is clear though; it must meet local needs, be located where the local infrastructure can sustain it and consume the absolute minimum of greenfield land.

The proposal to build tens of thousand of houses on arable land north of Harlow fails all these criteria; it would serve only to swell the coffers of the investment companies that own the land and would be to the great detriment - or even destruction - of every community within and around the area. It is for that reason I have been so actively involved in STOP Harlow North since the inception of the group in 2004, as Hunsdon's representative and as its website author / administrator.

Within the group's core team I have worked to define its strategy and to put into effect each activity that has served to hinder the plans of the land owners, from the organization of 'Meet in the Middle' demonstrations to the collation of thousands of on-line responses to the various public consultations.

The change in government, and with it the revocation of the East of England Plan, has undoubtedly swung the situation in our favour. Our focus is now on ensuring that the Local Development Framework currently being prepared by East Herts Council finally and comprehensively dismisses the Harlow North proposition and I will work tirelessly as a member of the Council to achieve that goal.