



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Local Government and Building Safety*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 April 2023

Dear John,

Planning application at land north west of Hamberts Farm, Burnham Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford - planning application 21/01961/OUT

Thank you for your emails of 10 November 2021, 31 January 2023 and 23 March 2023 asking the Secretary of State to call in the above planning application.

The general approach of the Secretary of State is not to interfere with the decision-making process of local councils on planning matters. The Government's position is that these matters are generally best determined locally, by local councils that know their own area best, rather than by central Government. The Secretary of State's power to call in a case will be used very selectively, and in general only if planning issues of more than local importance are involved. Further information about the call-in policy is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-applications-called-in-decisions-and-recovered-appeals>.

The Secretary of State has considered your request and has decided, having had regard to the call-in policy, not to call in this application. His decision was issued on 12 April and I attach a copy for your reference.

I am sorry that this is not the outcome that you or your constituents may have hoped for, and I realise the decision will come as a disappointment. However, it is now for Chelmsford City Council to determine the application. If your constituents wish to make any further representations, they should do so to the officers or members of the council.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Local Government and Building Safety