

RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RJ20635-JG
19th March 2021

Dear Ms Shrimpton,

Thank you for your email of 27th February. I am sorry for the delay in replying to you; as I hope you will understand, due to an understandably higher than normal level of emails being sent to me from many people seeking advice due to coronavirus, they are taking slightly longer to be dealt with than usual.

I am grateful to you for writing – and for enclosing a copy of the letter from your Chairman, Bruce Bulgin, regarding the concerns that Fleet Business Improvement District (BID) has raised about Permitted Developments Rights (PDR) outlined in the *Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Space Infrastructure* consultation which closed on 28th January.

As you know from our meeting in April last year, I am passionately committed to the regeneration of Fleet, and the problem in Fleet – to my mind – has been the lack of strategic vision provided by Hart District Council (HDC). That is the only reason these office blocks are still there and being converted! I do believe that it is crucial to support brownfield development and to avoid the need to build on greenfield sites, but I would much rather see old office blocks knocked down and new buildings – of better design – built in their place. HDC could support this right now by progressing an ‘Article 4’ direction, to remove the PDR already in place, under which the current examples of conversion have been possible.

I hope that Fleet BID had the opportunity to put forward its concerns about permitted development rights to the Consultation and will take up the PDR issue with HDC. Although HM Government is now considering all responses before proceeding, I will certainly write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, to ensure that he is aware of your concerns too.

Thank you again for contacting me and I look forward to our continued close working to push on with the regeneration we all want to see.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ranil', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

RANIL JAYAWARDENA

Tracey Shrimpton
Fleet Business Improvement District (BID) Company Ltd.
c/o Kirk Rice LLP, Victoria House, 178-180 Fleet Road
Fleet
Hampshire GU51 4DA

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE
(020) 7219 3637 • email@ranil.uk • ranil.uk • facebook.ranil.uk