

---

**From:** John Crookenden [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 27 February 2015 16:34  
**To:** Planning Policy  
**Cc:** bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk; priti.patel.mp@parliament.uk; info@bobrussell.org.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Update

Dear Sir or Madam

I have read the consultation documents and am disappointed at the lack of objectivity, clarity and bias towards a new stand alone settlement at Marks Tey. I have lived in the Borough for over forty years and during that time the Council has been proud to receive the title of the fastest growing town in the County or in Essex. I agree with Sir Bob Russell's comment in today's County Standard when he says "Being the fastest growing (town) is not a record, I think, most people in Colchester would be proud of" and he does on to say "Colchester has taken far too much housing development."

In my view there should be no additional development in the Colchester Borough area until:

1. The proposed widening of the A12 has been consulted upon, alterations agreed and contracts let to experienced contractors and the costs ring fenced by central government.
2. The problem with resolving the problems on the A120 between Braintree and have been talked about since 1938 and nothing has been achieved. The Highways Agency has described it above capacity and lacking in resilience which is why the road id is regularly closed following accidents and traffic moves slowly at peak times. Establishing a new route or alterations needs to established urgently and agreed by local authorities and contracts let to experienced contractors and the costs ring fenced by central government.
3. The number of new housing units in the SHMA report are only and indication of future need. It must be remembered that all financial transactions include a disclaimer that past performance are no guarantee that the same will occur in future. This is particularly important because with the advance in communications there is a strong likelihood that office workers will spend less time in offices and working from home will increase. The cost and rate of increase in annual season tickets will be a disincentive for commuters to move to Colchester because over mortgage period the cost could be £500,000.
4. I encourage the planning process to consider examples of schemes that have worked such at Poundbury which is an urban extension to Dorchester and Didcot and Bicester which have fallen far short of expectations and will inconvenience local residents long in to the future.
5. The new local plan for Colchester must be drawn up to ensure all development is sustainable, and is based on evidence and principles and is not influenced by developers who are concerned about their profit.
6. Finally, I believe the whole process should be open and transparent and all communications in whatever form should be published for all to read and digest.

Please acknowledge receipt and I look forward to your comments in due course

John Crookenden  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]