GORDON HENDERSON MP

Member of Parliament for Sittingbourne and Sheppey

HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr J. Wilson Swale Borough Council Planning Department Swale House East Street Sittingbourne ME10 3HT

Jean Mr Wuson

Sittingbourne Regeneration

I understand that in the report on Planning Application 14/505440/Full-14/506429/ADJ being presented to the Planning Committee on Monday 16th March 2015 one of the objections has been identified as being made "via the MP".

A number of people have taken this to mean that I object to the plans to regenerate Sittingbourne Town Centre and I would like it made clear that this is certainly NOT the case. All my office staff did was pass on to Swale Borough Council a letter of objection received from one of my constituents.

Indeed, I fully support the planning application because not only will it provide the people of Sittingbourne and Sheppey with the entertainment facilities for which many have been calling for some time, but the proposed leisure quarter opposite the station will transform the centre of Sittingbourne and encourage people back into the High Street. It will also boost the local economy and create hundreds of jobs.

In addition, the application will increase the overall retail provision in Sittingbourne, which will reduce the temptation for local people to travel out of the area to shop, further improving prospects for the High Street.

Finally, I welcome the proposal for 215 homes in the centre of Sittingbourne. We need more homes in our area and I would much prefer to build on brown field sites, such as those being proposed, than cement over more of our green fields.

GORDON HENDERSON MP

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