



28/11/15

Maria Caulfield, MP

Dear Ms M Caulfield, MP,

We note your speech at this week's Prime Minister's Question time highlighting your constituents concerns at the lack of affordable housing in Lewes District. To further represent your constituents we would, on behalf of residents of Lewes District, urge you to consider following your predecessor's precedence in standing up to dysfunctional councils and call for an urgent investigation into the ten points in Appendix A.

On the 3rd of November 2015 IfS sent a letter to each of the 41 Lewes District Councillors (Appendix A).

To date (27/11/15) 2 responses have been received, one stating they would defer their decision until after the December 9th Full Council meeting, the other from Catherine Knight of LDC (Appendix B) on behalf of an undisclosed number of Councillors. Two councillors contacted IfS members by phone or email however failed to follow these up with a response to the request in the letter.

LDC, since 2012, chose to arrange the sale of assets without consulting or considering residents and kept the List of Sites confidential for 3 years. Had a transparent and open procedure been followed then proposals for community based ideas, leading to utilisation of those assets providing long term useage and financial return, could have been explored. Section 4, paragraph 2 of Catherine Knight's letter states: "made available significant opportunity for residents to comment on our proposals." LDC held 1 consultation in July, but had already signed a partnership agreement with the developers in September 2014, (see timeline) and 3 days after the July consultations they signed a further contract. Furthermore no consultations were held with town/parish councils or relevant stakeholders.

Yours faithfully

Sylvia Dunn, Executive Officer
O.B.O. Independents for Seaford Executive