



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our ref: LDN4146

19 September 2007

Dear [REDACTED]

Proposals For The Relocation Of Luton Town Football Club To Junction 12 Of The M1.

With reference to your recent correspondence to myself regarding the above – may I first of all take this opportunity to thank you for bringing your views on this matter to my attention. I would have responded to you sooner, but have discovered that much of the speculation in the local media about these proposals, has not been matched with the detailed plans that I, and many others, have been seeking.

As you will be aware, in March of this year Rosemound Developments Limited announced they had signed an agreement with Cliff Bassett, owner of a 250 acre site at Old Park Farm, near to Harlington (south of Junction 12 of the M1) to provide a new 25,000 seat stadium for Luton Town Football Club, (LTFC). It is important to bear in mind, that under the current proposals, the relocation of the LTFC is only a proportion of what is being considered for this site; included with the proposals are substantial plans to build four large warehouses/distribution centres alongside the new stadium. The totality of what is currently envisaged goes far beyond just proposals for a new football stadium and therefore the plans should be considered in this far wider context.

Whilst I remain sympathetic to Luton Town Football Club's ambitions to build a new stadium to help them realise their goal to reach the top flight of English football, I am extremely concerned as to the viability of re-locating to Junction 12. In particular I am concerned with the size and scale of the proposed development and the impact this would have on the local environment. Any additional traffic – whether it be caused by visitors to the stadium or lorries at the warehouses/distribution centres would affect the quality of life for residents in the villages of Harlington, Toddington and Westoning.

In light of these concerns, I am in principle totally opposed to the relocation of LTFC to Junction 12 and believe further consideration should be made of alternative sites - this should include a full assessment as to what opportunities there may be to keep Luton Town FC within the town of Luton itself. For example, the Kenilworth Road area of Luton would benefit from significant regeneration and should be properly considered in any



proposals for a new stadium. LTFC should also re-visit proposals for Junction 10, particularly in light of Luton Airport's decision to withdraw plans for a second runway. An earlier proposal to re-locate to Junction 11A should also be re-considered too.

As you will also be aware, neither Rosemound or their partners have yet to submit a planning application for this site, although I understand that by late Autumn 2007 a proposal will be formally lodged with South Bedfordshire District Council. As and when such an application is submitted, I will examine it in great detail and make appropriate representations to the Planners to express my total opposition to the relocation of LTFC to Junction 12. I would encourage all those who have taken an interest in this issue to make representations on this matter also. The application will then be determined by the Joint Planning and Transportation Committee, JPTC (a joint body with representatives from South Beds District Council and Luton Borough Council), although I suspect that an application of this size would be 'called in' by the Secretary of State and subject to a public inquiry.

As soon as I am aware of any further news on this matter then I will be in contact – in the meantime if there are any further points you would like to bring to my attention on this or other issues then please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

Yours,
Nadine

Nadine Dorries MP
Member of Parliament for Mid Bedfordshire

cc Cllr Tom Nicols.