



The Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government
Houses of Parliament
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Jenrick,

Please ensure that the proposed planning reforms do not prevent young people from having a say in shaping the future of their environment

As the Government reflects on the public's response to its Planning White Paper: "Planning for the Future", Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Keeping it Wild members ask that you think again.

As members of Keeping it Wild between the ages of 13 and 26 we share a passion for the natural world. As volunteers we care for wildlife rich greenspaces and campaign to improve our shared environment in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. We speak out on environmental issues that are important to us, but we fear that the proposed planning reforms, with centralised housing targets and pre-determined planning decisions, will seriously weaken our ability to speak out in future.

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and whilst it is clear the current planning system could work better for wildlife, these reforms are not the answer. We believe they will make a bad situation much worse – failing nature, people and local democracy. We believe that the proposed zoning system will lead to further loss of wild habitat and greenspace, especially in urban areas - further disadvantaging communities with least access to greenspace on their doorsteps.

We fear that Government's 'build, build, build,' approach will put too much power in the hands of developers and will undermine efforts to meet carbon reduction targets. The climate and ecological crises must be tackled in tandem and we have a limited time to act. Without a major rethink these short-sighted reforms will result in decisions that will damage the environment and negatively affect our futures.

The past six months have shown just how important nature and greenspace are to people's health and wellbeing. As Secretary of State we seek your personal assurance that these reforms will not represent a 'slippery slope', with communities less able to influence key decisions.

As we face up to unprecedented environmental challenges we ask you to guarantee that the natural world we care so passionately about and rely upon for our wellbeing will be properly safeguarded and not sacrificed in the pursuit of short-term goals. As young people committed to shaping a better future for our shared environment we feel strongly that meaningful consultation must be central to any reform of the planning system. We want to know that we will have a meaningful say in future decisions that will shape the places we choose to live, study and work.

Yours Sincerely

Keeping it Wild

Indy (14)	Thomas (19)
Mia (18)	Erin (14)
Iona (20)	Ellie (16)
Charlotte (26)	Izzy (13)
Alex (28)	Joe (15)
Kate (26)	Joseph (16)
Tom (26)	

