



# OTTERY ST MARY

Town Council

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**BY E-MAIL & FIRST CLASS POST**

27<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

Dear Mr Jupp,

**Re: "Planning For The Future" - White Paper.**

I am chairman of the planning committee of Ottery St Mary Town Council and am writing to you following our meeting of Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> August when we considered the Government's Planning For The Future document.

At the meeting there was strong and unanimous condemnation of the Government's proposals. Councillors were highly critical of many aspects of the White Paper. The proposal which drew the strongest criticism - and it would be no exaggeration to say that councillors were outraged - was the proposal to remove the opportunity for the general public and councillors to comment on, and seek to influence, planning applications. This takes away one of the fundamental rights of local democracy.

Ottery St Mary Town Council considers that this proposal is nothing less than an attack on the democratic principles that underpin our system of government.

The Town Council therefore calls on you, as a matter of urgency, to do everything that you possibly can to persuade the Government to withdraw the White Paper and to abandon these unnecessary and highly damaging proposals.

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Richard Copus**

**Chairman Ottery St Mary Town Council Planning Committee**