

MARK RECKLESS

Member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th February 2015

Dear Resident

CAMPAIGN SUCCESS AS LODGE HILL 'CALLED IN'

Medway Council's support for Lodge Hill and concreting over a bird sanctuary to build 5,000 houses

The Conservative Council's plans, supported by both Labour and the Lib Dems have now, after months of our campaigning, been stopped in their tracks.

In an extremely welcome announcement today, acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, the Department of Communities and Local Government has decided to 'call in' Medway Council's decision. This means Lodge Hill cannot proceed pending a full Public Inquiry. In particular, this will consider how on earth Medway Council could possibly think it right to approve Lodge Hill when the National Planning Policy Framework states "proposed development on land within a Site of Special Scientific Interest should not normally be permitted".

I am absolutely delighted at this news. It is a remarkable win for all of us who oppose destruction of this special site following its designation as an SSSI. I believe this is a vindication of my decision to call a by-election and put Lodge Hill at the forefront of my campaign, putting the environmental devastation that would have resulted from the Council's decision at the centre of national debate.

Today is a very big victory, but I will not rest until we have won the war and defeated Medway Council and its Lodge Hill development at the Public Inquiry.

Yours faithfully,



Mark celebrates Lodge Hill 'call in' decision with residents in Hoo

Mark Reckless MP