

Dear Sir

I was alarmed to read the article "Reforms spell great danger for the borough" in the 18th March edition of The Herald.

Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council are also extremely concerned as "planning decisions on new housing and other developments will no longer be made by democratically-elected planning committees, but by planning officers in accordance with newly-adopted Local Design Codes".

Carol Cockburn alerts us to the danger that we are being misled into thinking this is about design when, in reality, it is about giving developers automatic planning permission.

Developers already have too much power and the power of local people is being eroded yet again so that we will not be able to object or have any say in where development takes place. Local communities have spent much time and trouble in the preparation of local plans and now, it seems, they could be over-ridden. Waverley Council Leader, John Ward warns that the Government is "opening the doors for developers to absolutely kill us, and Waverley will be objecting".

If you care about where development takes place then it is important to object to these radical planning reforms before it is too late as the Government is expected to launch some pilots across England in July. Actions which could be taken are writing to your MP and signing this petition:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/556396>