

The Prime Minister
Boris Johnson
House of Commons
London
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Dear Prime Minister

My Council at its meeting held on 7 March 2022, voted unanimously to support the efforts made by you and your government to provide aid to the Ukrainian people. We realise that the burden of higher prices and possible shortages in our shops is a small price to pay in comparison to losing one's freedom and independence and even one's life.

We encourage you to continue to reduce our country's dependence on oil and gas wherever they may be sourced. To this end we would suggest a stronger planning regime which would require new builds to be designed with the environment in mind. While we appreciate that some advances in this direction have been made, there is so much more legislation which is needed to ensure that sustainable energy efficient developments based around renewable energy, virtually free of the grid, enhance the present building standards.

Burgess Hill is a main centre of housing development in West Sussex with some 5000 new homes being built and more in the planning stages. We are but one centre in the country where this scale of building is taking place. Now is the time to introduce an amendment to planning law to ensure that all builds meet stringent environmental requirements. There are very good reasons for developers to include measures such as solar panels, storage batteries, heat pumps and improved insulation as a matter of course in their designs, and to exclude fossil fuel energy sources, such as gas boilers. Much could also be done to achieve measured reductions in embedded carbon in construction. By so doing our dependence on other countries will be reduced and a healthier lifestyle promoted; We will also be on a better course to achieve our nation's net zero carbon goals.

I have copied this letter to the Minister of State for Housing, Stuart Andrew MP, our local member of Parliament, Mims Davies MP, Ken Glendinning of Homes England and Kathryn Hall, the CEO of Mid Sussex District Council planning authority in the hope that they will realise that now is the ideal time to introduce and enforce alternative and improved building methods.

Yours sincerely

Steven Cridland
CEO