

# Aldborough Hatch Defence Association

# News Release

Release Immediate

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## **Government's Communities Minister will call-in any planning applications to build housing or to extract further sand and gravel from green belt**

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles, Minister of State for Communities and Local Government, has agreed to call-in any planning applications to Redbridge Council affecting the green belt.

This news was given to over 60 members of the Aldborough Hatch Defence Association at their annual general meeting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Said Ron Jeffries, Chairman: "Lee Scott, MP for Ilford North, has confirmed that the Communities Minister wishes to have referred to him any planning applications for housing or further sand and gravel extraction on Fairlop Plain.

"This news is welcomed by the Association. It is a breakthrough in our ENOUGH IS ENOUGH campaign to know that the responsible Government Minister is taking a personal interest in protecting the green belt of Fairlop Plain from unwanted and unnecessary intrusion.

"We recall that when the Planning Inspector gave the go-ahead for the London City All-Weather Racecourse to be built at Fairlop Waters, against the overwhelming objections of residents, our then MP, Linda Perham, referred this to the Deputy Prime Minister – who called in the application and overturned the Inspector's decision largely on green belt terms. We are hopeful that Eric Pickles will do the same.

"Roger Evans, Greater London Authority Member for Havering and Redbridge, has raised the same issues with Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, and is awaiting his support in protecting the green belt.

"Both our MP and GLA Member are backing us. Miller & Carter, owners of the Dick Turpin Restaurant, have also added their unreserved support – for they do not want the noise, dirt and dust of a gravel pit within a few metres of their outdoor dining area."

Summing up, Ron Jeffries said: "We are battling to save the green belt every day and with the big guns supporting us, this is a war we are determined to win for the benefit of our children and grandchildren."

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