

## Hitchin Town Action Group

### Bullet points for guidance of those wishing to write to councillors about potential housing sites and with particular reference to Priory Fields

If you yourself would like to write to your local councillor about potential housing sites around Hitchin, please do not simply copy the HTAG letter – it will be so much more effective (and much more likely to be taken seriously) if you put your objection in your own words.

You could expand on any or all of the following points:

- Recognition of the need for new housing in North Herts.
- The importance of any new housing being built in suitable and sustainable locations.
- The importance of maintaining Hitchin's historic and unique character within its setting in the surrounding countryside.
- Recognition that the Green Belt around our town may have to be breached, but that this needs to be in the least sensitive locations.
- Avoiding the choice of those areas that act as a 'green lung' for residents, providing a tranquil space for both physical and mental recreation; Hitchin doesn't have extensive protected 'green lungs' on the scale of Norton Common or Fairlands Valley within the town, ours are in the Green Belt.
- In this context Priory Fields (site 209E Park Way to Maydencroft in Council documents), with its easy access to open countryside by foot from much of the town is particularly important for the health and well being of Hitchin residents.
- The importance of not despoiling unnecessarily the natural beauty of this area of countryside, with its outstanding views towards the Chilterns and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which, once built over, would be lost forever.
- The importance of individual settlements retaining separate and distinct identities, rather than being merged into one amorphous mass, with the Priory Fields development resulting in Gosmore and Charlton becoming part of the Hitchin urban area.