

Rt Hon, Boris Johnson, M  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1A 2AB

20 July 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: Planning for people and nature – the case for a democratic and locally led planning system**

We have noted, with rising concern, your government’s intentions to ‘rip up the red tape’ in the planning system. Further deregulation of the planning system would erode the foundations of any green and just recovery long before the first brick is laid. Nowhere else in the world is such a deregulatory race to the bottom being considered.

It would also be completely out of touch with the public mood, at a time when two thirds of people reported wanting to see greater protection and investment in local greenspaces after lockdown.

This surge of appreciation for quality local green spaces is just one indicator of the increased appetite for action to tackle the housing, climate and nature crises head on. As a broad coalition of environment, housing, heritage and planning organisations, we call on you to support a robust, locally led and democratic planning system with people and nature at its heart.

Planning is about choices and your government is at a fork in the road. Investing in locally accountable and democratic planning will deliver the homes and liveable places communities will feel proud to call home. Further deregulation of planning will only result in the exact opposite of ‘building back better’.

Yours sincerely,



The  
countryside  
charity



Wildlife and  
Countryside





WOODLAND TRUST

SumOfUs7



The Heritage Alliance



giving nature a home



earthwatch EUROPE

