



Lee Barron MP
Member of Parliament for Corby
and East Northamptonshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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I'm getting in touch as your MP to let you know about a campaign I'm launching.

Many town and parish councils regularly get in touch with me regarding issues involving North Northamptonshire Council, particularly where emails and enquiries have gone unanswered or have not received a response within a reasonable timeframe.

My fellow North Northamptonshire MPs and I, alongside unitary councillors, have access to our own portal for submitting enquiries to the council, helping to ensure that cases receive a response within an appropriate timeframe. Unfortunately, town and parish councils do not currently have the same facility.

I have heard from a number of local councils who have had to escalate cases through their councillors, ask individual councillors to submit personal Section 106 enquiries, or, in some cases, even resort to Local Government Ombudsman complaints simply to obtain answers for their residents.

I do not believe this is acceptable.

I recognise the incredibly important work that town and parish councils do for their communities. Many of you are elected representatives with a clear mandate from local residents, and you should have an effective and appropriate route to raise issues with North Northamptonshire Council on their behalf.

That is why I am campaigning for every parish and town council in North Northamptonshire to have access to its own correspondence portal, providing a clear route for enquiries and helping to ensure that you and your residents receive timely responses.

Similar systems have already been implemented by other local authorities through "Town & Parish Council Portals", including Bath & North East Somerset, North Yorkshire and East Lindsey.

I am asking North Northamptonshire Council to introduce a similar system here.

If your parish or town council would be happy to support this campaign, please let me know. I will be writing formally to North Northamptonshire Council on **Thursday the 1st of October**, and intend to include a list of the parish and town councils supporting the campaign.

Thank you very much for your time and for the work you do for your communities.

Lee Barron MP
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