

**From:** [David, Hefin \(Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member\)](#)  
**To:** [Correspondence mail - JJ](#)  
**Cc:** [NDE](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** HD/JJ/121119: Draft National Development Framework  
**Date:** 12 November 2019 17:08:35

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Dear Julie,

With regard the Draft National Development Framework, I support the comments made by Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust, including their call for more specific outcomes and policies that will make a measurable difference to people's quality of life.

I also agree with their strong support for the Green Belt proposed for South East Wales, and their suggestion that it should include Caerphilly Mountain from the Taff Gorge eastwards to Ruperra and south to Castleton. It should stretch from the southern boundary of Caerphilly town over Caerphilly Mountain along its whole length as far as Ruperra, to include the good quality agricultural land between it and the northern boundary of the M4, and join up with the existing Green Belt between Newport and Cardiff. Unless all this land is protected there is a real danger that options will be taken on it by developers.

Designation of a Green Belt for this whole area at national level should give a significant boost to Caerphilly's aspiration to move development pressure further north, It would signal a very different approach to housing provision, away from the current - failed - model. It would help shape the urban form in South East Wales in ways that better align with public transport provision, particularly as augmented by Metro. It would protect the setting of Caerphilly, Newport and Cardiff, and signal Welsh Government's determination to reject the urban sprawl seen all too often with the current approach.

In my previous role as a Member of Caerphilly County Borough Council I was pleased to be part of a drive to direct development to the Mid and Heads of the Valleys, to brownfield sites and away from the greenfield sites further south so favoured by the major housebuilders. This focus on regenerating the Valleys is reflected in Caerphilly's current LDP, and I will argue for the same approach to figure in the forthcoming SDP for the Capital City Region.

Welsh Government has the opportunity to forge a new path to a much more sustainable housing delivery model fit for the 21st Century. I urge you to ensure that one important means of achieving this - a widened Green Belt for South East Wales as defined above - is reflected in the final version of the NDF.

I have submitted a copy of this letter to [ndf@gov.wales](mailto:ndf@gov.wales).

Hefin

**Hefin David**

**Assembly Member for Caerphilly | Aelod Cynulliad dros Caerffili**

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