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Dear Villages Together,

I am writing to update you following my recent correspondence with the Department for Transport regarding the application of the "place before movement" principle in rural transport assessments, a copy of the Department's response to which I have attached for your information.

I have now received a reply from the Minister for Local Transport. While the response acknowledges the principle and refers to forthcoming national guidance, it does not fully address the key concerns that you and the Parish Councils have raised.

In particular, the Department's reply does not provide:

- clear guidance on how "place before movement" should be applied in rural contexts;
- a measurable framework for assessing place impacts in villages;
- guidance on cumulative or cross?boundary impacts;
- a response to the proposed Leicestershire pilot area; or
- clarity on how the principle interacts with housing delivery targets.

Given these gaps, I will be following up with the Department for Transport to press for clearer and more practical national guidance that reflects the realities facing rural communities.

Claire is continuing to keep me updated on progress locally and has also put you in contact with the gentleman who attended my recent constituency surgery. I am grateful for this ongoing engagement.

This is a challenge faced by many communities across my constituency, and I want to reiterate my full support for what you are trying to achieve. I will continue to raise these issues and keep you informed of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Bedford MP
Member of Parliament for Mid Leicestershire

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