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Horsted Keynes
Haywards Heath
RH17 7AU

Mims Davies MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 September 2020

Dear Ms Davies

Community Housing Fund

I am writing on behalf of the Horsted Keynes Community Land Trust Feasibility Group to ask for your support in pressing HM Treasury and MHCLG to renew the Community Housing Fund.

Although unfortunately the CHF was not included in the Chancellor's Spring Budget, we understand that there is another chance to have it renewed in the CSR. As I am sure you can imagine, this issue is incredibly important for us in Horsted Keynes.

While the Government has cancelled the autumn budget, we have been advised that officials are still working on spending review proposals, and the CHF can still be included under MHCLG's departmental expenditure (RDEL) for the next few years.

As a sector as a whole, we are delivering on many of the Government's priorities for housing and the aims of the CSR.

Recent research commissioned by the National CLT Network and conducted by respected consultancy Capital Economics also shows that community led housing represents high value for money for public investment.

The Government recognised the benefits of community led housing when it initially launched the Community Housing Fund, which was a significant success. There are 10,780 homes in live applications on Homes England's system, 859 communities bringing forward projects and the potential pipeline has grown from just under 6,000 homes in 2017 to over 23,000 homes today.

It is vital that the Government now delivers on its manifesto commitment to community led housing by renewing the Community Housing Fund for five more years. Please can you urgently raise this with Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and urge him to extend the Community Housing Fund for five years as part of the CSR. Please also share the CSR submission of the National Community Land Trust Network. I have attached a template letter, which I hope you will find useful when contacting the Chancellor.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Miles 

Secretary of the Horsted Keynes Community Land Trust Feasibility Group