

Cllr Andy Graham
Leader West Oxfordshire District Council
Via Email

Tuesday 11th February 2025

RE: The Deputy Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council

Dear Cllr Graham,

We write to raise our concerns about the current Deputy Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, Cllr Duncan Enright.

As you know Cllr Enright holds a paid post for The Community Communications Partnership who are a company that works to bridge the gap with housing developers and local councils. In a recent blog post written by Cllr Enright he openly advises developers on how to influence councillors and navigate the planning process and this in our view raises serious ethical concerns. His guidance to developers, encouraging them to “get someone who speaks ‘councillor’ to engage them” and highlighting how different political groups may react to development proposals, undermines public trust in the impartiality of local government decision-making.

Transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of local democracy, and Cllr Enright’s dual role as both a councillor and an adviser to developers presents an unacceptable conflict that must be addressed. His suggestion that developers should engage councillors strategically, taking into account political dynamics and local campaign issues, raises concerns about the integrity of the planning process.

Cllr Enright’s comments expose a glaring conflict of interest. As an elected representative, his duty is to serve the residents of our communities, not to coach developers on how to secure planning approvals. His position in a PR firm that works with developers raises serious questions about whether he can act in the best interests of residents while simultaneously advising private clients on how to gain political support for their projects.

It is our view that Cllr Enright should be removed from his role as the Deputy Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, and we ask that you take the necessary steps to ensure this is the case.

We cannot allow the activity of one individual to undermine the District Councils position on housing and planning at such a crucial time during the Local Plan review and the actions of Cllr Enright if he remains in post could be damaging to the council.

Yours,



Cllr Michele Mead
Conservative Group Leader



Cllr Liam Walker
Conservative Deputy Group Leader