EDGcott Parish Council

5 February 2021

FAO: Permanent Secretary Antonia Romeo
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
Westminster
London
SW1 H9AJ

Via email to: PSDKenquiries@justice.gov.uk

Dear Madam

The New Prisons Programme and proposals for a potential new prison in Buckinghamshire
Proposed New Prison at the Grendon/Springhill Site

Edgcott Parish Council is particularly concerned that the consultation period for this proposal is much too short.

Based on the information in the first MoJ consultation document received on 2 December 2020 we were given until 24 December 2020 to make our submissions.

Following intervention from our MP the consultation period was extended to 29 January 2021 and in the meantime a revised MoJ consultation document was issued on 18 December 2020 which included a different layout of the proposed buildings. In addition, it also proposed a further block increasing the prison places to 1680 and the potential to expand HMP Springhill. This led to further confusion and anger particularly to those residents who had already made their submissions based on the first proposal.

We are now told that a further extension of one week has been granted to 5 February 2021.

Bearing in mind that this proposal was dropped on us over the Christmas/New Year period and for almost all of this time the country has been in full Covid lockdown then the timing could not have been worse for residents.

Public meetings are not permitted and leaflet drops are probably not advisable. Video conferencing is a very poor substitute for face to face meetings and a large number of residents do not have the IT access to make their voices heard.
EDGCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

A large part of the local community has been totally excluded by the project being presented, in what appears to be, such a totally unprofessional and tokenistic manner.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

PETER HARPER
Chair Edgcott Parish Council

Copy by email:
The Right Honourable Robert Buckland, QC MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Lucy Frazer, QC MP, Minister of State for Prisons and Probation
Mr G Smith, MP (Buckingham)
Mr M Tett, Leader Buckinghamshire Council
Mrs Angela Macpherson, Deputy Leader Buckinghamshire Council and Member for GU Ward
Mr Cameron Branston, Buckinghamshire Councillor
Mrs Kim Maloney, Chair Grendon Underwood Parish Council
Mr Barry Martindale, Clerk Grendon Underwood Parish Council
Mr Robert Webster, Edgcott Parish Council
Mrs Stephanie Gassor, Edgcott Parish Council
Mr Bob Kay, Edgcott Parish Council
Mrs Carole Jackman, Clerk Edgcott Parish Council
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Mr Rod Baker

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