

North Cray Residents Association AGM – 27th June 2018

Message from James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Thank you for inviting me to the North Cray Residents Association AGM tonight. I am sorry that due to Governmental duties I am unable to join you on this occasion. I would like to thank you for all your hard work in protecting the interests of local residents and preserving the local environment and beauty of North Cray. I would also like to thank you for all of the kind wishes and messages of support which I received when I was unwell earlier this year. It meant a lot and gave me strength at a very difficult time. I am pleased to have recovered strongly from surgery and to be fit and well and back to frontline politics.

At the end of April, I was honoured to have been asked by the Prime Minister to re-join Cabinet and serve as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. In this role, I have responsibility for ensuring people throughout the country have access to affordable and high quality housing, growing local economies, building integrated communities and supporting effective local government.

I am aware that the Green Belt and National Planning Policy Framework are of significant interest to the North Cray Residents Association. Please be assured that I recognise the significance of the Green Belt including the 1120 hectares within our local authority of Bexley which checks urban sprawl, preserves the character of historic towns, and safeguards our countryside from encroachment.

I continue to have a busy workload as your MP including continuing campaigns in support of Queen Mary's Hospital and to secure improvements on our local train services especially as we look towards the granting of a new contract to operate the services from next year. I am also conscious of the impact to local roads arising from seemingly regular failure of Thames Water's mains supply. The most significant recent example was the huge disruption to local gas supplies after water flooded the gas supply network, however there have been smaller regular incidents too. I am pressing Thames Water to invest further in its infrastructure in Bexley to avoid these types of emergency incidents. I look forward to continuing to work with the North Cray Residents Association in support of our local community in the year ahead.