

Ms C Adan  
Chief Executive  
Babergh District Council  
Corks Lane  
Hadleigh  
Suffolk  
IP7 6SJ

08 September 2014

Dear Ms Adam

**Re: Brantham Industrial Site**

I am writing to you today on behalf of Brantham Parish Council in response to the recent Brantham Regeneration Area Update received from Babergh District Council and St Francis Group.

The Council has very serious concerns about information in that newsletter that states that:

*“an independent viability expert from the Valuation Office Agency has been appointed to assess the viability of emerging proposals”.*

As you know the Planning Inspectors report stated that an independent viability assessment was an essential requirement re: the Proviso D land. The Parish Council would like to know how the VOA, which is part of the Public Sector and a Government Agency which promotes its Local Authority Partnership, can be considered to be independent?

The Parish Council understands that this development is not a Local Authority scheme, however it is apparent that Babergh District Council is very keen to have this site developed, whether for financial reward or to meet housing targets.

The people who live in Brantham however are strongly opposed to development on greenfield land which seems unnecessary and out of proportion. Following the Planning Inspector's report most residents in Brantham were comforted by the requirement for an independent viability assessment, and if there is to be any chance of residents accepting the

eventual outcome (whatever that may be) then it is the belief of the Parish Council that this testing should be undertaken by a professional company with no or very limited relationship with Babergh District Council and St Francis Group.

The Parish Council would like a response from Babergh District Council to the following questions:

- How was the VOA, which is part of the Public Sector and a Government Agency, considered to be an independent body?
- On what basis was the VOA given this task?
- Has the work been put out to tender?
- Please could the Parish Council be provided with a copy of the instruction brief given to the VOA.

I look forward to hearing from you with a response to these questions in the very near future.

Yours Sincerely,

**Sarah Keys**  
Parish Clerk (Brantham)