



Dame Cheryl Gillan  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

20 January 2021

### **Chilterns National Park**

Dear Dame Cheryl,

The Committee was delighted to note your November article in the House Magazine calling once again for the Chilterns AONB to be designated as a National Park.

We fully support this proposal, encouraging our members to sign the Parliamentary petition you sponsored alongside your encouragement for the Chilterns AONB to be recognized in the 2019 Independent Review of Landscapes.

We consider that Amersham is in a fortunate position, being readily accessible from London, not as an ever expanding commuter belt but rather as a facility for those seeking a cleaner, greener environment for leisure and well-being purposes. The unchecked drive for additional housing could readily result in a JG Ballard style dystopian spread of urbanization. Whereas the changes to working practices necessitated by Covid illustrate the potential for repurposing office space to meet housing need while safeguarding the countryside.

The need to redress the balance so that the strategic growth and transport decisions affecting the Chilterns are accompanied by strategic decisions to ensure environmental protection and sustainability is critical. As you have identified, this Country's leading role in COP 26 provides an opportunity for the Government to demonstrate its environmental commitment. We hope, in the midst of many other serious pressures, you will continue to lobby for the benefits yielded by creating a Chilterns National Park. If we can help in this endeavor we will be pleased to do so.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Spencer (Chairman)  
Elizabeth Jones (Environment Officer)