

From: [Steve Shaw](#)

To: priston_derk@tiscali.co.uk

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 12:51 PM

Subject: Good news and please help: Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill

[please forward this email on to anyone else in your constituency who may help]

Dear Mrs Hunt

Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill enters Parliament!

Action: Your MP is a Minister - YOUR HELP NEEDED to ensure this Bill becomes law

Firstly I have very good news! We have been successful in seeing the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill introduced into Parliament. Alistair Burt MP, drawn 7th in the Private Members' Ballot, has agreed to introduce it as his Bill along with five other cross-party sponsors. Thank you very much if you helped achieve this.

So, together with NALC and SLCC, we are now campaigning to see the Bill made law. This is vital as it will empower Parish and Town Councils to be involved in the Act's process. Whilst the Act's initial involvement across the country has been fantastic, its process is in danger of being a one off event. If our new Bill is made law, it will ensure the Act's process is ongoing. It will also give citizens the power to petition their Local Authorities to use that process.

We have already started negotiations with government and so far these have been constructive. But because of the expected General Election in May next year the Bill has very little time. We therefore need government support very soon, i.e. by early February 2010. There is a good chance of seeing this happen and **your help is vital**.

ACTION - please help urgently

Your local MP, Dan Norris, is also a government Minister. I therefore ask that you please help by doing the following:

1. **Please write, or email, your MP** asking them to 'Please, as a Minister, urge your government to support the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill and to give it the time it needs to become law this Parliamentary session.' A sample letter is below.
2. **Please urge members of Priston Parish Council and other local people to do so as well.** This is VERY important - if your MP hears from more constituents this will really help. If you can get just one or two more local people to do this quick and simple action, that will be fantastic.

Note you can find out your MP's contact details here: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk>

More information, including a detailed guide to the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill, can be found on our website in the 'resources' section - www.localworks.org.

Thank you very much in advance for your help.

Steve Shaw

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**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL
SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL TO YOUR MP**

Below is a sample letter/email you can send to your MP. Doing this will be *very* helpful and will only take a few moments.

The text below is a guide, please feel free to compose your own letters as they will be more effective. Also it is VERY important to please urge others to write too – the more the better!

Note:

You can find out your MP's name, address and email at <http://findyoump.parliament.uk> or by calling the House of Commons Information Line on 020 7219 4272.

Dear [your MP's name],

Re: the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill

I am writing to you as a constituent to notify you of the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill. This Bill will strengthen the original Act by empowering Parish and Town Councils to be involved in the Act's process, by making the process ongoing - so to further involve people in decision making - and by giving communities the power to petition their councils to use that process.

I therefore ask that you please, as a Minister, urge your government and the relevant Cabinet Committees to:

1. Support this Bill and help ensure it becomes law in this Parliamentary Session, and
2. If required, to agree to give the Bill extra time or agree to ways in which to speed up the procedure in this short session.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[your name]

[your address]

VERY IMPORTANT: Please send copies of any replies you receive to Local Works Campaign Co-ordinator, Steve Shaw, at steve@localworks.org or to Local Works, c/o Unlock Democracy, 6 Cynthia St, London N1 9JF

Thank you very much for your valuable help!

