

Ian Knowlson  
Chairman of the Hands off Our Sandbach (HOOS) Action Groups  
73 Congleton Road  
Sandbach  
CHESHIRE  
CW11 1HP

11th September 2017

Dear Ian:

I am writing to you on behalf of the board and members of Make It Macclesfield to express our shared concerns and sentiments described in your open letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> September to Sajid Javid, The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

I have also copied this letter by way of support to Manuel Golding, Secretary of the Residents of Wilmslow who has also written in similar vein.

Make It Macclesfield is a community interest company set up on behalf of our members, to promote Macclesfield as a place to live and work; and to encourage inward investment and development in the town. Earlier this year our members passed a motion asking the board to campaign for greater transparency and accountability in the public and civic governance of Macclesfield and Cheshire East.

It was recently announced that Cheshire East Council intend to embark on a major regeneration project in Macclesfield Town Centre. The success or otherwise of these efforts is contingent on public trust and respect for the Council. We fear that at this time, Cheshire East cannot rely of the pre-requisite levels of public confidence required for it to function adequately.

This is a significant risk to the smooth progress of the Cheshire East Council regeneration plans.

As you so clearly articulated in your letter, this situation has occurred as a result of a cumulative erosion of trust over the past few years, rather than any particular issue that can be easily remedied.

Irrespective of how we got here, Cheshire East Council has created situation that has resulted in senior members of the Leadership Team being forced to resign or are suspended & removed from duties whilst a criminal investigation by the regional Organized Crime unit is completed. Most recently, the Council has been exposed for allowing air quality data to be deliberately falsified, which has literally put people's health at risk.

In summary, in parts of the Borough and some sections of the community, the Social Contract itself is damaged with mistrust and suspicion prevailing where trust and respect are required.

Whilst we wish you well in your efforts to bring light and clarity to the affairs of Cheshire East Council, our fervent wish is that the Council itself recognizes the seriousness of the situation and fixes it, before external remedies are required.

Make it Macclesfield Community Interest Company  
Registered Office: c/o Bennett Brooks, 2 Maple Court, Davenport St., Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 1JE  
Registered Company Number: 08562837  
[www.makeitmacclesfield.co.uk](http://www.makeitmacclesfield.co.uk)



We ask Cheshire East Council to acknowledge the need for root and branch changes to the cultures and practices that have prevailed and we recommend that they introduce very specific plans to mandate openness and adequate public consultation for any current and future regeneration or development projects within the Borough.

Sincerely

Make It Macclesfield

- .cc David Rutley – MP for Macclesfield**
- .cc Rachel Bailey – Leader of Cheshire East Council**
- .cc Karen Britton – Macclesfield Express**
- .cc Phil McCann – BBC**
- .cc Manuel Golding – Secretary, Residents of Wilmslow**

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