



# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TORY COUNCIL SUSPEND AND THREATEN TO SACK TORY COUNCILLOR FOR NOT FOLLOWING THE WHIP.**

**Once again the Conservatives make a mockery of their commitment to localism by disciplining a Councillor for voting against a Group instruction and for a motion to review their decision to allocate greenfield land for the development.**

At the same time as the Conservative Leadership are setting the whips on MP's in parliament to 'come to heel or else' in the EU referendum backbench motion, a local Conservative Leadership Group have suspended and threatened to sack a Conservative Councillor unless she follows the party line on their decision to build large scale housing on Greenfield sites around Basingstoke.

What was Councillor Cubitt's crime? Simply voting for the wishes and demands of her local constituents and against the instructions of the Basingstoke Conservative Group who approved the building of over 5000 homes on greenfield sites.

In fact, the evidence of whipping decisions can be seen in the behaviour and decisions of many of the Conservative led oversight Committees, including the Planning & Infrastructure and Audit Committees. This despite local constitutional and national guidance that whipped decisions are inappropriate and potentially illegal when considering local planning matters.

This, despite the fact that the Conservative Administration in Basingstoke was elected on a platform of opposing greenfield site development and the localism agenda.

This sort of bullying and vindictive behaviour, where elected Members treat the party as a vehicle for their own power and personal interests rather than the representation of their electorates' wishes, is just another nail in the coffin of mass democratic participation and one of the reasons why Conservative membership both locally in Basingstoke and nationally has fallen precipitously by over 75% in recent years.

For more information, facts and context on this story, please contact SOLVE directly via the number at the top of this release and we can direct you to spokespeople and local people who will be happy to provide direct quotes and perspective.

**SOLVE (Save Our Loddon Valley Environment) is a non-political group of over 1500 local Basingstoke residents who believe our unique eco-systems and historic sites of national significance are as important as our economic aspirations, and should be protected for the continued enjoyment of all of Basingstoke's communities. [www.SOLVELoddon.org](http://www.SOLVELoddon.org)**