



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

DAVID HEYES MP

Ashton-Under-Lyne

Ashton-Under-Lyne · Droylsden · Failsworth · Hollinwood

To residents in the Ashton Road West and Failsworth Pole area

6th November 2005

Dear Constituent,

I am writing to households in your part of Failsworth to try to put right some of the very misleading and mischievous stories which have been circulated in the area recently. Your home might be one of those to have received a leaflet purporting to be from an "Action Group". This, and previous leaflets, seem to be designed to frighten local residents into thinking that there are plans afoot to demolish their homes. This is, of course, completely untrue!

It is a mystery as to why anyone should go to the trouble of printing and sending out these scaremongering leaflets. The leaflets contain little or no information about who has sent them and how they can be contacted. It is known, however, that some of those involved are private landlords – owners of many properties. Some people might think their real interest lies in acquiring even more houses to rent out, especially if there was a rush to leave the area which might mean homes could be bought up on the cheap! It is also thought that some extremist political parties have connections with the leafletters and that they are intent on opposing government funding plans for our area.

Failsworth is a good area to live but there are some parts that are looking tired and in need of smartening up. We have suffered from a lack of public investment for far too long. In sharp contrast, nearby areas such as East Manchester and parts of Oldham have been transformed as £multi-million government regeneration monies have poured in year after year.

We need investment into our township to give it a much needed boost. That's why we continue to press hard for our new town centre and it's why we have battled for Failsworth to get a big share of the government regeneration funding which will see more than £500million coming into Oldham and Rochdale over the next 10 to 15 years.

This £500million comes under the banner of "Housing Market Renewal". The idea is that we can prevent any decline in the "housing market" which has seen property values in places like Burnley and even parts of Oldham and Rochdale slump so much that houses were even becoming abandoned and worthless. It is true that in some of these areas, the houses and the streets are beyond improvement and there is no real alternative but to knock them down and start again.

But it should be clear to everyone that Failsworth is nowhere near needing such drastic measures. There is no need for homes to be demolished around here and there are no plans for any house clearances. Myself and the local councillors are united in our view that – in the