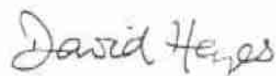


unlikely event that any such proposals should ever come forward – we would vigorously oppose them. Our priorities over the next few years will be to secure several £million from the “Housing Market Renewal” funds so that Failsworth gets a fair share to spend on the local environment by clearing derelict sites, improving our streets, parks, gardens and open spaces, introducing public safety measures such as closed circuit TV and generally making our surroundings more attractive. A promising start has been made already with more than £400,000 pledged to a complete renewal of the area around the Pole including the gardens and the street frontage to an imaginative design based on the ideas of the Failsworth Pole Residents Association. We have also secured funding for a sensitively designed refurbishment of our war memorial and garden of remembrance and, in the years ahead we will continue to press for the money to carry out bigger and better improvements along similar lines.

But, frankly, our efforts are being hindered by the malicious scaremongering tactics being adopted by people who are motivated by personal greed, self interest and political mischief making and which are aimed at spoiling our chances of attracting much needed government funding for Failsworth.

It is very difficult to set the record straight when you are dealing with people who set out deliberately to mislead. There is a saying along the lines of “if you are going to tell a lie make it a big one, keep repeating it and someone will believe it” and I’m afraid that is what we are up against. I hope that this letter will help to reassure any residents who might have been alarmed by the deliberately misleading leaflets which have been put round recently. However, should you have continuing concerns or any points you wish to discuss with myself or one of the local councillors, please don’t hesitate to contact one of us and, if we can’t deal with your enquiry on the phone, one of us will be quite happy to call round to see you at home.

Yours sincerely,



**Member of Parliament  
Ashton-Under-Lyne**