



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7 March 2014

Our Ref: C/ProtectCongleton/FB/HC  
*Please quote the reference on any correspondence*

Dear Ms Unsworth,

Please find enclosed copy letter I have received from Nick Boles MP to the representations I made on your behalf.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

**Fiona Bruce MP**  
**Member of Parliament for the Congleton Constituency**  
[www.fionabruce.mp](http://www.fionabruce.mp)



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Mrs Fiona Bruce MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Nick Boles MP**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Planning)*

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Our Ref: NB/13/004896/14  
Your Ref: C/ProtectCongleton/FB/HC

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*Dear Fiona*

Thank you for your letter of 11 February enclosing correspondence from your constituent Ms Jenny Unsworth of the Protect Congleton Civic Society group concerning the recent Supreme Court ruling relating to the status of land at Markham and Little Francis near Weymouth as a village green.

I thank Ms Unsworth for raising her concerns about this Supreme Court ruling. This ruling relates to legislation to deregister town and village greens. It has been possible since January 1970 to apply to the High Court under section 14(b) of the Commons Registration Act 1965 for an order to remove a registered town and village green where it could be proved that the green was incorrectly registered in the first place. This Supreme Court decision rules that a lengthy lapse of time in applying for deregistration is not a material consideration when applying to the High Court under section 14(b). I can assure Ms Unsworth that the strong protection for registered town and village greens remain in place and are unaffected by the recent Supreme Court ruling.

I should also highlight the distinction between town and village greens and the 'assets of community value' scheme introduced as part of the Localism Act 2011. This scheme is separate from town and village green legislation and allows groups with a connection to a community to nominate certain types of land or buildings as 'community assets'. Local Councils maintain a list of nominated 'community assets' and the group will be given time to come up with a bid for the asset if and when it is sold.

*Nick Boles*

NICK BOLES MP