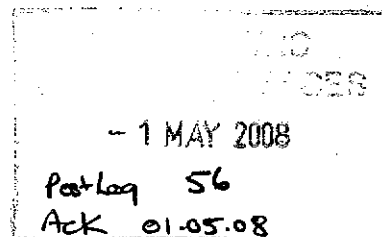


Our Ref: PM/KLP

30 April 2008

Councillor Les Topham
Leader
Stratford upon Avon District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire CV37 6HX



Dear Les

Long Marston (Middle Quinton)

I am writing further to our recent discussions about the eco-town proposals contained in the current consultation paper from CLG.

As you will have heard, our council supported a Notice of Motion last week which attacked the process and the fact that the proposals sit outside the established planning policy framework. I know your council have had the complication of 'purdah' because of the elections but that must end on 2 May. I would hope that all six councils will be able to stand united in their opposition to the proposals as they stand. Stratford and Wychavon are key to the process and any signals from either council of neutrality, favour or opposition will be read by many as significant, so lets attack this terrible Government plan from the start.

Wychavon have decided not to be constrained by caution about 'pre-determination' as after all, we are only commenting on an emerging policy at the present time and it would be wrong for councils to feel 'gagged' and not undertake their community leadership roles. If by any chance this site made the final list after future publication of a national policy statement (the new anticipated PPS) then our stance may need to be more cautious. I note that Leaders in other areas of the country have not been frightened to take a stance and express views.

I should add that I don't believe that expressing a view on this hinders any work our officers need to do with both the developers and CLG.

Continued.....

Councillor Paul Middlebrough
Leader of the Council
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paul.middlebrough@wychavon.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



I look forward to a good debate at your Council meeting and hope you will share my views with your group.

Yours sincerely

Paul

Paul Middlebrough
Leader

Copy to: Dr George Lord, Leader, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Lynden Stowe, Leader, Cotswold District Council
Cllr Alan Farnell, Leader, Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Barry Dare, Leader, Gloucestershire County Council