

Patron: The Duke of Norfolk



(CAFÉ)

COMMUNITIES AGAINST FORD ECO-TOWN

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8<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Henry Cleary Esq  
Deputy Director  
Housing and Growth Programmes  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2/H9 Eland House, Bressenden Place  
London, SW1E 5DU

*Dear Mr Cleary*

**DCLG Eco-Towns Progress Report - 24 July 2008 - Ford**

I am writing on behalf of the local Communities Against Ford Eco-Town (CAFÉ) campaign group in response to your Department's Eco-Town Progress Report published on 24 July 2008, with specific reference to the proposal affecting Ford in West Sussex.

As you are aware, CAFÉ represents several thousand local people; all of whom believe that Ford is quite the wrong place to build an Eco-Town for all the reasons set out in our formal response to the DCLG's Eco-Town Consultation Paper.

I should therefore like to take this opportunity to offer you, at Annex A, some views and comments on the Ford Progress Report as set out on page 24 of your most recent publication. As you will see, there are a number of alternative views which should, in our opinion, have been taken into account by the Department before accepting the speculative aspirations of the developers.

It seems to us that, in respect of the "Site Description" and the "Proposed Benefits", the Department has been more inclined to use information from the

developers rather than from any other source, and that the Department's view of the suitability of the Ford site may be biased accordingly. We should therefore like to offer you a view of the "other" side of the story.

On the other hand, we agree that the Ford site does have a number of "Challenges and Constraints" and, in this respect, we offer some pointers of support which, we hope will assist you when reviewing the developers' latest proposals, many of which - in our view - continue to ignore reality; concentrating instead on speculative aspirations.

Finally, we are surprised that this latest Progress Report seems to have taken so little cognisance of the very many Ford-related responses to the Department's Consultation Paper; almost all of which explained why the Ford site was an inappropriate location for an Eco-Town.

We hope that you will find the content of Annex A helpful, and that the Department will take its content into account during your deliberations about the suitability of the Ford site to accommodate an Eco-Town.

Yours sincerely,

*Vicky Newman*

Victoria Newman  
Vice-Chairman CAFE