

Patron: The Duke of Norfolk



COMMUNITIES AGAINST FORD ECO-TOWN

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15th 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 - Notes and Recommendations from Session 2 of the Eco-Town Challenge - 31 July 2008 - Ford

Further to my letter dated 8 August 2008 concerning your recent Eco-Town Progress Report, I am writing on this occasion, again on behalf of the local **C**ommunities **A**gainst **F**ord **E**co-Town (CAFÉ) campaign group, in response to your Department's publication on 31 July of the "Notes and Recommendations from Session 2 of the Eco-Town Challenge".

The reason for this submission is because it seems that in the Challenge Panel's debates with the Ford developers very little cognisance has been afforded to the many Ford-related responses to the Department's earlier Consultation Paper; almost all of which explained why the Ford site was an inappropriate location for an Eco-Town.

Whilst we appreciate that the Challenge Panel, which we understand has now been disbanded, was established to assist developers with their proposals, it seems to us from this published report that the Panel were rather too ready to accept the vision, assertions and aspirations of the developers without balancing them against reality. Thus, we believe that many of the optimistic statements

made about suitability of the Ford site for development may have misled the Panel, and we should therefore like to offer you a counter view.

I therefore attach at Annex A our comments on the FAVG summary of their presentation to Session 2 of the Challenge Panel, as set out on pages 36 to 39 of your document, and at Annex B our comments on the Panel's Notes and Recommendations, as set out on pages 13 and 14 of your document. As you will see, we have a number of alternative and well founded views about the speculative aspirations of the developers, as well as a number of constructive contributions to make concerning the Panel's notes and recommendations.

We hope that you will find Annexes A and B helpful, and encourage the Department to take their 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