

Press Release : 17th November 2010

Mr P Dunne MP
Ludlow Conservatives
Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire

Dear Philip

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Bishop's Castle Group to raise the following issues which are being discussed locally and which, we feel need to be brought to your attention in an open and public way, hence through an open letter to you which has concurrently been released to the press.

A large number of people have contacted members of the group to voice their anger, disappointment and dismay at both your own and Shropshire Council's lack of effort of late in the biomass issue which is currently causing a great deal of concern to your constituents. In particular, what troubles us most as your constituents is the fact that you are willing, like Shropshire Council to put your faith in the conditions laid down by the inspector at the public inquiry indeed, during the recent radio interview we did with Jim Hawkins on Radio Shropshire your stance was clearly that the decision had been made so we should move on and we should seek reassurance from the 37 conditions imposed by the Planning Inspector.

Therefore, we are asking you for a loud and clear public statement that on our behalf you will publicly obtain from Shropshire Council their agreement that not one word, not one comma of those 37 conditions which you seek to reassure us with will ever be allowed to be varied by either the Developers or Operators (either the current ones or subsequent ones should they choose to sell their 'permission' on to other operators such as Veolia) or Council.

Indeed, your intervention about the sale of the land and your support in our cause would have been appreciated from your constituents - however in the absence of that all we ask is that you, our elected representative take seriously your duty of care to the people who live in our area and to that end, to date we feel that our Conservative led County Council has failed us dismally. We are hoping that you will not do the same by turning your back on our cause.

Therefore, in the hope of a future of openness and transparency we have chosen to take this step of publically asking for your help and hope that your response will satisfy all those who have approached the group with concerns about the future of local democracy and our role within it. We must protect our beautiful area and the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and to this end we look to you to do this. Please do not let us down. At the very least, grant us our request that you will obtain written confirmation from Shropshire Council that not one word, not one comma of the conditions will be varied to put substance behind your claim that we should seek reassurance from those conditions - because quite frankly we have no such confidence in those conditions not being varied - again in secret and behind closed doors which appears to be how your Conservative brethren operate in County Council.

Yours sincerely

Karen Bavastock, Chairman, Bishop's Castle Group