
Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council



12 July 2015

Ref BF04

17, The Wynd,
Dalgety Bay,
Fife
KY11 9SH
Tel. 01383 823750

Dear Mr Bonino,

BARNS FARM HOUSING PROPOSAL, DALGETY BAY, FIFE

Recent events have prompted me to write to you again. Firstly, the Executive Committee of Fife Council at their meeting on 23 June approved the submission of the new local development plan called the FIFEplan to the Scottish Government for examination. This plan is a result of 3 years of preparation which included public consultation before being approved by Fife Council and I would bring to your attention that this plan does not include any proposals for housing on the fields at Barns Farm. So we now have the extant Dunfermline and West Fife Local Development Plan and the new FIFEplan which will eventually replace it and both do not contain any housing development proposals for Barns Farm. In addition, the question of community empowerment has been raised with the Scottish Government and Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Communities has announced a review of the planning system and housing delivery and seeks to actively engage in this consultation.

Hence, I expect you to take cognisance of the consultations and decisions made by our elected members of Fife Council on local development plans which has been supported by Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council which I might add, is also elected as a democratic organisation and representative of the community.

Secondly, it has come to my attention that at the last meeting of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Safety and Liaison Committee held on 12 June which I was unable to attend although not on the Agenda, the Barns Farm land was raised and I note from the minutes;

- Shell will be engaging with the Dalgety Bay community
- Shell is planning a mechanism to gather feedback from the whole community and is considering using a variety of approaches to gather views.
- Shell is responsible for the shareholders, employees and its community.
- It is important that Shell provide transparency on the justification of the decision making process to maintain good communications and a positive relationship with the Dalgety Bay community.
- Esso are joint owners and will also have a view on the decision

I find this minute intolerant to the public meetings held and the time line of events I gave to you and Thomas Reilly at the meeting with you in London at the end of March. As regards to the transparency of the Community Council's decisions you might like to view our website www.dalgetybay.org.uk They are also recorded in the Council minutes published in our monthly community newspaper the Diary. Obviously, you have the right to engage separately to obtain a private feedback from our community, but why now and not when all this first started in 2009? It is inconceivable that you have made this decision after your letter of 24 April, when you stated you do not believe that a community ballot is the appropriate way to proceed on this matter. I can only assume there appears to be mistrust in your mind of our Community Council and Fife Council which does not bide well when you insist in your letter of 23 March "Over the past 30 years Shell has maintained a good relationship with the people of Fife and Dalgety Bay and long may it continue".

I find this also reflects on my long standing Chairmanship of the Community Council and member of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Committee since 1984. I will again put this matter on the Agenda of the next Community Council meeting on 10 August along with seeking a decision on holding our own community ballot. Incidentally, the HSE representative failed to turn up at the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Committee although I insisted on it being placed on the Agenda.

Yours Sincerely,

Colin McPhail

Colin McPhail MBE C.Eng MICE, MCIHT
Chairman
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- Copies to
- 1) Rt Hon Gordon Brown
 - 2) Mnr Ben Van Beurden CEO Shell International
 - 3) Mr Alex Rowley MSP
 - 4) Mrs Jeanette Gray, Secretary, Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council
 - 5) Mr Thomas Reilly, Head of Government Relations Shell Uk