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# Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council

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8 April 2015

Ref BF02

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

Dear Mr Bonino,

## **BARNS FARM HOUSING PROPOSAL, DALGETY BAY, FIFE**

I refer to our meeting on 26 March 2015 involving the Rt Hon Gordon Brown, Alex Rowley MSP and Thomas Reilly your Head of Government Relations, when also my wife was present as a Community Councillor for Dalgety Bay.

I also refer to your letter dated 23 March in reply to my letter of 12 March. As discussed, I reported your position to another packed public meeting in our Community Centre the following evening on 27 March which was also attended by Mr Brown and Mr Rowley to provide their input.

The main assurance I received from you and reported to the meeting was, that Shell UK continues to put the sale of the land on hold in order to allow the situation to be reassessed and have discussions with your partners.

I would ask you if you think there is a time scale for this?.

I also reported that it is the desire of Shell UK to uphold its good relations with the community.

As a result of the latest public meeting held on 27 March the community opposition remains on the sale of the land and it is now suggested that a community ballot or petition be held if your company is willing to abide by the result and I would like to receive your timely reply to this. This to my mind is an acceptable way forward in view of your derogatory comments made to me about the Community Council's position on the matter.

With regard to your comments in your letter of 23 March, I can reply as follows;

- I agree that Shell is operating Braefoot Bay Marine Terminal under the present COMAH Regulations and PIZ set up but see my minuted reports to the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Liaison Committee on this (passed to Thomas Reilly). I restate my view that the HSE are only concerned with the storage and landward operations not maritime and I have asked for a HSE representative to be present at the next Mossmorran Committee meeting.
- If the land in question has become surplus to requirements why was not the above Committee informed of the sale of the land? The sale appeared on the open market in 2013 without notice and contrary to the community's opposition. Having checked again with him, the tenant farmer was not advised of the sale at the time,

only being told by a third party and suddenly seeing the sale notices posted. True he does have regular meetings with Bell Ingram the farm Agents for Shell but as I understand, was not given a chance to bid for the land.

Surely after some 30 years of supporting your operations, the new town of Dalgety Bay with its lack of facilities is entitled to have some breathing space to mature without unnecessary expansion on a greenfield site when it has a number of brownfield sites that are currently being or due to be developed as agreed in the local development plan. Preferably, the fields should be kept for their landscape value as greenspace to the eastern entrance of the town or kept as agricultural land. The fields could be gifted to the Community Council, or if that is not suitable, the land could be sold to the local farmer, (again, he has indicated to me that he is willing to purchase), at agricultural prices with conditions or restrictions on any future use of the land for housing development.

I appreciate that on business terms it is a difficult time for your company but the value of a community's life and opinion in my view is foremost to be taken into account and affect your reply on this matter.

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