



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Kate Green MP

Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

29 April 2013

Dear Eric

Barton Renewable Energy Plant, Davyhulme

You are due to make a decision on an application from Peel Energy in relation to the above proposed plant in my constituency. The application was turned down following a unanimous decision by Trafford Council Planning Committee, and Peel have appealed. A planning inquiry took place late last year, and you will have received a report on the matter from the Planning Inspector.

My constituents are deeply opposed to the proposed plant. A local campaign group, Breathe Clean Air Trafford, has been campaigning actively against it, and enjoys considerable local support. Many of the Group's objections relate to environmental matters, and while I appreciate these do not fall within your remit, we were very surprised at the decision of the Environment Agency to issue a permit for the plant to proceed, given its location in an area already which already fails to meet air quality management standards, doubts about the data that have been relied on to assess the impact on air quality, and uncertainties about the proposed technology.

While you cannot of course go behind the EA decision, local anxieties about the environmental impact explain the widespread public perception of harm if the plant goes ahead. Public perception of harm is of course a material planning issue, and was debated at the planning inquiry. Four schools are located very close by and downwind of the proposed site, and there are particular concerns about the perceived impact on children's health.

Local people were initially optimistic that the Localism Act would operate to give them a voice in the final planning decision. It seems, however, that the legislation offers little in this case, and

Constituency office telephone number: 0161 749 9120

Westminster office telephone number: 020 7219 7162

Email address: kate.green.mp@parliament.uk

there is considerable concern about the decision-making process. I very much hope nonetheless that you will take local people's concerns fully into account in reaching your decision, in the spirit of the localism agenda, and in the light of the depth of residents' concerns.

Yours sincerely



Kate Green
Member of Parliament for Stretford and Urmston