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The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
10 Downing Street
London,
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May 21st 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

The Coalition: our programme for government

On May 20th the Government published a bold programme declaring that it is time for a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to people promising an end to the era of top-down government by giving new powers to local councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals. In response I am writing on behalf the Marston Moreteyne Action Group (MMAG) - a group of volunteers committed to ensuring sustainable development and campaigns against proposals which threaten our rural landscape and our distinct village community. For some time we have been besieged with top down targets for housing development. Therefore we welcome the rapid abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies and the return of decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. We will also welcome the opportunity to have far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which we live.

We will shed no tears for the abolition of the unelected Infrastructure Planning Commission but would appreciate some clarification on what will become of those proposals being lined up for consideration by the IPC. At the end of July this year Covanta, an Energy from Waste Company intend to apply to the IPC for planning consent to build a monster incinerator in Rookery South Pit, Bedfordshire and we would hate to be the unfortunate first and indeed last victim of this bureaucratic dinosaur! We sincerely hope it is indeed replaced with an efficient and democratically accountable system and not simply yet another quango determined to fast-track major infrastructure projects upon communities.

Here in Bedfordshire we are already proud of our recycling record and the role played by our Millennium Country Park in tree planting – we aim to do more!

Yours sincerely

Hugh Roberts
Chair, MMAG