

Tricia Turner, Council Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council,
Priory House,
Monks Walk, Chicksands,
Shefford, SG17 5TQ

Dear Mrs Turner

Formal Complaint – Planning Process re Marston Mill

I am writing to ask you to examine the planning process leading up to and culminating in the planning committee meeting on 10 November 2010 that led to the approval (by Chair's casting vote) of the application for a turbine in the Millennium Country Park.

It became apparent to the Marston Moreteyne Action Group (MMAG) that our formal submission of objection through the Council's own internet based consultation system had not been received. Subsequently we have discovered that individual submissions had also not been received.

We raised this with Central Beds Council planning department, the duty Officer and then Mary Collins, on Tuesday 9 November. I am aware that they hurriedly asked for and accepted a summary of our objections. I am also aware that they then included it on the papers the following day.

I am sorry, but this is surely not effective consultation nor democracy in action. Councillors cannot be expected to receive information at the meeting and have time to digest and consider it.

It is the view of the MMAG that it was poor governance to allow Councillors to proceed to a discussion and decision when objections submitted in good time were either provided on the day or never included. Central Beds Council internet consultation process *failed* and as such the Council has opted to make a decision knowing that objections have been raised but lost by the Council.

We hope you will investigate this unfortunate sequence of events.

On a more personal note MMAG sends you the warmest best wishes at this time of goodwill to all.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stewart Long
Secretary
Marston Moreteyne Action Group (MMAG)

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