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| MAB/LJC17 March 2016Nick BrianDevelopment Quality ManagerPeter MarshallPlanning & Sustainable Development  | *The Atrium**137 Glover Street**Perth**PH2 0JB**Tel: 01738 475000**Email:* *mbarnacle@pkc.gov.uk*[*www.pkc.gov.uk*](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)*Moorend**Waulkmill Road**Crook of Devon**KINROSS**KY13 0UZ**Tel: 01577 840516****An Independent Councillor*** | Councillor Michael Barnacle |

Dear Colleagues

**Ochil Hills Special Landscape Area & Major Renewable Energy Projects - Call for Regional Park Status**

I am moved to write to you regarding the above and enclose as background my letter of 18/1/12 to Nick on Windfarm Developments in the Ochil Hills.

At the Development Management Committee on 17/2/16, following a close vote on the denial of opportunity for Friends of the Ochils to comment further and address the Committee on additional information requested at deferral, a major photovoltaic solar farm near Path of Condie and Glenfarg was granted approval. I was disappointed that the further opportunity to address the Committee was denied but even more dismayed at Paragraphs 18 to 20 of the Report on Landscape Supplementary Guidance enclosed. To state that the Ochil Hills have not been substantially affected by windfarms and masts on hill tops is clearly inaccurate and written without adequate knowledge of these hills. There is also clearly no presumption against further wind turbines or other renewable energy developments so one has to ask what does a Special Landscape Area designation give in protection; I would suggest none. You will note my aforementioned enclosed letter referring to the June 2004 capacity study recommending only one windfarm in the Ochils carefully sited. We now have 3 at Burnfoot, Greenknowes (extension currently proposed) and Lochelbank with other wind monitoring masts appearing subsequently in advance of potential further turbine development.

I repeat, more stridently than ever, it is time to call a halt on further industrialisation from windfarm developments in the Ochil Hills and if Special Landscape Areas clearly do not ensure landscape protection, I reiterate my call for Regional Park Status for the Ochil Hills to be explored by PKC with neighbouring authorities, a point I have made in my submission to the Main Issues Report for PKC’s LDP2 yesterday.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Michael Barnacle

Independent Member for Kinross-shire

Circulation:

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Fossoway CC Councillor Willie Robertson

Glenfarg CC

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Kinross-shire Civic Trust