

MAB/FON

31 August 2017

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An Independent Councillor



Dear Colleagues,

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance

I refer to the consultation I attended at Birnam on 9th instant re the above and was particularly pleased to meet your colleague, Graham Esson, recently returned to duty after his serious illness. Firstly, I would like to place on record my continuing objection to the exclusion of the Cleish Hills and Devon Gorge from designation as Local Landscape Areas (para 7.8 of the SEA Non-Technical Summary), following a flawed consultants exercise (see my letters of 11/2/16 and 14/7/17 enclosed). It is no coincidence that loss of these AGLV's from our Local Plan suddenly results in them featuring as areas with highest capacity for windfarm development in your Map 6.1 of the Guidance. I am alarmed by this prospect and register the strongest objection to it. In low-lying agricultural areas to the south and west of Kinross-shire, very large turbines (the majority now) will have considerable landscape and visual impact and I strongly endorse the comments on your guidance from the Kinross-shire Civic Trust of 28th instant enclosed. I am, however, reasonably reassured that the Guidance suggests there is little capacity in the Ochil Hills for further windfarm developments; you will no doubt recall my earlier representations reminding officers of a previous landscape study involving PKC, Clackmannan Council and SNH that recommended one wind farm in the Ochils and at a suggested location; thanks to Scottish Government Reporters we now have 3 and not at the suggested location.

I note also the high capacity for solar farms in Kinross-shire in your Map 6.3 of the Guidance and whilst I'm not against such forms of renewable energy, I would not like to see a proliferation of them in our landscape, so cumulative effect needs to be taken into account. As regards Run of River Hydro-Schemes, I supported the recent local development on the Devon at Rumbling Bridge and I am generally in favour of such schemes being taken forward, subject to the usual environmental checks with SEPA and SNH.

I trust you can take my comments into account before finalising your guidance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAB', written over a horizontal line.

Cllr Michael Barnacle
Independent Member for Kinross-shire

c.c. Nick Brian, Head of Development Management
Kinross-shire Ward Councillors Purves, Robertson and Watters
Kinross-shire Ward Community Councils
Alistair Smith, Chairman of Kinross-shire Civic Trust
Luke Graham MP, Ochil and South Perthshire