



Barratt Developments PLC
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15/2/19

ccs by E-mail to DBC leader Andrew Williams and DBC Case Officer Ross Herbert

Dear Mr Zanre,

Further to my (undated) letter of around 29th January on the subject of mitigation measures in order to protect wildlife, I am writing again to urge you to support Dacorum Environmental Forum's long-stated more general call for LA3 to become a "Flagship Development" in terms of Sustainability.

At the Dacorum Environmental Forum meeting in Hemel Hempstead on May 11th 2017 that you kindly attended and spoke at DEF said that LA3 should be built as a "Flagship Development" in order:

- to mitigate and compensate for the loss of Green Belt, and
- to enhance the reputation of Dacorum as a forward thinking Local Authority, and of Barratts and the other developers as a builders of the highest possible Sustainability standards.

In its report last October the International Panel on Climate Change raised the threat level of uncontrollable climate change by carbon emissions, saying that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities, and that net CO₂ emissions would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030. In the UK, the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove has made radical policy decisions regarding the electrification of road transport. The suggestions made by DEF at our May 2017 meeting now have added urgency, and we feel that two in particular need special consideration in this respect.

- We suggested that all the houses and buildings with suitable S, SW, or SE facing roofs should be equipped with solar panels or solar tiles. At the meeting the response to this was that it was not a selling point for the properties. According to a typical estimate found online a Model 3 Tesla goes 4.4 miles per kWh, so such panels (typically a 4kW array)¹ would be an attractive selling point, and the cost to the developer would be recovered at the time of sale. All residents would benefit from the energy produced, while car-owners would effectively have a free vehicle fuel pump in the house. (We note that the Government has recently opened up consultation regarding a new Feed-in Tariff for solar energy)².

- Considerable CO₂ emissions reductions, with consequently smaller household heating bills can be achieved by using insulation of the highest standard, and we suggest that "Code 6" is adhered to throughout, whether or not it is currently superseded by less stringent standards. Proportionally it is a small cost to the purchaser, and would be recoverable by the developer at the point of sale. Discerning purchasers would factor this into their budgets, particularly if it was demonstrated in show homes.

We hope that, given the prominence and size of this new estate, DBC and the developers will take a lead which other local authorities will follow. There is now a growing very strong body of supportive opinion that this is indeed the direction that the country should be moving in.

Yours sincerely,

Gruff Edwards

Chair, Dacorum Environmental Forum

1 Evidence of energy yield based on DEF member's own installation.

2 "Solar panel households to be paid for surplus power under new scheme" (Future Build, Industry Insider, no. 95 Jan 14th 2019)