

Luddington Parish Council

Cllr Peter Richards
Stratford District Council
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

17 October 2017

Dear Councillor Richards,

Feedback on Long Marston Airfield Stakeholder Meeting

I am writing on behalf of Luddington Parish Council with reference to your letter PWJR/001 dated 19th September 2017 in which you responded to our feedback letter on the Long Marston Airfield Stakeholder Meeting held on 31st July 2017.

We regret that you took exception to our letter principally because of 3 bullet points at the beginning. We also regret that you challenged our actions and/or inactions as a Parish Council in a number of statements in your letter. Please note our replies to your challenges as follows:

1. In relation to your statement *“I do not accept your attempt to dismiss the integrity of the panel of experts at the stakeholder meeting on the basis of one issue”* we would point out that integrity means the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. We do not consider our pointing out that the panel of experts were unable to answer specific questions on HGV movements as in any way challenging their integrity.
2. In relation to your comment that we should have made the challenge to the MM78 modification when the Inspector put forward the modification, we did indeed raise a challenge to MM78 and MM31 using Stratford District Council’s Main Modifications Representation Forms April/May 2016.
3. In relation to your statement that *“Prior to the May 2015 elections, Councillor Robert Vaudry as the Ward Member for Old Stratford & Drayton Ward which covered Luddington has provided the Council with copies of the Parish Council minutes for much of the time in question. These Minutes clearly illustrate that Councillor Vaudry kept the Parish Council(s) in the loop regarding developments in the Core Strategy. I am led to consider what level of action by the Parish Council might have taken place at the time, when it would have been appropriate to ask the questions you are now asking. If no action was taken at that time, your current challenges are completely inappropriate and you should moderate your critical language”*, we would point out the following:
 - a. Luddington Parish Council’s boundary prior to May 2015 excluded the homes in closest proximity to the route of the proposed South-Western Relief Road (SWRR);
 - b. Our Council Minutes during 2014 and up to Cllr. Vaudry’s last report of February 2015 clearly indicate that Cllr Vaudry reported Stratford District Council’s preferred option was for a large-scale housing site at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath;

- c. In September 2014 Councillor Vaudry confirmed that the Core Strategy was deemed sound by Stratford District Council and was sent to the Planning Inspector with Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath being the prime site for housing delivery;
- d. The Core Strategy was examined first in January 2015 and contained no proposals for a SWRR and no plan for a settlement at Long Marston Airfield (LMA); and
- e. Housing at LMA and the SWRR were put into Plan Modifications published in August 2015.

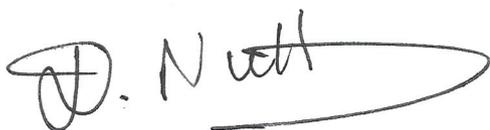
We would appreciate your clarifying exactly what actions you think our Parish Council could have taken up to May 2015 on an option which did not appear in the Core Strategy until August 2015.

- 4. In relation to your statement *"I have seen no evidence to suggest that the SWRR is too close to the town and would be obsolete in 10 years"*, please note that Councillor Vaudry indicated during the Stratford Transport Strategy Meeting at the Arts House shortly before he resigned that the SWRR would take 5 years to build and would reach capacity use after 5 years following which we would have to wait and see what happens. This is on video record.
- 5. In relation to your statement *"I believe that the way forward for any dialogues with the Parish Council is one based on factual exchanges between ourselves that avoid personal jibes or innuendos"*, we trust that any future letter from you will respect this.

We note that you have not replied to our request for evidence that other options further East or further West have been considered. We asked for this evidence to prevent unnecessary work being done in the community on possible alternative routes assuming a full objective statement has already taken place. We hoped to obtain this evidence from the Planning Inspector's examination in January 2016 but the Inspector did not ask what alternatives had been tested or indeed what public consultation had taken place.

Finally, we must point out that it is the duty of our Parish Council to represent and communicate the views of its parishioners and wherever possible to seek facts which enable these views to be properly informed. We trust that you will respect this, even where these views are based on widely held perceptions which may be personally unpalatable to yourselves.

Yours sincerely,



David Nutt
Chairman
Luddington Parish Council

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| cc | Cllr Chris Saint (SDC) | Cllr Jeff Clarke (WCC) |
| | Mr. Neil Hempstead (SDC) | Cllr Izzy Seccombe (WCC) |
| | Cllr Mike Brain (WCC) | Cllr Peter Barnes (SDC) |
| | Cllr Molly Giles (SDC) | Mr. Nadihm Zahawi MP |
| | Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council | |