

**Tony Dixon**

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**From:** <Gillianannabrown@aol.com>  
**To:** <afdixon@btinternet.com>  
**Cc:** <ian.sumnall@arun.gov.uk>; <Wendy.Ashenden-Bax@arun.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 May 2008 14:35  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns on impartiality

Tony

There is no need for you to have any concerns about the impartiality of the members of the Select committee. As you know it is up to the individual to decide whether they have an "interest" or not but for clarity we have had in depth meetings with the members and sorted out any concerns that any member may have had. All this has been done with advice from our Solicitor Mrs Ashenden-Bax.

All members of the committee have received a letter from Ian Sumnall which sets out quite clearly the legal position of all Councillors on the select committee and also Councillors who played any part in the recent by election campaign, from all political parties, that you refer to.

On the subject of the by election, all Councillors who helped in any way played a minor role in delivering campaign leaflets as part of the election campaign and no view was expressed by any of them in the specific issue of eco towns. I haven't read the election literature myself and do not have a copy. Mrs Neno's interest is not personal or prejudicial but pre determination which does not compromise the position of Graham Tyler at all.

We are all well aware of our responsibilities and do not need reminding about transparency. It was for this reason that we decided to carry out a Select committee process with the help of an independent Planning Advisor to look at all the available evidence with regard to the two proposals at Ford. This will allow all the evidence about the proposed Eco Towns to be out in the open so that it can be debated in public. I think that is the action of a responsible Local Authority.

The other points you make are in relation to the appointment of the members of the Select Committee not being on the agenda for 30 April. The agenda was printed before the committee was agreed. The noting of the members and the setting up of the committee was done exactly the same as any other new committee or change to committee membership. Group leaders made their nominations to the committee within the agreed political proportionality and full Council then has the opportunity to approve those nominations, or not, which is what happened on the 30 April. There was nothing irregular about this process. Unfortunately, although this was minuted on the night, the reference to it and the decision made was omitted from the Minutes of 30 April when presented to the next Council meeting on 7 May. This was a simple error, as Jane Fulton has already explained to you. However I corrected that omission on 7 May. I don't understand why you say that correction wasn't made as I understand that Jane has already sent you a copy of the corrected Minutes.

The other correction I need to make is that you have referred several times to the "campaign against the principle of Eco towns" in the Minutes. That was amended on 30 April as it should have read "process of Eco Towns" instead. It

has always been the process that we are extremely unhappy with.

I now look forward to everyone participating in the Select committee process with confidence and also an open mind of course.

Gill </HTML>

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