

STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR R BOWER

The BBC 'Inside Out' Programme

In light of various e-mails received by District Councillor Melissa Briggs and which were forwarded to me on 2nd November I apologise unreservedly for the distress my statements on the BBC Inside Out programme have caused Members of your Council.

The general tone and context of the programme as transmitted was not in the spirit that I understood from the BBC Producer would be the case. I had made it clear that I would not condone setting one community versus another.

I deeply regret having taken part in that programme because of the assumptions about my views that have been drawn from the interview as broadcasted. I fully understand and respect the legal position relating to the Local Development Framework and the need for me to maintain Arun District Council's impartiality. I do not consider that the programme as broadcasted was representative of the recording taken overall.

Filming took place for about 45 minutes and I was surprised to find none of the context setting elements in my responses to questions were included in the broadcast.

As to the field where I was interviewed. The choice of this location was entirely a matter for the BBC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Bower', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor R Bower – 16th November 2008