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Carol Gardner

From: Zac Goldsmith ;
Sent: 13 March 2012 16:52
To: Development Control
Subject: In support of planning applications 12/00045/MFUL, 12/00107/MFUL, 11/02007/MFUL

Alison Fish,
Planning Dept,
Mid Devon District Council,
Phoenix House,
Phoenix Lane,
Tiverton,
Devon
EX16 6PP



12th March 2012

Dear Alison,

Re: planning applications 11/02007/MFUL, 12/00045/MFUL, and 12/00107/MFUL

I am writing in support of the planning applications of the Ecological Land Co-operative.

I am heartened to see such a careful and thorough proposal which addresses both the need to rebuild small scale domestic food infrastructure and the need for a transition to ecological agriculture. In my book *The Constant Economy: How to Create a Stable Society* I argued that food security is a critical issue for the UK. I believe that it is small-scale ecological food production that is best placed to address this, while conserving and improving our soils and wildlife, improving public health and providing sustainable local employment. We need more agriculture that utilises renewable, on-farm resources wherever possible, minimises pollutants such as greenhouse gases and nitrates, conserves water, energy and genetic resources, and empowers local people.

I am a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology, and it was for these reasons that our 2011 briefing paper *Key Policies for Agroecology in the UK* argued that planning should support the development of small farms, facilitating small-scale agricultural dwellings and other agricultural buildings on greenfield sites where appropriate.

Finally, I support the comments made by Em. Professor Martin Wolfe in his letter of support, that the monitoring that the Ecological Land Co-operative is committing itself to will provide useful evidence to inform future debate on appropriate land use across the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Zac Goldsmith
MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston