

Carol Gardner

From: Stephen Sterling [mailto:stephen.sterling@plymouth.ac.uk]
Sent: 13 February 2012 16:06
To: Development Control
Subject: RE applications 11/02007/MFUL, 12/00045/MFUL and 12/00107/MFUL

Letter of support re applications:

11/02007/MFUL, 12/00045/MFUL and 12/00107/MFUL



Dear Sir/Madam,

As a sustainability practitioner and researcher with more than 30 years' experience I am pleased to support these applications, which appear to me to represent best practice in a growing field of low impact development in the UK and represent a valuable contribution to developing socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development, as endorsed by the UK planning system and national policy on sustainability.

I consider it likely that the project will stimulate the local economy by creating new employment opportunities and through residents' commitment to living and procuring their additional needs locally. This same commitment will ensure their contribution to local social and cultural life, including the local school, shops and other institutions.

I note that the applications promises the development of highly sustainable forms of agriculture and approaches to land based production thus helping meet the multiple challenges of food and energy resilience, affordable rural housing and new farming entry and biodiversity.

Furthermore, through rigorous traffic management policies, energy efficient building design and integrated, holistic approaches to livelihoods and lifestyles, the applications represent exactly the type of low or negative carbon development which central and local government recognises we urgently need as we prepare to meet our UK Carbon Reduction obligations of an 80% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050. Basing livelihoods on poly-cultures of tree-based and perennial crops offers the opportunity to be net carbon sinks. This feature alone makes the projects unique and worth of approval as they address areas where practice is currently struggling to match policy. The application is clearly very thorough, pertinent (addressing many overlapping policy goals) and well placed in terms of addressing and fitting within existing local, regional or national planning policy and I believe there is a clear and strong case for approval. I hope you agree and approve this application.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stephen Sterling

Stephen Sterling

Professor of Sustainability Education

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