

Mark quizzes the PM about Nuns Wood

Mark has quizzed the Prime Minister today over controversial plans to develop a wind farm at Nuns Wood near Lavendon during Prime Minister's questions.

The site which falls across three local authorities (Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Wellingborough) was assessed by each Authority independently and rejected as it did not fall within the local plan. Subsequently a Government Planning Inspector overruled the Local Authorities despite agreeing with many of the reasons for refusal. Controversially the appeal decision was brought forward so that it was announced the day before the Government's Localism Bill became law. The Government have indicated that had the decision by the planning inspector been announced only 24 hours later it is likely the decision by the local authorities to reject the proposal would have been upheld.

After question time Mark said;

"This is a real slap in the face for localism and the timing of the inspectors decision stinks. I am pleased that the Prime Minister has made it clear that now the localism Bill has been made law this is a situation that is unlikely to happen again but that does little to help my constituents who oppose these plans."

"I am determined to pursue this matter to see what action the Government can take to have another look at this particular application."

Text exchange from PMQs:

The Nun Wood wind farm application spans three local authorities, each of which independently assessed it against their local plans and rejected it. Subsequently a distant, unelected planning inspector overruled them and even moved his decision forward by three months so that it could be made the day before the Localism Bill got Royal Assent. The Prime Minister will understand my constituents' anger. Will he look into what appears to be a blatant slap in the face for localism?