



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Greg Clark MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Highways & Transport
Oxfordshire County Council
Environment & Economy
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford OX1 1NE

Tel: 01865 815700
Fax: 01865 815085

Cllr Ian Hudspeth
Cabinet Member for Growth &
Infrastructure

09 July 2010

My ref: IH//YS

Your ref:

Direct line: 01865 810419

Mobile: 07747 091602

Please ask for: Cllr Ian Hudspeth

ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dear Greg

Thank you for taking the time to meet me and discuss the issues that Oxfordshire County Council has regarding the minerals policy.

As I stated we welcome the scrapping of the RSS but have major concerns regarding the M3 figure of 2.1mtpa that was produced by a top down government from a regional assembly that is now going to be abolished. With all due respect to the inspector when he reached that figure he was only looking at available resources. What he did not take into account was that a reduction in Kent & Surrey could not be compensated by an increase in Oxfordshire as aggregates tend to be only sustainable when they travel a distance of 30 miles or less. While we accept that in Oxfordshire we have a significant supply of resources, there are large areas of the county that have already been devastated by mineral extraction.

We feel that we should be looking towards alternative forms of aggregates and certainly recycled aggregates should be taken into consideration when we consider the overall amount required. This would impact on the figure of 1.58mtpa that we put forward in March 2009 with solid evidence to back that figure up and this was re-affirmed in our response to the consultation in June 2010. If recycled aggregates were included in that figure then it could be greatly reduced. We are working with our District colleagues to establish more accurate figures for these recycled products. Another factor that could be taken into

Contd....



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

consideration is actual production with 780,000 tonnes being produced in the most recent year of 2008 - well short of the 2.1mtpa proposed. Again we understand that the recession has hit the building industry and we need to be flexible to take into account the growth as we come out of recession. I am asking my officers to produce the facts and figures so that we can develop these ideas.

I am sending a copy of this to those local MPs whose constituents are most affected by extraction, I'm also sending a copy to Bob Neill MP as I had a similar conversation with him on Wednesday.

We warmly welcome the opportunity to work with you in the new era of localism. What we must do is produce a methodology along with a policy and figures from Oxfordshire County Council that will provide a sustainable environment for the residents of Oxfordshire to live and work in.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ian Hudspeth
Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure

Cc The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
John Howell MP
Hon Ed Vaizey MP