

L Bagshaw  
34 Kenyon Lane  
Lowton  
WA3 1LH

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*Bagshaw*  
*23/04/2012.*

Our reference: MS/LDF  
Your reference:  
Please ask for: Martin Stuart  
Extension: 4238  
Direct line: 01942 404238  
Date: As postmark

Dear Sir/Madam

**Wigan Core Strategy: East Lancashire Road Corridor**

The Chief Executive, Joyce Redfearn has asked me to reply to your recent letter regarding the above on her behalf.

I understand your concerns over the proposed housing development in Lowton but regret that I am unable to treat your letter as a duly made representation to the Core Strategy since it was received after the closing date of the consultation on 24 March 2011. As this is the final stage of consultation before the strategy is submitted to the government for independent examination, it has to be a more formal process to accord with planning law and I am therefore unable to extend the consultation period.

You may be assured however that the issues you raise have been made by others during the consultation period and will be fully reported to Council members and subsequently to the Inspector conducting the public examination of the Core Strategy. The public examination is expected to commence in the autumn of this year. Further details of the timetable for the examination and subsequent progress towards the adoption of the Core Strategy will be published on the Council's website as they become available.

I would also add that this housing proposal in the East Lancashire Road corridor will only proceed after detailed work has been undertaken to determine how and where such development could be safely linked to the road network. It would be inappropriate to suggest transport infrastructure improvements for this purpose at this stage, before even the site itself has been selected. A separate planning exercise is to be undertaken to both choose the site and to identify and detail the infrastructure costs of such development, once the principle of development has been established through the Core Strategy.

You also refer to the scale of the development as being unacceptable and excessive so I should perhaps clarify that there is no intention to develop all of the 4 sites in the 'corridor'. They represent the 4 possibilities from which the council will select a site or sites or part of a site to meet housing needs, though we are unlikely to need more than one site. Along

Please reply to Martin Stuart

Wigan Council, Places Directorate: Economy, Waste and Infrastructure, Civic Buildings WN1 1RP.  
Phone: 01942 404238 Fax: 01942 404222  
E-mail: [m.stuart@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:m.stuart@wigan.gov.uk)  
[www.wigan.gov.uk](http://www.wigan.gov.uk)

