



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Councillor Rod Bluh
Leader of the Council
Swindon Borough Council
Civic Offices
Euclid Street
Swindon
SN1 2JH

Ref: Park 01016/01090214

16 February 2009

Dear Rod

As you will be aware, I have been approached by many constituents opposed to your decision to close the park-and-ride at Groundwell.

I should therefore be grateful if you could let me know:

1. the basis of the estimated cost of £0.3 million that I have heard claimed as the cost of the SBC subsidy to the park-and-ride;
2. what estimate you have made of the cost of increased congestion and pollution as a result of extra traffic generated by the closure of the park-and-ride and how was this estimate made;
3. what consultations you have carried out with park-and-ride users about the level of increased fares they might be prepared to help reduce the SBC subsidy;
4. what discussions you have had with Thamesdown Transport about ways, other than closure, of mitigating the SBC subsidy to the park-and-ride scheme;
5. what discussions you have had with councillors and council officers about potential uses of the park-and-ride site once the park-and-ride is closed;
6. how you reconcile the council's ambition to be 'the UK's number one sustainable community' with the closure of the park-and-ride.

Given your previous responses to my letters, I fear your reply will contain a lengthy attack on government funding for Swindon, notwithstanding the fact that it has doubled since 1997. Whatever you feel about this, I hope you will recognise that it is irrelevant to these questions and that hundreds of constituents expect you to provide direct answers to direct questions on an issue of great concern to them.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Michael Wills
MP for North Swindon