



6/3/2016

Ranil Jayawardena,
MP for Hampshire North East

Dear Ranil Jayawardena,

EU Referendum and Environmental Concerns

Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN) is minded not to “take sides” on the question of on EU exit. However, we are very concerned that the environment is not mentioned in the EU Referendum statements on the websites of any of the three MPs covering Basingstoke and Deane (Kit Malthouse, Maria Miller and yourself). We believe that the topic is a very important factor that people should consider in their choice in the EU referendum.

Indeed, we would go further and suggest that few issues are more important than protecting the world in which we live. Even more importantly, we would wish to consider the welfare of generations – hopefully – to follow.

As a councillor you may have been aware of the issue of pollution of the River Loddon and the fact that efforts to keep it clean to the highest standards relate very closely to the principles of the European Water Framework Directive: we see this as just one very simple example of where cross-border agreements become very meaningful.

We need hardly highlight the importance of dealing with the massive health implications of atmospheric pollution (as recently reported, an estimated 40,000 premature deaths in the UK alone from poor air quality) and that such pollution is no respecter of national boundaries.

We appreciate that you have set out your case, but would like you to encourage this consideration by mentioning your view on environmental protection if the UK were to exit from, or remain in, the EU. Whichever way the referendum decides, any such statement by you will heighten people's awareness of the issues.

A number of senior environment experts have communicated to DEFRA their concerns that UK exit will be harmful to the environment. Their arguments are summarised on: http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/page_2040.php We believe that both sides in the in/out debate should consider and answer these points.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Peacock.
Secretary – Basingstoke Transition Network.