



**ROLTON KILBRIDE**  
POWERING THE FUTURE™

**ROLTON KILBRIDE LIMITED**  
THE CHARLES PARKER BUILDING  
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Mrs Lucas CBE  
Chief Executive  
Sunderland City Council  
Civic Centre  
Burdon Road  
Sunderland  
SR2 7DN

27 February 2018

Our Ref- RKL002/ARN/PK

Dear Ms Lucas CBE

It has been brought to our attention that you have received a letter from Sharon Hodgson MP regarding the credit status of two directors of Rolton Kilbride.

The letter references Carillion and the impacts on Sunderland City Council and requests that the appropriate checks and due diligence are observed on Rolton Kilbride.

The basis for this concern apparently stems from an anonymous constituent who has raised concerns having looked at the credit reports for Colin Banyard and Peter Rolton. It highlights the number of dissolved companies (22 and 41, respectively).

The implication is that dissolving a company is somehow irresponsible or lacking in probity. As you will no doubt be aware, dissolved companies are simply those that have fulfilled their purpose and surplus to requirements. They are not the same as liquidated companies or administrative dissolution, which is what the constituent presumably means.

Neither director is disqualified; in reality, they are both dynamic members of the business community, with a broad portfolio of companies and developments, some of which are no longer active. A proper credit check on any of those involved in Rolton Kilbride would make this apparent.

However, what is clear is that those opposed to the proposals are resorting to more and more questionable means to try and sully the reputation of the company and those involved.

Rolton Kilbride is currently taking legal action for defamation and malicious falsehood against Sholomo Downen, who is part of UKWIN (UK Without Incineration Network) on the basis of two interviews on Sunderland's Chat and Spin Radio. He made very similar claims, alleging that the company finances were 'dodgy' and 'like Carillion', 'spread a bit thin'.

He has since tendered an apology, albeit that other commentators have questioned the value of this. Rolton Kilbride considers this sort of objection utterly irresponsible. We recognise that this issue is being made a matter for public interest, albeit unconnected with planning requirements. Attempts to harm the company's reputation in this way are clearly intended to derail or delay the planning process, creating alarm and concern, and as Mrs Hodgson references in her letter – bring into question the company's ability in health and safety standards.

**DIRECTORS**  
PETER ROLTON  
COLIN BANYARD

We trust that this answers Mrs Hodgson's concerns regarding the financial probity of Rolton Kilbride, and those associated with the company. As we have frequently pointed out, the company is backed by Legal and General, and the proposals are backed by Nissan. Clearly both companies are satisfied by the integrity of Rolton Kilbride, and we hope that this provides you with the requisite reassurance. We also respectfully note that any environmental enforcement would be a matter for the Environment Agency, as opposed to the planning authority.

Finally, I would be happy to provide a further briefing or answer any questions if necessary.

Yours sincerely  
for and on behalf of Rolton Kilbride Limited



Andrew Needham  
Managing Director