



Damian Hinds
MP for East Hampshire

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For immediate release

Ministerial Praise for East Hampshire's Greening Campaign

On Thursday 16 December Damian Hinds raised the work of the Greening Campaign during Ministerial Questions in Parliament. Damian highlighted it as a highly successful community based initiative that started in Petersfield and has now spread to more than 200 villages across the country. He also asked the Minister what the Government was doing to help community based organisations like the Greening Campaign.

Greg Barker, the Minister for Climate Change called the campaign "excellent" and pointed out that the Government had recently launched a new website to make it easier for campaigns like the Greening Campaign to publish ideas and best practice and help local initiatives to spread.

Terena Plowright, founder of the Greening Campaign said:
'It is wonderful that the government has recognised the work of volunteers running Greening Campaigns across the country, they work hard in their communities and get fantastic results. Hopefully the new government website will direct communities to The Greening Campaign so they can get the hand holding and individual facilitation required to gain confidence and skills to run a successful long term campaign. It is great that the government has started to help communities to help themselves, and we look forward to working alongside them in the future'.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Full quotations from Hansard:

Damian Hinds: My hon. Friend will be aware of the Greening Campaign, which started in Petersfield in my East Hampshire constituency and has now spread to 200 towns and villages. What can he do to help such bottom-up community-based organisations as they go about providing facilitation and practical support to local groups that are looking to develop community energy schemes?

Gregory Barker: The greening campaign in my hon. Friend's constituency is an excellent initiative. As he knows, community engagement in the energy sector will be vital to our vision of the development of energy in the UK in the coming decades. We are helping communities to access the planning system more effectively through the Localism Bill and giving them more information and advice with the new community energy online website. The finance mechanisms that we are putting in place with feed-in tariffs and the renewable heat incentive will be a great help.

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