

**Email correspondence with Cllr Jane Scott regarding the Olympic Torch route**

**From:** Hazlewood, James  
**Sent:** 17 January 2012 11:52  
**To:** Scott, Jane  
**Cc:** Humphries, Chris; [nicholasfogg@hotmail.com](mailto:nicholasfogg@hotmail.com); 'Peggy Dow'; Milton, Jemima; Jack, Andrew; Grant, Lynne; Graves, Christine  
**Subject:** Olympic Torch route

*Message sent on behalf of the Councillors of the Marlborough Area Board:*

Dear Councillor Scott,

We wish to express our disappointment at the news that the Olympic Torch will not be slowing down when it passes a number of villages and historic sites in our community area.

Although the details of the Torch route have yet to be publicly announced, it seems evident from the information currently available online that the Torch will be travelling along the A4 from Calne to Marlborough on Wednesday 23 May 2012. However, we understand that the torch will be travelling in a van for most of the route and will not even slow down as it passes villages and important sites along the route, including Silbury Hill and the West Kennet Long Barrow. It will also be passing very close to the Stones at Avebury without actually going through the site.

This is disappointing for two reasons, as we feel this misses the opportunity to highlight the Avebury part of Wiltshire's UNESCO World Heritage Site, and also as it takes away the chance for smaller communities along the route to hold events in their villages. At present the timings of the Torch route are embargoed, which makes it difficult to arrange events along the route outside of the main towns, and even if they were available, we feel it is a shame that the torch convoy will not even slow down to allow the local children to wave and to see this historic event as it passes their community.

We understand that the Council has had limited involvement in determining the route for the Torch. However, we felt the need to express our disappointment at this lost opportunity.

Kind regards,

Cllr Chris Humphries, Aldbourne and Ramsbury Division, and Chairman of Marlborough Area Board  
Cllr Nick Fogg, Marlborough West Division, and Vice Chairman of the Marlborough Area Board  
Cllr Peggy Dow, Marlborough East Division  
Cllr Jemima Milton, West Selkley Division

**From:** Grant, Lynne **On Behalf Of** Scott, Jane  
**Sent:** 27 February 2012 12:24  
**To:** Hazlewood, James  
**Subject:** RE: Olympic Torch route

[For the attention of the Councillors on the Marlborough Area Board](#)

Thank you for your email. The position is that we as a Council have had no input in the route of the torch as this was arranged by LOCOG. We have challenged them on behalf of other communities and it has been made clear that they will not change any of their routes. The official response we have received from LOCOG is as follows:

*“The Torch Relay is a complex logistical exercise and planning for its 70 day journey around the UK is now in its third year. Our goal is for 95% of the population to be within a one hour's journey of the Flame and we are keen to encourage local communities to celebrate in their own way as we travel through.*

*An event of this magnitude presents complex logistical and operational challenges. LOCOG has analysed hundreds of route modelling scenarios as part of the route development process following the Nations and Regions consultation process which your Local Authority was invited to participate in. And alongside areas of sporting, historical and cultural significance we also asked local authorities to identify important projects or organisations involved with positive social cohesion and regeneration initiatives. Operational considerations such as timing, safety, Torchbearer numbers and crew fatigue have been balanced against the desire to reach the maximum number of communities around the UK when planning the route to be within an hour's journey of 95% of the population.*

*Therefore for the operational reasons outlined above, I'm afraid it is not possible for us to change the route of the Torch Relay. However this does not in any way exclude communities from taking part and celebrating. We encourage people to bring their friends, family, community, clubs etc to the route, to bring flags, be creative and animate the route of the Relay as it travels through Wiltshire on four different occasions. The announcement on the 7th November was an invitation to the communities on and off the route to come together and welcome the Olympic Flame, it is also a chance to shine a light on the communities and the people from those communities through stories of deserving torchbearers with personal best stories who have made a contribution to their community. What we aim to do is to tell a UK story through the route of the Relay so in some areas we will tell the story of regeneration or sporting excellence for example but not necessarily the other side of that community.”*

I hope this clarifies the situation.

Best wishes

**Jane**

Jane Scott OBE  
Leader  
Wiltshire Council

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