

# Friends of Latchmore

[friendsoflatchmore.org](http://friendsoflatchmore.org)

Postbox Cottage,  
Blissford,  
Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire, SP62HY.

To: Mr K. Penfold, Acting Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission

15 April 2012

Dear Kevin

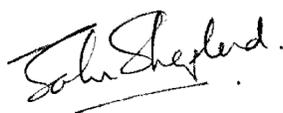
## **Latchmore stream restoration project: public concerns**

I refer to your email of 2 April, in reply to mine of 30 March (appended overleaf for the benefit of copy recipients). I am afraid that we find your response unsatisfactory and disappointing. I regret that you have declined to indicate which of our questions you feel that you have answered. We have therefore undertaken our own analysis (attached). As you will see, we do not feel that we have yet received satisfactory answers to any of our questions, and we have had no response at all to the great majority (20/25). We have also now completed our review of your Q&A document, and the material posted on-line, and an annotated version of the Q&A is attached. Regrettably we do not find this to be an adequate justification for the project.

We had a very useful and informative meeting last week with representatives of Natural England and the NPA, clarifying a number of issues, and a note of that meeting will be available shortly. We are now ready to meet with you on-site so that we may discuss the outstanding issues concerning the project. Before that meeting it would be helpful if you would specify in detail the legal basis for the assertion that no EIA is required for such projects, noting that we challenge the classification of the Latchmore project as "restoration".

It would be helpful if we could meet with you soon since time is running on (although I am afraid that I shall be away from 21 to 28 April) as we are still hoping that we can resolve matters and avoid the need to take any further action. In the mean time it would be very helpful if we could have an assurance that the project will be suspended until both an appropriate site-specific EIA and a Comparative Assessment of its risks and benefits have been carried out and published as we have requested, whether or not these are considered to be a legal requirement.

Yours sincerely,



Professor John Shepherd CBE FRS (Chair: the Friends of Latchmore)

Cc Mr. Dominic May, Official Verderer  
Simon Hodgson, Chief Executive, Forest Enterprise England  
Miss Alison Barnes, Chief Executive, New Forest National Park Authority  
Dr Helen Phillips, Chief Executive, Natural England  
Dr Graham Ferris, Chairman, New Forest Commoners Defence Association  
Parish Clerk, Hyde Parish Council  
Rt. Hon. D Swayne, TD MP

**From:** Kevin Penfold <Kevin.Penfold@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>  
**Subject: RE: Latchmore information**  
**Date:** 2 April 2012 16:25:03 GMT+01:00  
**To:** John Shepherd <john\_g\_shepherd@mac.com>  
**Cc:** Hyde Parish Council <parish.clerk@hyde-pc.gov.uk>, Bill Dow <bill.dow@newforest.gov.uk>, Rachel Bailey <Rachel.Green@naturalengland.org.uk>

Dear John

The first answer in the Q&A sets out the objectives of the restoration scheme and provides links to the Life III website with the Wetland Restoration plan and a number of other reports that I had hoped would address a number of your questions and concerns.

As discussed, when you had considered all the information provided directly or on the web I suggested we then met to focus on the issues outstanding.

Many of your questions relate to studies for hydrological analysis and studies specific to Latchmore. I would refer you to Q&A 3 and our requirements to undertake an EIA specific to Latchmore, this is not a requirement hence the information is not available. However the FC has all the necessary consents with the statutory authorities before work commences.

I am aware your next meeting is with Natural England, I am disappointed that you feel unable to meet with us at the same time but would respect your wish to meet alone. I would hope that you can gain reassurance from Natural England with regard to ecological sensitivities on the site and that we will save the need for you employing a professional representative that I don't believe will add any value to a process we have been successfully working to for some 15 years.

Yours sincerely

**Kevin Penfold**  
**Acting Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest**

Forestry Commission  
The Queen's House  
Lyndhurst  
Hants  
SO43 7NH  
Office: 02380 283141

**From:** John Shepherd [mailto:john\_g\_shepherd@mac.com]  
**Sent:** 30 March 2012 12:17  
**To:** Penfold, Kevin  
**Cc:** Burke, Libby; Desmond Swayne; Hyde Parish Council; Bill Dow  
**Subject:** Re: Latchmore information

Dear Kevin

Many thanks for the additional information. We are collating our comments on your Q&A document and will send this to you as soon as it is complete, and I suggest that we should meet to discuss this thereafter.

Meanwhile it would be very helpful if you could send us a list of which of your Q&A items you believe addresses each of the concerns & questions that we asked in our original letter of 25 February.

Regarding the information from specialists, we appreciate that there may be [sensitivities concerning confidentiality of some of the data and sites](#), especially where endangered species are concerned.

To deal with this, we suggest that we should nominate a professionally qualified representative to receive this information and discuss it with your staff and/or Natural England representatives as appropriate. This could be subject to a Confidentiality Agreement if you feel that this would be necessary.

I hope that these suggestions will enable us to make progress. Finally, you will be aware that we met with Desmond Swayne yesterday and were able to walk along much of the length of the Brook with him. I attach a copy of the briefing note that we had prepared for him, which you may find useful as a short summary of our concerns as of yesterday.

John Shepherd (for Friends of Latchmore)

cc D. Swayne TD MP  
Bill Dow and Parish Clerk, for cc to Hyde Parish Council