

Friends of Latchmore

friendsoflatchmore.org

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To: Mr M. Seddon, Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission

2 March 2013

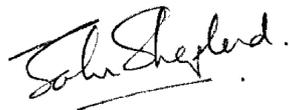
Latchmore Brook: tree-felling, explosion of ordnance, and damselflies

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 15 February. I am afraid that we do not consider the actions taken in respect of the tree-felling and explosion of ordnance to be adequate. The Forestry Commission has failed to supervise the activities of its contractors adequately, and has also failed to take appropriate action when they have undertaken illegal operations. You have made it clear that you do not intend to take any further action, but these failures have already damaged the Commission's reputation among the local community, and will seriously damage the credibility of any assurances that you may seek to offer in respect of future activities in your application for planning consent for the project.

We have still received no plausible explanation for your continued reluctance to provide the information that we have requested concerning the Odonata. We shall however be pleased to see the new data that you are assembling and we will endeavour to help with its evaluation in due course. We shall also be happy to discuss both the environmental and practical aspects of the planning application with you at any time. However, we shall maintain our opposition to the project until you have carried out a thorough and site-specific comparative environmental assessment of the benefits and impacts of the proposed project and any alternatives (including doing nothing), and have been able to demonstrate convincingly that there would be a net overall ecological benefit of undertaking the work. We do not mind whether this is done as a simple matter of common sense and good practice, or as a legal requirement, but we shall continue to deploy legal arguments unless it is done voluntarily. The postponement of the work now allows time for the necessary survey work and a thorough assessment to be undertaken, and we trust that you will take the opportunity to ensure that this is done.

Yours sincerely,



Professor John Shepherd CBE FRS (Co-chair: the Friends of Latchmore)

CC

Mr. D May (Verderers)
Mr. S Avery (NF NPA)
Mr. A Wood (Natural England)
Rt Hon D Swayne, MP
Chair & Parish Clerk, Hyde Parish Council
Ms. L. Foster, Richard Buxton Solicitors