

Friends of Latchmore

Press Release

(23 April 2012)

Parish Council Acts Swiftly to Avoid Poll.

Hyde Parish Council met on Tuesday 24th April in an emergency session to avoid a public referendum on their support for the controversial Latchmore Brook stream “restoration” project. The Friends of Latchmore action group had organised a Parish Meeting on Thursday (19 April) to call for an unprecedented Parish Poll on the subject. The Council adopted a compromise resolution negotiated with the group and the meeting to request the Poll was postponed.

Professor John Shepherd, chair of the Friends of Latchmore, said “This is just a first step in the right direction. In effect the Council has withdrawn its unconditional support for these major “restoration” works, which would be very damaging and have little or no benefit. We are continuing our action to get the project suspended until a proper Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out, and until our many questions have been adequately answered by the Forestry Commission. We shall continue to push the Council on this issue, and may still request a referendum in future.”

The resolution states that

“Hyde Parish Council recognises the diversity of opinion in the

community concerning this Project. In the light of new information arising from discussions between concerned residents and the partners in the Latchmore Brook Project and taking account of the number of questions raised that are still awaiting responses from the Forestry Commission, Hyde Parish Council recognises that the Friends of Latchmore have made a case that an appropriate site specific Environmental Impact Assessment is needed for this Project. Hyde Parish Council confirms that its continued support for the Project would be dependent on the outcome of such an assessment.”

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Background: see www.friendsoflatchmore.org

The Friends of Latchmore have also submitted a detailed and highly critical response to the “Q&A” document on the project prepared by the Forestry Commission (see www.friendsoflatchmore.org/news). Of the 25 questions asked by the Friends, none have been answered adequately, and 20 have not been answered at all.