



HYDE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs M.J. Matthews
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20th February 2013.

Michael Seddon,
Forestry Commission
South East Forest District
The Queen's House,
Lyndhurst
Hants, SO43 7NH

Dear Mike,

Latchmore Brook

At their meeting last week, held before receipt of your letter of 15th February, Members of Hyde Parish Council discussed the matter of the illegal felling of trees which has taken place outside the licensed area. They asked me to write and let you know that they were very disappointed that the error should have occurred and I quote below the paragraph from the minutes of the meeting which refers to it:

“ Latchmore Project. Letters were received from the Forestry Commission, the Friends of Latchmore, and a local resident regarding felling of trees which had infringed the terms of the felling licence. Councillors were upset and disappointed about this. They recognised that mistakes can happen but, particularly in view of the opposition which the whole Latchmore project had already generated, this was regarded as particularly damaging, calling into question the professionalism of the Forestry Commission. The clerk was asked to write to the Forestry Commission expressing these views and hoping that they would be more vigilant in the future, with copies to the other people and agencies concerned. Councillors felt that The Friends of Latchmore had performed a useful service in bringing this to light, although they continued to wish that the FoL could be less confrontational in their stance.”

Members asked me to thank you for keeping them informed of progress with the Latchmore project and they hope this will continue.

Best wishes,

Margaret Matthews
(Clerk, Hyde parish Council).

Copies to New Forest NPA, Natural England, Verderers, Friends of Latchmore (John Shepherd) and Terry Smart (local resident).