

Friends of Latchmore

friendsoflatchmore.org

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To: Dr. G. Ferris, Chair, NFCDA

2 March 2013

Latchmore Brook & the NFCDA Annual Report

Dear Dr Ferris,

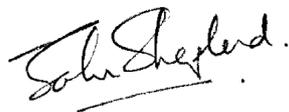
The article by Bill Howells in the NFCDA Annual Report that refers to the Latchmore Brook project has been brought to my attention.

Although this does not mention the Friends of Latchmore specifically, only “one small group of locals, however well intentioned”, it is clearly intended to refer to our opposition to the project, and it seriously misrepresents our position. We do not oppose wetland restoration or the HLS scheme in general, and we have no wish to “derail the whole process”. However, we do maintain that major works in a protected and sensitive area should only be undertaken if a proper environmental assessment has shown that the expected benefits of the project would be likely to exceed the risks of damage. We cannot understand how any person or organisation (including the NFCDA and the NFA) can reasonably object to that position, and we are very disappointed that neither organisation has supported us in this matter so far.

As you know, no such assessment has yet been carried out for any of the projects, and no proper monitoring of the effects of any of them has been undertaken, so there is no objective evidence that they are successful. This is wholly unsatisfactory, and we hope that the NFCDA will support us in future in seeking to ensure that such an evaluation, which is required as a matter of common-sense and good practice as well as UK and EU legislation, is made for the Latchmore and other major projects.

Since the article I refer to appeared in your Annual Report which has a very wide circulation, I would be grateful if you would circulate this response to those who will have received it, at the earliest opportunity, the next time you are mailing them.

Yours sincerely,



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

Cc P. Roberts (Chair, NFA)