

On 19 Nov 2013, at 17:43, Seddon, Michael wrote:

Dear John

Thank you and colleagues for meeting with us (cc'd above) in Lyndhurst on 13 November.

We outlined to you the key stages of activity that we intend to take forward in order to allow the submission of a planning application for restoration works in the Latchmore catchment. We shared a V1 draft of the timeline at the meeting in hard copy and I now attach a V2 which is only modified so it applies to any stakeholder i.e. the personalised references to Friends of Latchmore are removed.

We explained that the application would be made on a catchment basis although we have yet to take a decision as to what criteria we will use to define the catchment boundary (SSSI units; topography etc). We did confirm that any works we propose for Thompson's Castle mire would be included in the catchment based planning application. If you have views on what constitutes a sound boundary for the Latchmore catchment we would be pleased to receive them.

We also explained that the Forestry Commission intended to complete a voluntary Environmental Statement in support of the Latchmore planning application without prejudice to the formal screening determination that we will request from the NF National Park Authority. This I understand is the approach you have consistently requested. The key stages of activity are therefore designed to include the development of an Environmental Statement.

Finally, the timeline identifies in yellow the points during the Environmental Impact Assessment process and development of the associated restoration options where we are planning formal engagement with external stakeholders including Friends of Latchmore. These stages of engagement will allow interested parties to inform the scope of the Environmental Statement; to comment on the emerging options for restoration as these are developed; and to review all aspects of the ES and associated finalised proposals in the course of the determination of the planning application.

I appreciate that Friends of Latchmore would prefer for Forestry Commission to make the component studies of the ES available as and when they are completed. However as we discussed, it is our considered view that the steps in the timeline are reasonable and that publication of the component studies is most appropriately done within the context of the overall Environmental Statement

and the associated restoration proposals. I am sorry we disagreed on this last point.

Once we have confirmed which planning consultancy will be taking forward the work at Latchmore either Jane or I will let you know in preparation for our meeting on 29 January.

Finally, we discussed the routine need for communication with, and prior assent from statutory authorities, where Friends of Latchmore intend to commission investigative studies; particularly those where invasive sampling techniques are proposed to be used. We look forward to hearing from you about those studies that would require awareness or consent.

Kind regards

Mike

Michael Seddon

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