

Copy of email from Robert Clarke, Chair of Burley Parish Council Planning Committee to Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Enquiry - Harvestslade Bottom Wetland Restoration Works

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 2016 16:08:57 +0000 (UTC)

From: Robert Clarke

Reply-To: Robert Clarke

To: Bruce Rothnie

CC: Alison Barnes, Verderers of the New Forest, Steve Avery, Cllr Pat Wyeth, Richard Frampton, Cllr Keith Mans, Desmond Swayne MP, Clive Chatters, Shelley Gale, James Cross

Dear Bruce,

You will recall that Prof. Shepherd and I made presentations to the New Forest Consultative Panel on 3rd September 2015 regarding the Wetland Restoration Programme. Since then there seems to have been little in the way of the hoped-for direct dialogue in pursuance of the concerns and questions we raised on this subject. Whilst the Forestry Commission, the Verderers, the National Park Authority and Natural England remain apparently convinced that these hugely disruptive works are worthwhile, many residents are becoming increasingly concerned about their possible ecological implications for the Forest.

We have, in the intervening period, closely observed the widespread impact of the Harvestslade works as they were in progress; noted that a decision upon the Pondhead Planning application has been deferred and that preparation of the very extensive Latchmore project application remains in hand.

In a democratic society such as ours, it remains the view of Burley Parish Council that land engineering works undertaken with such possible widespread and profound implications as the NF Wetland Restoration Programme still require credible scientific justification and proper evaluation of the claimed results. These all need to be capable of being readily understood by the general electorate.

Therefore, in a further effort towards obtaining a full understanding of the programme, this council believes that it needs to be provided with answers to some basic questions in respect of the Harvestslade project as set out in a "Freedom of Information Act Enquiry"

Accordingly, I am today sending such a letter to you. A copy is attached hereto in order to ensure that you and those included in the circulation list may simultaneously be aware of what we are formally seeking to learn at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Robert

RGC Clarke Chair of BPC Planning Committee