

Letters to the editor

Restore previous restorations!

SIR, Many people who have objected to the Latchmore Brook planning application wholeheartedly support New Forest West MP Sir Desmond Swayne for his 'call in' for an independent decision, and also thank New Forest East MP Dr Julian Lewis, whom I understand is also asking the Secretary of State to consider a 'call in'.

I would like to suggest that this eye-watering amount of £1.5m that is estimated to be spent for the works on Latchmore Brook could be put aside to help repair the damage to some previous 'restorations' that are now an

appalling disgrace, i.e. Ditchend, Broomy and Longwater Lawn.

The imported gravel used to fill in these streams is shifting when there is the slightest amount of rain, and exposing enormous amounts of heather bales tied with baler twine turning these areas into an ecological disaster.

Ditchend, Broomy and Longwater Lawn are now denuded of any wildlife where these works were carried out and Latchmore Brook will surely end in the same way should the plans proposed go ahead.

Not all these restorations are "lovely" as quoted in your article of September 16th.

The planning decision for Latchmore Brook will be made on October 18th at the New Forest National Park offices in Lymington and I would like to ask Alison Barnes, chief executive of the NPA, how they are going to accommodate the 400-plus members of the community groups and members of the public that have sent comments, the majority of them being objections?

Also, how will everyone be given a fair opportunity to address the committee before any decision is taken that day?

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