

To: Lewis Oliver (Case Officer),
The Planning Department,
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Mr Stewart Luck,
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08/03/2021.

Dear Lewis,

Further Enquiry about the Havant Thicket Reservoir Planning Application submitted by Portsmouth Water Ltd (Ref: APP/20/00990).

Further to my letter 2nd February, now that the statutory expiry date has passed on the aforementioned planning application, I am trying to obtain clarity.

After the consultee comments made by RPS Consulting Services on behalf of Borrow Investment Ltd, and Natural England's further comments on the northern and southern access routes to the proposed reservoir site, I am wondering if the local planning authorities involved will have to seek an extension to the planning application period with Portsmouth Water Ltd?

Regardless of whether the removal of the ancient woodland for the development of the reservoir itself meets the wholly exceptional reasons criteria of the National Planning Policy Framework, I observe that a) Borrow Investments Ltd has highlighted that a suitable alternative northern access route exists, which avoids the Havant Thicket ancient woodland, just 100 metres to the north of the existing proposed route, and b) that Natural England has emphasised further talks with all stake holders to minimise damage to the ancient woodland should be pursued in relation to the southern access route. And further, that Natural England has asked if there is scope for further discussions by Portsmouth Water and the Borrow estate, aided by the local planning authorities if necessary, to further explore the alternative northern access route - option 2A - through the land owned by Borrow Investments Ltd.

From the comments made by RPS Consulting Services Ltd - on behalf of Borrow Investments - I read in between the lines that the Borrow estate is very willing to enter further talks to find a solution, avoiding damage and loss to the ancient woodland on the proposed northern access route.

It is therefore very difficult not to conclude that an extension period will be needed to further fully explore the options and requests made by Natural England etc, highlighted above.

When you kindly talked with me over the phone to clarify the procedural steps the planning application will take through the local planning authorities, you explained that because I had written I would be invited at a later date to listen to the Council Committee stage on the planning application and that I could ask a question. I imagine that due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, this will be through a virtual media process, perhaps a Webinar platform?

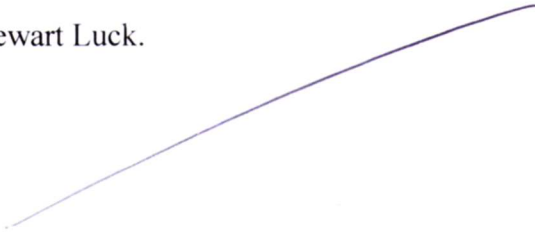
I am wondering whether an extension to the planning application will have to be sought or whether a date for the Committee stage is in sight?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Luck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Stewart Luck.

A long, sweeping handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mr Stewart Luck, extending from the left margin towards the center of the page.