

Billy Johnson BSc (Hons) PG Cert
Harbour Master/Manager

CC Braby ACMA CGMA
Treasurer to the Board

SP Kerr BA LL.M Solicitor
Clerk to the Board

B Curtis CEng
Engineer to the Board

My Ref LHB/LM/18b
Yr Ref APP/20/00990
Ask for Louise MacCallum
Date 04/12/2020

Dear Mr Oliver,

**HAVANT THICKET, ADJACENT TO SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK,
MIDDLE PARK WAY, HAVANT**

HYBRID APPLICATION SEEKING: 1) FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A RESERVOIR FOR RAW WATER STORAGE, A PUMPED STORAGE RESERVOIR, WITH THE MINIMUM REQUIRED TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 8,700 MILLION LITRES (ML), TO SUPPORT THE PLANNED BULK SUPPLY TRANSFER OF AT LEAST 21ML/D IN EXTREME (CURRENTLY DEFINED AS 1:200 YEAR) DROUGHT CONDITIONS; CONSTRUCTION OF AN EARTH EMBANKMENT ADJACENT TO STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK ; CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERFLOW DISCHARGE/SPILLWAY AT THE SOUTH-WESTERN SIDE OF THE RESERVOIR AND ASSOCIATED WORKS; CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW JUNCTION ON THE B2149 MANOR LODGE ROAD AND A NEW JUNCTION ON SWANMORE ROAD. PROVISION OF VIEWING AREAS ON THE SOUTHERN EMBANKMENT AND WESTERN EDGE OF THE RESERVOIR.

2) OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR (MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED OUTLINED IN TABLE 2.2 IN THE SUBMITTED DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATION) CONTROL HOUSE PARTIALLY INCORPORATED WITHIN LANDSCAPED EARTH MOUNDING ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH WEST EMBANKMENT; TOGETHER WITH PROVISION OF OTHER EARTH EMBANKMENTS. CONSTRUCTION OF A VISITOR CENTRE / CAFE, WITH STORAGE AREAS AND WELFARE FACILITIES TO THE NORTHWEST OF THE RESERVOIR TO BE USED FOR RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATION PURPOSES; PROVISION OF PICNIC AREA(S) AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA(S). ACCESS ROUTES FROM BOTH JUNCTIONS TO THE VISITOR CAR PARK; VISITOR CAR PARK COMPRISING 193 CAR PARKING SPACES AND BETWEEN 70 AND 75 OVERFLOW SPACES PLUS SPACES FOR STAFF, COACH/MINIBUS AND DISABLED DRIVERS SITED TO THE NORTH WEST OF THE RESERVOIR. CREATION OF A PERMANENT WETLAND ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE RESERVOIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF BIRD WATCHING HIDE/SCREEN(S); RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC AMENITY. PROVISION OF PERIMETER TRACKS AND A NETWORK OF BRIDLEWAYS, CYCLE PATHS AND FOOTPATHS; CONSTRUCTION OF A SLIPWAY ON THE WESTERN BANK OF THE RESERVOIR FOR OPERATIONAL USE ONLY AND A SMALL SECTION OF THE PROPOSED PIPELINE (210M).

I refer to your letter dated 16 November 2020 and the detailed drawings viewed on the Havant Borough Council website concerning the above planning application.

The Board's Planning Sub Committee has considered this application and has **NO OBJECTION** to the proposals, but wish to make the following comments:

1. The scheme includes the creation of a retained wetland habitat at its northern shore which we strongly support. The proximity of the reservoir to Langstone Harbour means that this wetland is very likely to be utilised by our wildfowl, waders, and seabirds. If birds are disturbed by recreational activities in the harbour this wetland will provide an alternative site for them to roost, rest and feed. Additionally, islands in the wetland area may prove attractive breeding sites for some of our rarest seabirds. Water sports are to be forbidden at the reservoir which means the wetland could provide temporary refuge for birds disturbed by kayaks / jet skis / paddleboards in the harbour.
2. The reservoir will result in reduced Nitrates entering Langstone Harbour, with Portsmouth Water modelling indicating that this reduction could be as much as 7.1kg per day while the reservoir is being filled, with considerable reductions in Nitrates entering the harbour even once the reservoir is full as run off water high in Nitrate will be stored in the reservoir where it will naturally degrade. Much has been heard about Nitrates recently and any reduction of its levels in Langstone Harbour is positive for many reasons.
3. The reservoir site will include a visitor centre, cafe, walking trails, access to wildlife and outdoor recreation which is likely, to some degree at least, to reduce recreational pressure upon Langstone Harbour's wildlife. Many dog walkers and other outdoor recreationists (particularly those who live closer to the reservoir than the harbour) are likely to choose it as an alternative destination.
4. The pipeline connecting the reservoir to the pumping station will have an emergency drawdown discharge structure which will release into Hermitage Stream. The drawdown structure along with the abstraction of water during the winter months when the reservoir is initially filled have, according to the projects EIS, the potential for ecological deterioration of Hermitage stream. The Hermitage stream is a very heavily modified (canalised for much of its length) water body, with numerous impassable structures for migratory fish such as salmonids and eels. Naturalising suitable sections of the stream, as well as creating fish passes would help to offset any negative impacts and should be included in the proposal.
5. The Langstone Harbour Board recognises that there is a major negative ecological impact associated with the reservoir, in that 12.45 hectares of ancient woodland (a highly protected and irreplaceable habitat) will be lost. The applicant should do everything possible to minimise any loss of ancient woodland.

Yours Sincerely,



Louise MacCallum
Environment Officer
Langstone Harbour Board

FAO Mr L Oliver
Havant Borough Council
Planning Services
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
HAVANT
PO9 2AX