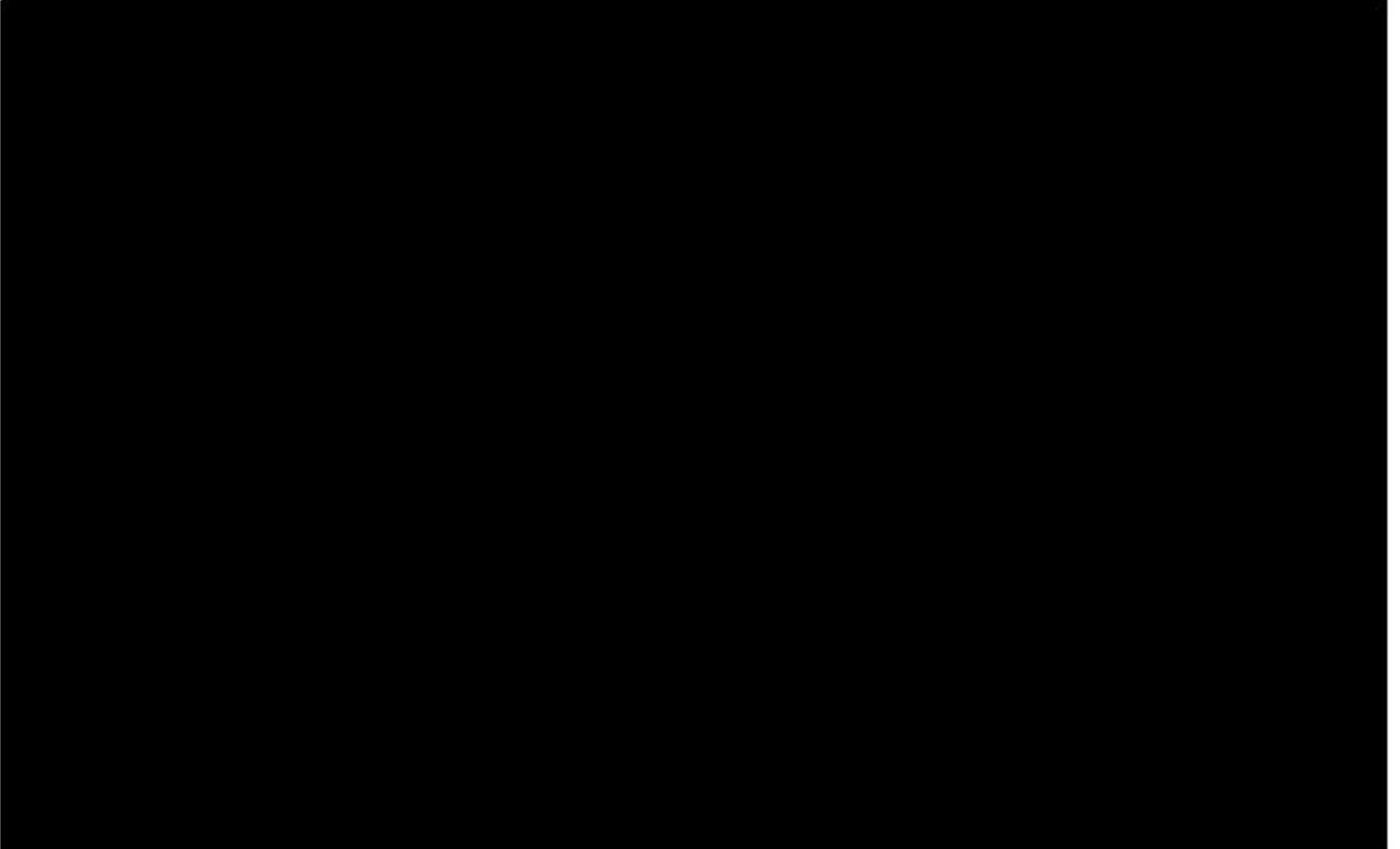




From: Greening-Campaign [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 December 2013 16:14
To: Rachael McMurray
Subject: Response to planning representations

Application – APP/13/01074

I would like to respond to some of the further points raised by those making representation to Havant Borough Council in connection with the planning permission submitted for change of use to Johnston's Coppice.

1. Mrs Selby comments that the number of foxes and vermin could be increased in the area. I would like to reassure Mrs Selby that there are no records that I am aware of where foxes and vermin have increased due to the establishment of a cemetery – either human or pet. There is also no evidence that a cemetery affects children and many villages have human cemeteries near to the schools, and children walk through them to go to church.
2. Mrs Selby asks who will maintain the project and is worried that the costs will fall to Havant Borough Council. All details are in the application. All costs will be covered by the Pet Cemetery as is explained and documented. Havant Borough Council do not own the land and so it is not possible for the costs to fall the Havant Borough Council.
3. Mr Wallbank and Mr Stutters are worried that enough care has not been taken to protect the ecology of the woodland.

The Forestry Commission are in a unique position because they not only have the interest of the woodland and the ecology at heart but they also have the experience of monitoring the impact of Natural Burial Sites on woodlands and their ecology. The letter from the Forestry Commission states *'The use of woods as burial sites for humans and the principles applied to do so in a manner which prevents adverse impacts on the woodland are well established, though not common'*. Despite having this extensive experience, the FC researched the situation for Johnston's Coppice even further which resulted advice being sought from the

National lead on Woodland Biodiversity and Johnston's Coppice was visited on three occasions by members of the Forestry Commission. The term 'Biodiversity' would include ecology because it is defined by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Programme as being '*used to describe the number, variety and variability of living organisms.*' Although Mr Wallbank believes that the Forestry Commission do not address the likely ground 'damage' The Forestry Commission do in fact make stipulations in respect of this in point 2, 3 and 4 of their letter having researched the matter over several months.

On top of this, as stated above, we have surveys being carried out across the year and specifically where we are intending to work. This means that we are not getting just a single snap-shot which a single survey would provide, but we are monitoring change now and into the future. This will allow us to understand the changes that are taking place and discover whether the management plan needs altering in any way, and to record the biodiversity across the seasons in the woodland.

4. I would like to add, that Johnston's Coppice was (as the name suggests) historically coppiced – a traditional form of woodland management. Coppicing draws specific species of butterflies and other wildlife to an area and at the end of the 1800's this site was visited by enthusiasts due to the abundance of butterflies using the woodland. Sadly, since the woodland has not been coppiced the number of these butterflies have dwindled and some rare ones have left completely. By returning this woodland to a traditional coppiced rotation the number of species will increase and I am working with the Butterfly Conservation to make sure the best strategy is used.
5. Mr Wallbank believes that the application is short on facts:
 - He asks where the Pet Cemetery will be sited and The Woodland Management Plan gives information all the way through as to where the Pet Cemetery will be sited and even provides details of works to be carried out on specific sites/years throughout the woodland. The information is too extensive to repeat in this letter, but please refer specifically to sections 3.3 and 4.4.5
 - Mr Wallbank asks what buildings are to be erected and for details on these buildings. There are no details about the buildings to be erected because I have not applied to erect any buildings anywhere in my application, nor do I intend to.
 - Mr Wallbank states I have omitted how many jobs will be created. This information is clearly stated on the application form Section 19.
 - Mr Wallbank asks for the anticipated annual number of burials. The number of burials each year is limited to the area which can be legally coppiced in each year (see full details in management plan) so that the woodland cover is maintained and the cycle of coppicing is sustainable.
 - Mr Wallbank asks how much of the revenue will be spent on woodland management – all Woodland Management Costs will be covered by the Pet Cemetery and this is one of the main reasons for seeking permission for change of use so that this money can be realised.
6. Mr Wallbank correctly states that the woodlands are of 'historical heritage'. This is also confirmed in the Management Plan which marks the points of interest on the maps and states how these points will be cared for. Unfortunately at the moment, dog walkers are crushing a historical boundary bank and one of the jobs the Pet Cemetery will undertake will be to protect this bank against further damage. We are also looking at placing TPO's on some of the historical boundary trees to put added protection over them and various other activities of this nature are all listed in the Management Plan. This highlights another important reason for finance from the Pet Cemetery to be realised.
7. Mr Wallbank seems to think I have made a mistake in stating that the woodlands have minimal management. An overview of the records of management of the woodland are included with the application and the last record of any management taking place was in 2006. This is over 7 years ago. Woodlands need to be managed yearly to maintain their health and so this would indicate that the woodlands have had less than minimal management and this is why Hampshire County Council have been pro-active in finding a solution which will use private money to pay for public work in the future.
8. Mr Wallbank comments that voluntary groups provide management for the woodland – these groups have only been in the woodland recently under my leadership (please see my previous submission)

Although the remark regarding my personal interests bears no reflection on planning law, for the record I feel I would like to right this poor assumption of my character. Earning money is a necessity and without money the woodlands will not be managed regularly and so finance of some form for everyone is necessary but Mr Wallbank is correct, ethically how one earns money is important. My only job for the past 6 years has been running a 'not for profit' organisation which I personally set up and which has received national recognition even being mentioned several times in Parliament for the success of the work it has carried out, and winning many local awards – the organisation is totally focussed on protecting the environment. Before that I worked again for a 'not for profit' organisation for 8 years which was totally focused on education on environment and behaviour that affects this. As a fully trained broadcast journalist with degree qualifications and BBC experience, my choices are many and yet the protection of the environment has always been utmost in my working life. As is evidenced here, money is most certainly not my driver.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the above representations.

Yours faithfully

Terena

Terena Plowright

