

Subject: Consultation response - Planning Application APP/20/00990 and APP/20/00991

From: Biltcliffe, Andrew

Sent: 14 December 2020

Subject: RE: Consultation response - Planning Application APP/20/00990 and APP/20/00991

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your email.

I can confirm from the outset that from a regeneration perspective the reservoir proposal is the most significant and positive development in the borough in many years and the principle of which is fully supported.

I can confirm that I did review both the Design and Access Statement and the Environment Statement (Volume 2 Chapter 18). I accept that there some limited references to socio economic issues, rather than none. The point I sought to raise is an issue that often arises with EIA and Environment Statement requirements in planning applications is the massive emphasis on the environment (the clue is obviously in the name), whilst the NPPF seeks to add balance with the equally important social and economic impacts of all development. The economic benefits are currently expressed in paragraph 9.15 of the Design and Access Statement– ‘The development of the reservoir and the visitor centre is expected to improve sustainable tourism in the area’.

In the ES volume 2 chapter 18 the significant demographic and socio economic statistics about the local communities are identified as part of the technical assessment and set out as fact. These demonstrate that the Leigh Park wards are a world away in terms of deprivation and age profile from the prosperity of Rowlands Castle. The reservoir sits in a unique location between these two communities at the extremes of society. That juxtaposition is hinted at in ES volume 2 chapter 18 paragraph 18.188 and 18.190 and in para 3 of the Design and Access Statement conclusion, but it appears nothing more is made of that in the submission narrative. As the assessment in Table 18-31 confirms the operational effects on population and human health are ‘large or very large benefits’: these conclusions could be developed into the narrative in the Design and Access Statement and the Planning Statement – the two documents that ought to be the most accessible to the general public. However, these important references do not appear to be taken forward in any detail in the overall submission.

Whilst the application is a hybrid and many aspects are at outline stage the ‘large and very large benefits’ of the project for the local population and human health could be given more prominence in the narrative of the planning application. I note that Bob Taylor’s submission letter and foreword to the Planning Statement does give an overview of the ‘benefits ofdrought resilience and education, training and employment opportunities. Our plans also create a green leisure centre with paths and play areas -offering priceless benefits for health and wellbeing – with a visitor centre aimed at bringing communities together’.

The references identified above to the socio economic benefits of the proposal are limited but crucial in the balance with the substantial environmental references in the submission. I appreciate that the socio economic issues are often not directly within the control of the applicant and the value they generate is most likely to increase through a wider collaboration with local communities and organisations. It would be useful to confirm the benefits of such a collaborative approach in the main documentation of the application. Whilst ‘the design of the reservoir has been environmentally led’ (page 71 Design & Access Statement final paragraph) the opportunities to highlight socio

economic benefits through a collaborative approach to the construction and operation of the reservoir ought to be front and central to the submission.

I do appreciate you coming back to me on this as I hope that this would be an initial interaction on an ongoing conversation as to how the Council can work collaboratively with PWC to add value to the whole project.

I would welcome a Teams meeting with you to discuss the submission and look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards

Andrew Biltcliffe

Andrew Biltcliffe
Regeneration Project Manager

Note: I normally work Monday , Tuesday and Wednesday

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Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your consultation response from Havant Borough Council Regeneration Team on the following applications sent to Lewis Oliver, case officer at Havant Borough Council dated 2 December 2020:

1. APP/20/00990 Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant – Hybrid application – Reservoir and Associated works

2. APP/20/00991 Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant – Outline application Pipeline and associated operations.

Your consultation response relates to the potential benefits of the applications on the sustainability and regeneration of the borough and that the application documents do not include a comprehensive sustainability appraisal to assess sustainability of the Scheme.

I just wanted to check whether you have reviewed Chapter 18 of the Environmental Statement which provides an assessment of the Scheme on Population and Human Health which covers socio-economic impacts. I attach this chapter for your information. Also Section 9 of the Design and Access Statement comprises a Sustainability Statement: https://planningpublicaccess.havant.gov.uk/online-applications/files/F686FB4A008F80F541425FD5F2907832/pdf/APP_20_00990-DESIGN_AND_ACCESS_STATEMENT-1433440.pdf which sets out the sustainability principles that are embedded in the design of the Reservoir and identifies the sustainable tourism benefits.

The scope of the EIA, which includes the Population and Human Health assessment, was agreed during pre-application discussions with Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council.

We would be very happy to have a meeting via Teams if you wish to discuss this further. Please let us know and I will set up a Teams meeting.

Kind regards

Sarah

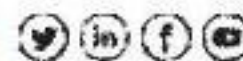
Sarah Wallis MRTPI, MA, BSc (hons)



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