

[REDACTED]

14th January, 2019

Mike Allgrove
Planning Policy Manager

Dear Mike

Proposal for a Southern coastal wildlife corridor on the Western Manhood Peninsula

I have worked for many years as a volunteer ranger for the Harbour Conservancy. I and feel more and more concerned as many residents of East Wittering by the over development and urbanisation of our unique area and the disregard for the wildlife habitat.

More green field sites are under threat than ever before and I would like to suggest the possibility of a Southern wildlife coastal corridor linking the countryside from East Head to the wetland project at Medmerry encompassing Pagham Harbour. Housing estates are now spreading to the margins of Pagham Harbour. To this effect we have set up a website www.manhope.uk to raise awareness of the threats to this unique environment.

Our home is on the track/footpath in Church Farm Lane and we feel fortunate that for the moment we can appreciate, with all the footpath users, a quiet rural peaceful environment to observe the diversity of wildlife that surrounds us. There are two types of bats in the old church. Buzzards are thriving nesting in nearby mature oak trees. A red kite has been seen in our area. We have green and spotted woodpeckers in our garden and a great selection of hedgerow birds including goldfinches. There is a threat from Barratt homes to build across the fields to the south linking East Wittering to Brackelsham destroying the habitat for skylarks and the smaller mammals which our Buzzards and owl population prey on. Hedgerows will be torn out further denuding animal habitats. Fields to the West of Piggery Hall Lane are also under threat and this could block the possible corridor to Medmerry. Light pollution from new housing projects would be another serious effect to our nocturnal animals.

I feel so distressed that our precious environment can be so easily and unnecessarily destroyed if more housing is deemed necessary on our crowded peninsular when there are still brownfield sites available. It is imperative to keep our green areas and have space between the urban sprawl for our dwindling wildlife and for the benefit of future generations.

I have had very encouraging support from Susan Taylor our Conservative Councillor for East Wittering and Cabinet Member for Planning Services, the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and others and I would appreciate your thoughts. I understand that two wildlife corridors are planned to link the West and North of Chichester City to the South Down National Park. It seems timely and sensible to consider a Southern Coastal Wildlife Corridor. I fully understand the pressure on the Chichester Council to fulfill the Government housing quotas but I am sure with careful thought and planning a compromise could be achieved.



Marula Cottage Church Farm Lane East Wittering West Sussex PO20 8PT.

I would be very interested to have your opinion of whether you think a Southern Coastal Wildlife Corridor could be a viable possibility. I have attached an unofficial list of wildlife currently observed from my garden and the surrounding fields as a snapshot to indicate the biodiversity in just one small area.

Kind regards,,

Dear Mike

Trish Mackinnon

Enc. Wildlife

Unofficial list of wildlife currently observed in the garden and surrounding fields from one residence in Church Farm Lane. R indicates species endangered and declining

Birds

Buzzards		- nesting on the Northern oak trees range over the area and fields to the south
Sparrow Hawk		- not a popular visitor to my garden!
Herring Gull		- feed in southern fields
Common gull		- feed in Southern fields
Red legged partridge		- breed in the corner of our nearest Southern field
Pheasant		- feeding and breeding in all surrounding fields
Lapwing	R	- in Southern fields and surrounding fields.- R
Wood Pigeon		R - breed in our garden and surrounding area
Collared Doves	R	
Owls – Barn	R	- R - and
Little owl		in Immediate area - would be affected by further light pollution
Greater Spotted Woodpecker		breeds in area and visits my feeding garden station
Green Woodpecker		breeds in area and brings its young to my garden in the Spring
Skylarks	R	in all surrounding fields including the ones to the South - R
Swifts	R	and House Martins nest in old stable opposite - R
House Martins		
Wagtail		occasional visitor in my garden
Wren		nest in bushes in my garden
Robin		feeds at my bird station all year round
Mistle Thrush	R	feeds on my lawn during the summer - R
Song Thrush	R	very occasionally seen in area - R
Blackbird		all around the year garden visitor
Chiffchaff		spring summer visitor nests in mature trees in the area
Long tailed tit		visit my garden feeding station all year
Blue tit		visit my garden feeding station
Great tit		visit my garden feeding station
Jay		- garden and surrounding area
Magpie		- garden and surrounding area
Carrion Crow		- garden and fields
Rook		nest in surrounding mature oak trees
Starling	R	- garden feeding station - R
House sparrow	R	- garden feeding station hedgerows - R
Tree Sparrow		- garden visitor
Chaffinch		- garden feeding station hedgerows
Goldfinch		- garden feeding station hedgerows
Yellow hammer	R	- surrounding fields a very occasional visitor to feeding station - R

Cuckoo	R	- spring visitor to hedgerows in the area including Southern fields - R
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Animals

Deer	all over the area and in my neighbours garden. Large stag in field @19:45 17/1/19
Fox	breeding in thorn bushes immediate Southern fields
Mole	unpopular visitor to my garden!
Grey Squirrel	- rob feeding station
Field Mouse/harvest mouse	- surrounding fields
Vole	- Surrounding fields
Shrew	- Surrounding fields
Rabbits	used to be everywhere but now very affected by disease
Bats	- 2 species Common and Pipistrelle? - West Wittering church in Church Lane range over area would seriously be affected by light pollution - Protected species. Also at Stubcroft Farm barns.
Hedgehog	Garden very occasional
Doormouse	Stubcroft Farm Barns

Reptiles

Slow Worms	in our area - rare
Grass snakes	- rare
Toad	
Frog	

No expert on insects but enough around to feed the bird and bat populations

Honey bees - local beekeeper in immediate area

Wildflowers again no expert but prolific around our footpaths where there are no insecticides.

Red admiral butterfly and others again no expert on butterflies

2 ponds recently cleared by the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Groups for all wildlife and to encourage water voles

Mallard Ducks

Coot

Moorhen