

APPENDIX 3 of GI Strategy Report



Date: 1 May 2020

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Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2020 and your reflections on the current position. I know that my officers are continuing to engage discussed the work to support the update of the Habitats Regulation Assessment with your officers on 29 April 2020 with a view to developing a mitigation strategy. I understand that this was a positive meeting and a follow up has been organised for 4 June 2020.

The Council's Cabinet agreed the Draft Green Infrastructure including the provision of SANG for consultation and officers are looking to develop a programme of consultation with a view to starting this in June 2020. You will appreciate that due to the current restrictions careful thought needs to be given to this in order to ensure that it is effective but as agreed by Cabinet it will run for a period of six weeks. Much of the information is already however on the website as part of the papers published for Cabinet (originally scheduled for 26 March 2020) and can be found at <https://www.efdclocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EB149-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-EFDC-Cabinet-Report-26-March-2020.pdf> In the meantime, I understand that the principles for the SANG which informed the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy have been circulated for discussion at the meeting on 29 April 2020.

In relation to your letter of 28 November – any correspondence to be included in the Local Plan examination website is down to the Inspector not to this authority and I note that you have sent a copy of the letter to the Programme Officer.

I note your comments about the SAC Position Statement and an updated note has recently been circulated to you and to Natural England and was on the agenda for the meeting on 29 April 2020. This has been legally reviewed and we believe accurately reflects the present position – some comments have been received from Natural England and where possible have been incorporated but ultimately this is the Council's position statement.

Thank you very much for confirming a contribution towards the 2019 survey. A further meeting of the Oversight Group is scheduled for 5 June 2020 and any further survey can be discussed with this group and incorporated into an updated mitigation strategy to manage the recreational pressure on the Forest.

The Council remain committed to working with you and Natural England to develop an appropriate Mitigation Strategy to manage the impacts of growth in respect of air quality

and recreational pressures on the Forest and to this end I am working towards taking a report to Cabinet on 20 July 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Philip

Portfolio Holder for Planning