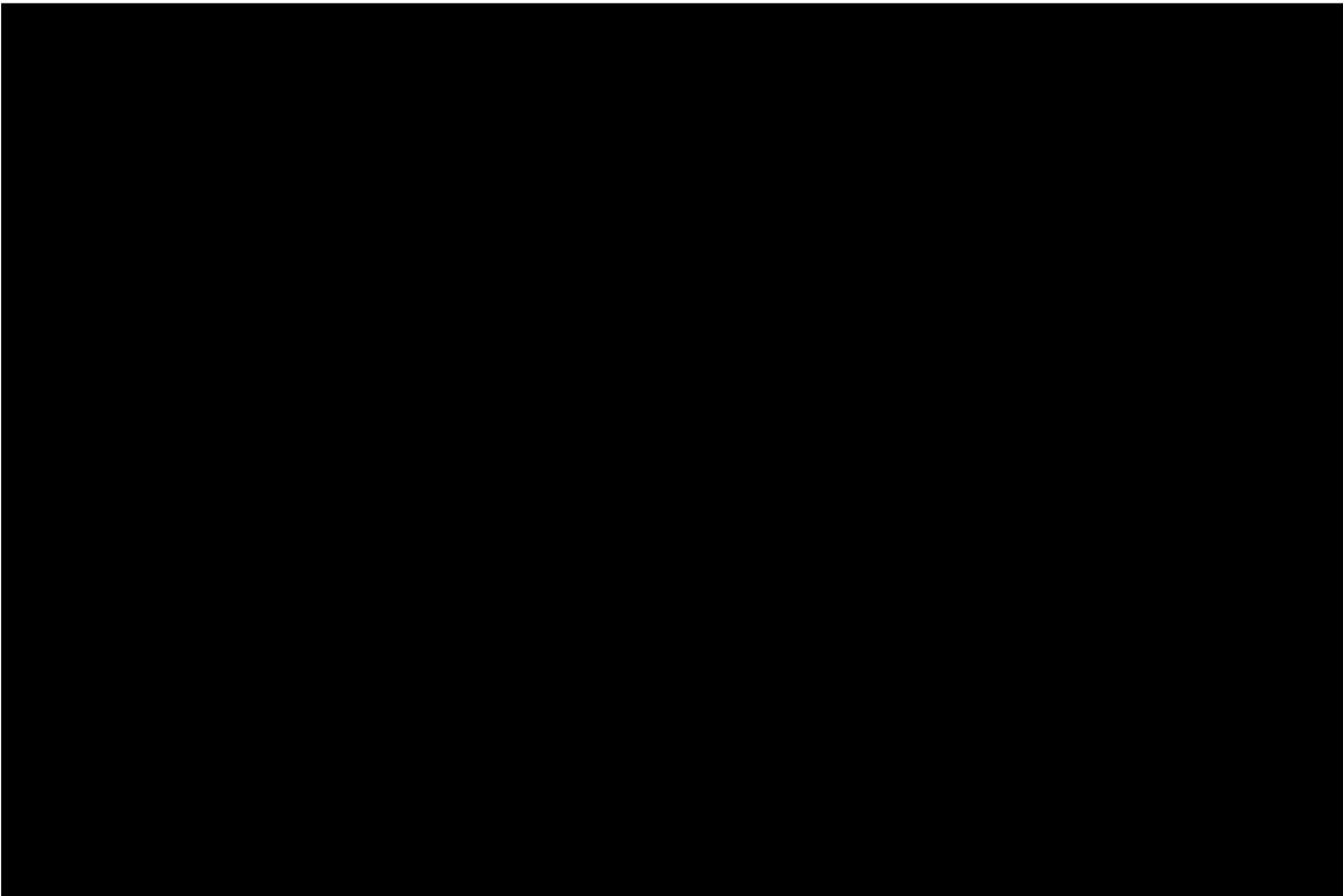




From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 October 2019 16:58

To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>; Cllr. Faye Catterson <Cllr.Faye.Catterson@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent issue - AB/88/19/PL Ford Road Arundel - FAO R ichard Castro-Parker

Hello,

I would like to highlight an urgent issue that is very concerning to many people in this part of Arundel.

This development application is awaiting a decision, but in the meantime, Mitie, the company contracted by BNP Parabus (agents for landowners National Grid) to manage the site has notified local households that it will be clearing the site of vegetation in preparation for the development.

People are very concerned about how this clearance will be undertaken as the site is rich in wildlife. Mitie has demonstrated disregard for wildlife there previously and was responsible for driving away a resident nightingale (red listed species) by illegal partial clearance of the site in May 2017, ie during the nesting season, with no ecological evaluation of site (as is required under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, before any clearance is undertaken in the nesting season). I have correspondence relating to this.

Again, Mitie applied to clear trees from the site during the nesting season this year. Their tree surgeons confirmed they were ready to go in as soon as approval was given, without any ecological evaluation (information provided by phone).

The site has been sealed off due to land contamination and vegetation is quite dense. Nightingales prefer scrubland and this has been perfect for them for many years. It is clearly thick with other bird species. Additionally, mammals, including foxes and hedgehogs are known to be there.

The Ecologist's report does not identify further animals but highlights it is in the path of several bat species and reinforces the importance of the site for nesting. There are a number of owl species in the area.

I was disappointed to read the Environmental officer report (using Chichester DC) who seemed to regard the site as a single dwelling, referring to installing a bat box and a bird box (hardly representing any compensation for the habitat loss!). BTW bat boxes rarely work. Space for bats in the building structures are far more effective.

I would like to find out what measures Mitie will take - if any - to ensure that animals on the site are protected from harm.

Does Arun DC have any powers to ensure that such measures are taken? If not, who can take this up?

To note: I have no intrinsic objection to the development of the site provided that measures to protect wildlife are taken.

Additionally, while you are considering the application, I would like to raise some points on sustainable transport measures that may be considered to mitigate transport pressures from the development. I'll do this in a subsequent email, though!

Thanks and kind regards,

Kay

--

Kay Wagland
53 Ford Road Arundel BN18 9EB