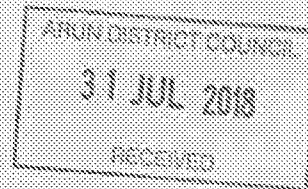


Mr A.C. Manley
62 Pagham Road
Nyetimber
Bognor Regis
W. Sussex
PO21 4NW

Friday, 27 July 2018

Planning Officer
Arun District Council
Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF



Re planning applications P/140/16/OUT and P/25/17/OUT

Dear Mr Easton

In considering these planning applications, it has come to my attention that Arun D.C. may not be giving sufficient weight to the use made of these fields by Brent Geese and other species that are part of the bird populations using Pagham Harbour. You have received a local survey conducted by the Sussex Ornithological Society and the PAGAM group which stated that 97% of people surveyed knew that these fields were used by these birds.

I was one of the people canvassed for this survey. My wife and I moved to Pagham Road in June 2002. I have been an active birdwatcher since my teens (1960s) and have kept diaries of sightings with varying degrees of depth of detail depending on work and other commitments since then. Looking back through these diaries I have extracted dates/comments etc. relating to birds on these fields and I would like to submit these to you as further evidence that these fields are of value to the harbour's bird populations, despite claims by the developers and their agents to the contrary. I have noticed that there are also comments I have recorded in the past that the number of birds using the fields has depended on the crops being grown in the fields and it has been notable that in the past few years the fields have not been sown with winter wheat so the flocks of Brent Geese have not been using the fields so much – possibly a deliberate policy by the landowners/developers seeking to downplay the importance of the fields.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Andrew Manley.

Andrew Manley

Enclosed – Diary notes on birds using fields.

2002

Saturday 16th February

A cloudless blue sky all day, warm sunshine and a cold easterly/north-easterly wind. Birds easy to see and active - but not a huge variety. I started at Pagham North Wall. In the field next to the lane was a large diffuse flock of Lapwings with a few GOLDEN PLOVERS in amongst them.

Birds around the garden at 62 over the summer holiday and into early September have included Swifts up until the 21st August, House Martins, Swallows and the occasional Sand Martin, Curlews on the field opposite (once the harvest had been taken), Cormorants and Mallard overhead, regular Sparrowhawks, a few Willow Warblers around the pond, Goldcrest in the cedar and a few YELLOW WAGTAILS.

2003

Thursday 30th October

The field opposite the house has been sown with winter wheat and this is now at the stage where it is a nice 'grassy' field, perfect for Lapwings and, this morning, GOLDEN PLOVERS.

Saturday 15th November

Large flock of BRENT GEESE in the field opposite the house this morning.

2004

January

Flock of six to seven hundred BRENT GEESE using the field opposite the house for a week or so. Included a couple of LIGHT-BELLIED BRENT and one BLACK BRANT

2005

Friday 18th February

Garden birds in February have included a Grey Heron - hopefully a new plastic decoy will discourage it - and a magnificent male Pheasant. A Song Thrush has been down to food a couple of times and we had Black-headed and Common Gulls landing on the lawn to take bread.

Last year we had geese across the road. This year the fields are bare ploughed and are currently being patrolled by gulls. Yesterday and today they have included adult MEDITERRANEAN GULLS

(Comment included to show that the land use of the fields determines the birds that use them)

Sunday November 13th

First 'chilly' day this autumn but still ten degrees plus - no frosts yet. Fields across road sown with winter cereals, now beginning to attract occasional flocks of Lapwing and Curlew - about 15 Curlew out there this morning. Flocks of Brent Geese on the far fields but not yet on the close ones.

Christmas period

Sizeable flocks of Brent Geese using the fields across the road now. Also Golden Plover at times.

Saturday 31st December

Large flock (3-400 at least) of Golden Plover in the field opposite the house today - smaller numbers of Lapwing and Curlew with them.

2006

Sunday January 1st

Still, the garden and the field opposite the house both produce good birds - today there were GOLDEN PLOVER as well as Curlew, Lapwing and BRENT GEESE in the field. The Brents have had a good breeding season - about 30% young birds with several families of three young.

Thursday 5th October

Afternoon walk across the fields to the harbour - strong westerly winds and drizzle so not brilliant for birds. Large flocks of Wood Pigeons and twenty or thirty Curlews in the maize stubble fields.

Friday 27th October

Afternoon walk down to the north wall of the harbour. A pair of STONECHATS in the stubble fields and three more along the sea wall - two males and a female.

2008

Sunday 30th December

Small flock of BRENT GEESE in the field opposite the house this afternoon.

2011

Monday April 25th

A lot of things have happened this year - much of it centres around the arrival on 27th February of Tilly our labrador puppy - birding is one of the things that have virtually stopped due to all the extra things needing to be done around her.

Winter visitors have now departed - they included the Brent geese in the fields (one Black Brant amongst them) and the Grey Wagtail around the school.

Sunday 20th November

Morning walk to the North Wall with Tilly. Five RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE in the field by the new reservoir. The flock of Brent Geese using the fields north of the path (near the path going across the rife) flew up and appeared to land on the new reservoir.

Thursday 24th November

The morning walk down to the North Wall was better today - no mist! Brent Geese in the field next to the new reservoir - hardly bothered by us or another walker with labrador ahead of us.

Sunday 11th December

Mediterranean Gull in the field opposite the house when I took Tilly out for her walk.

2012

Monday 2nd January

Brent Geese (from window at 62).

Sunday 15th January

The morning walk at the field with Tilly produced views of Brent Geese, Shelduck etc. but nothing very exciting.

Wednesday 29th February

The morning walk with Tilly produced a few Knot and one AVOCET from the far end of the Slipe Field. Later in the afternoon I walked her across the fields down to the North Wall – the Brent flock were feeding by the new reservoir and the leucistic bird was amongst them. Water Rail and Cetti's Warbler calling/singing around the Breach Pool, plus Reed Buntings along the path.

Tuesday 6th March

An afternoon walk with Tilly across the fields to the bridge. In the ridged field opposite the house there was a BUZZARD and also a RAVEN (looking considerably bigger than the Buzzard). Also Mediterranean Gull. In the wheat field the flock of Brent Geese were feeding quite close to the path, paying little attention to us or the other dog-walkers. The leucistic bird was amongst them but I could not pick out the Black Brant.

Sunday 25th March

Morning walk across the fields to the North Wall with the labradors. Two BUZZARDS in the ploughed field between the path and the church lane, and another behind the Breach Pool.

Sunday 8th April

Afternoon walk with Tilly, starting at the Slipe Field then back across the fields. Still seven or so Brent Geese at the reservoir.

Tuesday 30th October

An afternoon walk across the fields to the North Wall with Tilly. About 600 Brent Geese in the field along Church Lane, well over towards the lane.

2013

Tuesday 19th February

Yesterday and today there have been spectacular aerobatic displays by a flock of 5-600 Brent Geese over the fields opposite the house – they appear to have learned to avoid or ignore the strings put out earlier in the winter by the farmers. Mediterranean Gull over the field yesterday, long-tailed Tits in the front garden this morning.

Friday 22nd February

Took the dogs across the fields for a walk – a flock of a dozen or so Fieldfares in the horse field by Church Barton House and three †BARNACLE GEESE in the field alongside the little pond.

Saturday 23rd February

Not quite so cold this morning -- took Tilly on the same walk across the fields but this time down as far as the sluices on the North Wall -- the path along past the stables is passable again, though still muddy in places. The flock of Fieldfares in the horse field was up to 25 today, with four REDWINGS as well. A flock of about 70 Linnets flew over here.

Thursday 14th March

A Tawny Owl calling across the fields when I was putting the rubbish out this evening.

Friday 15th March

The winds have turned to the south-west and with milder weather comes rain showers. Took the dogs across the fields to the North Wall in the morning. 36 FIELDFARES in the horse field by Church Barton Farm.

Thursday 28th March

Still cold. A late afternoon walk across the fields to the North Wall with the two dogs. A flock of a couple of hundred BRENT GEESE on the field opposite the house (been here on and off for a few days) paid no attention to the dogs and vice versa -- very good.

Friday 5th April

The flock of Brent Geese on the field opposite the house still numbering over 130.

Tuesday 9th April

A male ♂BLACKCAP spent some time on the bird feeders around lunchtime today. On the field opposite the house the remnant flock of Brent Geese still numbering 38 birds.

Wednesday 10th April

Another walk across the fields with the dogs. The flock of Brent Geese now 58 birds -- I do not know if they have stayed this late in other years.

2014

Thursday 6th March

Walking the dogs across the fields to the North Wall. Three ♂STOCK DOVES in the field between the barn and small pond.

2016

Barn Owl Notably one hunting along the hedge opposite 62 Pagham Road in February