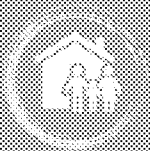


Our priorities...



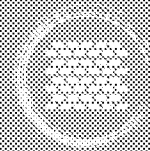
Improving the
wellbeing of Arun



Delivering the
right homes in
the right places



Supporting our
environment
to support us



Fulfilling Arun's
economic potential



From: Jim weston [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 February 2023 16:22

To: Karl Roberts <Karl.Roberts@arun.gov.uk>; David Easton <David.Easton@arun.gov.uk>; Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr. June Hamilton <Cllr.June.Hamilton@arun.gov.uk>; Cllr. Terence Chapman <Cllr.Terence.Chapman@arun.gov.uk>; Paula Hilton <Paula.Hilton@arun.gov.uk>; Alan Pivett

[REDACTED] Nigel Mundy [REDACTED] Richard Cowser

[REDACTED] Nicola Swann [REDACTED]

Subject: P/188/22/DOC and P/140/16/OUT

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I understand that officials at Arun DC Planning Department are considering an application by the developers to remove the Condition 30 that was imposed on them when outline planning consent was granted in November 2018. This condition required the developers to provide a proven mitigation site for the many brent geese who for many years had used the P/140/16/OUT as a winter foraging site. I am an experienced local birdwatcher who has considered Pagham Harbour his local patch. I have done survey work for the Environment Agency, RSPB and West Sussex County Council. I was a recorder for 34 years with the Wetlands and Estuaries surveys. When I learnt of plans to possibly develop P/140/16/OUT I decided to keep more detailed records of my observations.

1. During the winter months of 2018/19 I visited P/140/16/OUT on 58 occasions. The site was then still available to brent geese. I recorded geese on every visit. There were 17 occasions when I counted flocks of over 2000 and 5 occasions when numbers were above 3000.
2. 2019/20. I made 77 visits during the winter months to the proposed 3 mitigation fields due west of Church Barton reservoir. NO brent geese were recorded on the mitigation fields. P/140/16/OUT was no longer available to the geese through a combination of fireworks, bird scarers and an inflatable man.
3. 2020/2021. During the winter months I made 80 visits to the proposed mitigation fields and recorded brent geese there on 8 occasions.
4. 2021/2022. During the winter months I made 79 visits to the proposed mitigation fields and only recorded brent geese there on 1 occasion.
5. 2022/2023. So far this winter I have made 85 visits to the proposed mitigation fields and recorded brent geese there on 8 occasions.

The developers have now had over 4 years to comply with Condition 30 that was set by Arun District Council. In those 4 years I have made 321 visits to the proposed mitigation fields and only recorded brent geese there on 16 occasions. Those 16 occasions have never exceeded 500 and never rivalled the numbers regularly recorded on the P/140/16/OUT site. I have taken photographs on nearly every visit and all my records are recorded on BirdTrack and on the Sussex Ornithological Society's records.

It is hardly surprising that the geese have shunned the proposed fields. The fields are in a dip, ringed by trees and subject to regular flooding. I am sure that local people would have advised you of this and any experienced ecologist would not have advised this site as suitable for brent geese. It is a haven for other bird species. I have recorded 8 species of waders there, 6 species of ducks plus swans, coots, moorhens and 4 species of gull.

I am very happy to provide you with copies of my reports and photos so that you can compare them with reports from your own ecology advisers.

The developers have quite clearly failed to deliver a proven mitigation site. It was an Arun District Council to impose Condition 30 and I hope you will hold firm and insist the developers comply. Otherwise what is the point. Please place this e mail on the P/140/16/OUT and P/188/22/DOC websites.

Yours faithfully, J.D. Weston