

From: mccutcheon, brian
Sent: 10 September 2012 09:38
To: ldfprogrammeofficer
Subject: Update on nightingale issue

Adam,

In my letter to the inspector dated 27 July I said that I would keep you regularly informed of progress. In relation to this I am pleased to be able to confirm the following:

- Environment Bank have retained the services of Professor Rob Fuller, the country's foremost authority on nightingales and the BTO's Director of Science to assist in progressing the process as set out in my letter and in producing an independent assessment following input from all stakeholders
- The first technical meeting or workshop has been arranged for 25 September and Environment Bank have issued a methodology discussion paper to focus discussion. A further paper from BTO will be distributed by 19th September
- A call for case studies and potential further receptor sites has also been issued to all stakeholders, the results of which will be considered on 25 September
- The Executive Board of Natural England will meet on 24 September to consider whether or not the Lodge Hill development site, or any part of it, is to be notified as a SSSI. The 1 October is being held as a reserve date should the Board be unable to complete its assessment on 24th
- The Council intends to try to complete the mitigation/compensation process it has agreed with stakeholders regardless of the decision made by NE's Executive Board - not least to inform consideration of the outstanding outline planning application
- The Council is, of course, aware of the letter from RSPB submitted to Alison Rock on 29th August and has noted the views set out in it. However it does not consider it necessary to respond directly to it unless the Inspector would like it to do so.

I hope this is helpful. Matters are moving on rapidly and I anticipate giving you a further update next Monday.

Kind regards,

Brian McCutcheon
Planning Policy & Design Manager