From: Heslop, Anna [Anna.Heslop@rspb.org.uk]
Sent: 18 December 2012 11:21
To: smith, catherine; Dodd, Andrew; Andy Jarrett; Becx Benmayor; Brian Lloyd; Chris Hewson; cooper, robin; Burges, Dave; Debbie Salmon; Dominic Woodfield; Graham Warren; Greg Hitchcock; hall, martin; jarrett, andy; John Taylor; Judith Ashton; Julia Riddle; Lee Scott; Mason, Elizabeth @ London KH; mccutcheon, brian; Neil Jordan; Owen Sweeney; paul.howarth@de.mod.uk; Peter Court; pullin, mark; Rob.Cameron@naturalengland.org.uk; rob.fuller@bto.org; Dawes, Samantha; Sarah Lyne; sean.hanna@naturalengland.org.uk; Southern Water; stephen.neal@landsecurities.com; stoddart, carly; tom.tew@hotmail.co.uk; tomtew@environmentbank.com
Subject: RE: Medway Core Strategy - report into biodiversity offsetting

Attachments: RE: Lodge Hill: Technical Workshop

Dear Catherine,

Many thanks for this. The RSPB won't comment on the report here, but I wonder if you could clarify a few points outside of the report:

1. Whether the stakeholders and the Inspector are to receive a minute of the 9 November meeting? We note that the EBL report, on page 4, refers to "*the comments received at the 9 November Stakeholder meeting*" and draws some conclusions from the note of that meeting. The RSPB is not aware of any official record of these comments or of a note of the meeting having been circulated or agreed.

2. Also on page 4, the EBL report refers to "further *ornithological advice commissioned from the BTO following the stakeholder meeting*". Can stakeholders be provided with a copy of this further advice? The report does seem to rely on some of the elements of that advice in drawing its conclusions and it would be helpful if both the stakeholders and the Inspector could be provided with the advice itself.

3. For members of the public who look at this web page, but who have not been involved in the stakeholder process, the Inspector's letter of 27 July 2012 could usefully be added as a background document. Also could the text at the top of the page please make it clear that the stakeholders have participated without prejudice to their stated positions on the Core Strategy?

4. In his response to the RSPB's comments on the draft report Dr Tew says (at para 7, after the bullet points) that "*We'd note that some other stakeholders have criticised the report for being overly conservative*." We have read through each of the sets of comments produced on the web site and cannot find any which criticise the report for being overly conservative. The closest reference we can find are the comments of Land Securities which state (at paragraph 3) that the "*conservative approach adds to the rigour of this conclusion*" in its support of the conclusions reached, but their comments do not claim that the approach is *overly* conservative for the purposes of the Core Strategy. Could you please confirm whether there are any additional sets of stakeholder comments, which are missing from the web site?

5. The RSPB considers that some of the correspondence which took place between the technical workshop and the stakeholder workshop is also relevant and helpful as background and should be included here for the benefit of the public and the Inspector. In particular, there was an exchange between myself, Dr Tew, Dominic Woodfield and Brian McCutcheon about progress on agreed actions from the first technical workshop (I have attached the relevant email chain for clarity). The RSPB considers that this series of emails about the technical process should also be included as background correspondence.

Many thanks

Anna

From: smith, catherine [mailto:catherine.smith@medway.gov.uk]
Sent: 11 December 2012 11:42
To: Dodd, Andrew; Andy Jarrett; Heslop, Anna; Becx Benmayor; Brian Lloyd; Chris Hewson; cooper, robin; Burges, Dave; Debbie Salmon; Dominic Woodfield; Graham Warren; Greg Hitchcock; hall, martin; jarrett, andy; John Taylor; Judith Ashton; Julia Riddle; Lee Scott; Mason, Elizabeth @ London KH; mccutcheon, brian; Neil Jordan; Owen Sweeney; paul.howarth@de.mod.uk; Peter Court; pullin, mark; Rob.Cameron@naturalengland.org.uk; rob.fuller@bto.org; Dawes, Samantha; Sarah Lyne; sean.hanna@naturalengland.org.uk; smith, catherine; Southern Water; stephen.neal@landsecurities.com; stoddart, carly; tom.tew@hotmail.co.uk; tomtew@environmentbank.com
Subject: Medway Core Strategy - report into biodiversity offsetting

Dear all

I would like to inform you that the Environment Bank Ltd has produced a final version of its report into biodiversity offsetting for nightingale habitat loss at Lodge Hill.

This report has been informed by the discussions at the technical meetings and workshops held with stakeholders, ornithological advice from the BTO, site survey work at Lodge Hill and possible locations for compensatory habitat, and comments received on the draft report issued on 13 November 2012.

You can view a copy of the report and its appendices on the council's website at:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/Final%20EBL%20report%20into%20biodiversity%20offsetting%20for%20compensation%20habitat%20for%20nightingales%20at%20Lodge%20Hill,%207%20December%202012.pdf

You will also see copies on the Lodge Hill webpage of all comments that were submitted on the draft version of the report:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/developmentplan/localdevelopmentframework/ldfevidencebase/lodgehill.aspx

The council will submit the report, background papers and all relevant correspondence on this matter to the Core Strategy Planning Inspector before the re-opening of the Examination in January 2013. I confirm that all comments that were received on the draft

report will be submitted in full to the Planning Inspector.

The council is not inviting any further correspondence on the report at this time. On the reopening of the Examination, the Inspector may wish to consider this matter in further detail. We will await her instructions following the reopening of the Examination.

regards

Catherine

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Catherine Smith
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