

Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

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Date: 05/05/2017

Mark Tones
markytones@hotmail.co.uk
cc: Matthew King, Hartlepool Local Plan, Planning Policy Team Leader

Dear Mr Tones

Recommendation to de-designate Hartville Meadow Local Wildlife Site

I have sought legal advice from the Council Solicitor to clarify the Local Wildlife Site de-designation process.

Hartlepool Borough Council is signed up to the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. The Tees Valley Nature Partnership Local Sites Panel follows Defra¹ guidance with regard to running a Local Wildlife Sites system in the Tees Valley. The Tees Valley Nature Partnership provides recommendations on sites and Hartlepool Borough Council designates or de-designates the site through the Regeneration Services Committee.

I have assessed the Council's position with regard to Hartville Meadow, a site which is in your ownership and where we do not have agreement on its future management as a nature conservation site and have recommended to the Local Sites Panel that it be de-designated. The Panel will meet on 12/05/2017 and I will provide evidence and analysis to support my recommendation. With regard to your request to be in attendance, meetings of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership and its sub-groups are not public meetings.

If I get a recommendation from the Local Sites Panel to de-designate the site, I will prepare a committee report recommending de-designation and this will be on the next agenda of the Regeneration Services Committee.

Unfortunately, due to the General Election, the Council has entered what is called a 'Purdah' period and committees have been suspended. The next Regeneration Services Committee will be on 19/06/2016. While I appreciate that this is a few weeks off, unfortunately that is out of my control. Committee Meetings are public meetings and you are entitled to attend. It would be at the discretion of the Chair as to whether you, or your representative, were allowed to speak.

I hope that this sets out a clear timeline with regard to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Graham Megson
Ecologist

¹ The Defra guidance for Local Wildlife Sites systems can be downloaded from:
http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/app/webroot/files/lws/DEFRA_Local_Sites_Guidance_2006.pdf