

Email – Further statement 17/02/14

Dear Lynette,

I have been advised by John Devonshire to get in touch with you regarding the RSPB's position on the approach Surrey Heath is taking to CIL and the Habitats Regulations. I apologise for this coming so late in the proceedings, but I hope the comments below are helpful to the Examination.

In our submission to Surrey Heath's consultation on the CIL charging schedule, the RSPB raised questions about the use of CIL breaking the link between new housing and SPA mitigation measures. We were concerned that without a direct link between housing and the mitigation, it would be difficult for Surrey Heath to be certain that it is complying with the Habitats Regulations.

However, subsequent to this Natural England got in touch and explained that they are comfortable with the approach Surrey Heath is taking towards CIL and SPA mitigation measures. Natural England's letter (dated 4 Nov 13) in response to the draft Charging Schedule consultation gives advice on ways to maintain the link between impact and avoidance measures. The RSPB's view is now that if Natural England and the council are comfortable with the way this link is being maintained, then the RSPB is also satisfied.

I didn't feel it appropriate to withdraw our original comments from the Examination as we feel the issue is still relevant. However, I should have got in touch to inform the Inspector that the RSPB is satisfied with the way the council is dealing with the issue. I apologise for not having done this until now.

Regards,

Alison

Alison Giacomelli

Conservation Officer

Please note: I work three days a week, on Monday to Wednesday.

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