

Sarah Moon
Clerk of the Parish Council
8 High St
Shoreham
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN14 7TD

Thursday 2nd June 2016

Dear Sarah,

Chelsfield Depot and Andrews Wood

Further to the meeting that our consultants Peter Brett Associates had with the Parish Council, we have discussed the approach to the potential allocation of the site at Chelsfield Depot for residential development. We also understand the aspirations of the Council to try to secure the woodland both around the site, and more widely between Badgers Mount and the M25, the area known as Andrews Wood, as a buffer for the existing and future settlements.

The woodland within the Chelsfield Depot site is within our own control, as the landowner, and we have already made clear our intention in our discussions with you to retain this as an amenity for the development and the area. This woodland will need some management work as part of any development consent to ensure that it is fit for purpose, and hopefully can be provided with an appropriate level of public access. We envisage that a management trust of some description would be established as part of the development scheme to take ownership of the woodland, with an endowment towards its long term management.

It seems to us that the opportunity to establish a larger area of woodland, including the Andrews Wood area as well, would be a significant benefit to the existing and future communities, and we would be pleased to work with you to try to determine a means of allowing this to happen. We understand that the Andrews Wood area is in the ownership of Sevenoaks District Council, and that they have indicated that they would be willing to sell it to the Parish Council, or a group nominated by the Council, to allow it to be managed for the community in future.

We further understand from you that Sevenoaks DC have indicated that they will give the Parish Council a period to the end of May for them to devise a scheme for the acquisition of the Andrews Wood area. This is not sufficient time for us to be able to work together to see if we can conclude a strategy for the acquisition of the woodland as part of an allocation of the Chelsfield Depot site, as it unfortunately doesn't align with the programme for the development of the Local Plan.

We note that you are intending to approach Sevenoaks DC to ask them to defer the potential sale of the site pending the conclusion of the Local Plan process, as this offers the best opportunity for you to find a way to secure the whole of the woodland area for public benefit for the future. We therefore wish to confirm that we are wholly supportive of this deferral, and that FM Conway is very



keen to work with the Parish Council and local people to try to devise a way for the woodland to be acquired and managed as part of a coordinated and holistic approach in the future.

In this context, we are very happy for you to share this letter with Sevenoaks DC in aid of your deferral request to them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification of our position at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Conway', is written over a faint, light blue horizontal line.

Michael Conway

Chief Executive Officer