



Mrs Britt Poyntz
Secretary Friends of Ringwood Forest
14 Ebblake Close
Verwood
Dorset
BH31 6GF

Email: m.butler@dorsetcc.gov.uk

DX: DX 8716 Dorchester

Website: www.dorsetforyou.com

Date: 14 June 2012

Ask for: Miles Butler

My ref: MB/cw

Your ref:

Dear Mrs Poyntz

Petition: Quarry and Landfill, Moors Valley Country Park

I refer to the petition you presented to Dorset County Council on 1 June 2012.

This was debated at the meeting of Cabinet on 6 June 2012. In response Mr Robert Gould, cabinet member for environment, issued the following statement:

“We are aware of the public concern about the proposed extraction of minerals on land immediately adjacent to Moors Valley Country Park and close to the town of Verwood.

“Dorset County Council has not changed its position with regard to our concerns about the impact of the proposals in the plan on the Ebblake Bog area.

“What we have done is withdrawn technical objections to the amount of sand and gravel extraction the plan proposed for the whole of Hampshire. Hampshire County Council has agreed with these concerns and changed their plan accordingly.

“Unfortunately, this has caused concern, particularly in Verwood, which is of course regrettable. This confusion has, to some extent, been due to a considerable amount of misunderstanding about Dorset County Council’s position regarding the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

“It was always easy for these two matters to be seen as one issue, so we feel it is necessary to put the record straight as the public debate has not drawn any distinction between the objection regarding the more technical matters of mineral quantity and the ongoing concerns about the impact on Ebblake Bog.

“In our comments to Hampshire County Council, we pointed out the special nature of Ebblake Bog, the Ebblake Stream, the Moors River and all the interconnections between them. We made it clear we are concerned about the impact the proposed nearby extraction could have on these important internationally-designated habitats. We were also worried

about the possible loss of an important recreational area. We remain concerned about these issues, and so these comments have not been withdrawn.

"Dorset County Council will continue to keep a close eye on the progress of Hampshire's plan, especially in relation to the proposed site in Ringwood Forest, near Verwood, and will take whatever action is seen as appropriate so that our concerns about the environmental impact are not forgotten. This would be particularly important should the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan be approved by the Planning Inspector.

"While the site in question is very close to the Dorset border, Dorset County Council is not the responsible local minerals authority. This is a Hampshire County Council plan, which will be examined in public for soundness by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State."

I hope this clarifies the situation for you and would be grateful if you made these views known.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miles Butler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miles Butler
Director for Environment