

## Existence of wildlife protected species not ascertained

The site's location is rich with a range of wildlife including deer, owls, bats and protected species. Despite the site being closed for over a year, there have been no environmental assessments or surveys to determine the impact on the wildlife. Why is this when local residents have to provide wildlife surveys in support of their planning applications?

When a local group of residents in favour of rewilding and creating a nature reserve asked (22nd september, 2020) to be allowed to visit the old HRC and surrounding woodland with a consultant regarding a biodiversity assessment to see how viable the project would be, the request was initially denied by Cllrs John reed, Cllr Chapple and Cllr Chilver on 30th September 2020.

see email below:

"I have liaised with Cllr Chapple and Cllr Chilver. As I believe you are aware there is a Planning Application being considered for this site. Councillors would like Planning to be determined before considering the request below."

John Reed  
Director for Property & Assets  
Planning, Growth & Sustainability Directorate  
Buckinghamshire Council  
Note: Cllr Bill Chapple had initially agreed.

It is only after the leader of the Unitary Council was appraised of the situation that cllr John Reed finally emailed 26/10/2020 agreeing to the visit.  
Then there was" LOCK DOWN ". The resident's sponsored biodiversity assessment report has been postponed.

Many residents feel that the Rewilding and creation of a Nature Reserve on the site's (approximately) 8 acres of woodland would be an opportunity to restore a spoiled part of the AONB, support and enhance biodiversity locally (remember the site started in the 1950's as a tip) and a way **to** counteract the damage to ecosystems that underpin human health and wellbeing.

It would show the Council as a progressive champions for protecting our landscape, wildlife and environment.

# **A LOCAL EFFORT AT RE-WILDING: NATURE RESERVE Wigans Lane**

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP !!**

**A group of local residents would like to purchase the former HRC and the land surrounding it to turn it into a nature reserve.**

- Located within The Chilterns AONB and within an SSI impact Zone
  - 8 acres of land in total
- A woodland site easily linked to wider countryside through creation of circular walk to encompass Yeosden Nature reserve, Lodge Hill SSI, and local amenities in nearby villages
- Hardstanding provides car-parking away from highway for safety. Both locals and visitors have second thoughts about loading and unloading kids, pets & cycles on the existing lay-bys with cars going by at 50/60mph

### **This Initiative:**

- 1) Supports BCC's and the Government's environmental and pollutions targets.**
- 2) It enhances the AONB and the greenbelt.**



## This initiative is 100% in line with both:

- The new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (August 2020)
- The new national “Leader’s pledge for Nature” signed by the UK (Oct 2020) - which includes a 10-point pledge to counteract and repair the ecosystems.

As part of it, the government will pledge more money will be spent on the environment and ensuring nature is a priority. The commitment will boost the amount of protected land, which includes national parks and areas of outstanding Natural beauty, **from 26% to 30% by 2030.**

**Restoring      Enhancing      Repairing**



# NATURE

We should not miss a clear opportunity for **restoring and enhancing nature**. In this case **repairing the damage** that previous unknowing generations inflicted on this site.

A show case of the process of regeneration of land we contaminated.

Indeed, it would be a fitting tribute to David Attenborough and all those who are showing us the way.

Let us make a lot of noise.

A present to current and future generations.

## OUR PROPOSAL

It allows something that enhances the beauty of the AONB & Greenbelt rather than a development that is going to spoil it for current and future generations. Once this land is lost to inappropriate development, it is lost forever.

For more information contact: [locals4aonb@gmail.com](mailto:locals4aonb@gmail.com)

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