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Contact: Jan Hayes-Griffin
My ref: JW/AMH
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Date: 8 June 2018

Dear Mike

Restoration at Panshanger Quarry, Hertford and establishment of the Country Park

You wrote to John Wood the Chief Executive back in February in response to his letter to Stuart Wykes dated 29 November 2017. Several months have gone by and we are now almost half way through 2018, which is, as you say, undoubtedly a year when more progress will be made. Whilst I am aware you have been discussing matters with my planning team, I am disappointed that there is still no significant progress in opening up the rest of the Country Park.

I am therefore writing to you again to clarify your intentions to open up the rest of the Park for the summer. There is very little time now to get facilities in place for visitors and I would urge you to progress these as a matter of urgency.

I know that earlier in the year you confirmed that you were working on putting together a submission to provide an alternative to the approved ROMP restoration plan. Please can you confirm to me exactly where you are up to with this and when it is to be submitted. There is an urgent need for car parking to be provided for visitors to the country park as well as a need for ancillary facilities eg toilets. It is likely that the peak summer holiday period will be the busiest time of the year and it is only a matter of weeks away with no extra car parking provision in place. In the absence of a planning application for the permanent car parking facilities, I think you should now draw up a temporary scheme for car parking, refreshments and toilets provision to be made available during July and August 2018 which Hertfordshire County Council can then consider. I suggest you arrange an urgent meeting with my officers to agree the details.



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In the meantime, I would like you to provide me with specific updates with regard to timing in relation to the following elements:

- Removal of the plant site and its restoration
- Removal of the portacabins at the entrance to the plant site
- Restoration and removal of the buildings at the Triangle (along quarry access road)
- Opening up of the southern valley route alongside the Mimram to the public

The implementation of these proposals will signal to the community that Tarmac is committed to opening up a key part of the country park following the ending of mineral extraction at the site.

I am aware of the attempts that have been made to find a solution to the southern valley link adjacent to the River Mimram. I know that you appreciate that this is regarded as a key element in the opening up of the Park. Tarmac needs to find a solution to the proposed fencing issues as soon as possible and open up the route. If you cannot do this I do think you need to explain to us and the local community why this cannot happen.

Whilst I am aware of some of the difficulties you have faced in resolving these issues and bringing proposals forward, I would urge you to address these matters quickly. We would suggest the best way forward is for these matters of planning principle relating to the restoration scheme and the country park, to be addressed through the Planning process, before we move back to having a far simpler form of Management Plan for the whole country park area, that can be shared and agreed with a wider set of stakeholders.

Regarding Liaison issues, Felicity Hart is in the process of establishing a new Panshanger Liaison Group. I do not agree that the Panshanger Management Committee established under the original S52 Agreement is an appropriate grouping to take forward the progression and management of the country park in 2018. Today there are far more interests that have a legitimate interest in the future of the Park, who have an expectation that they will in some way be involved with discussions about the Park's future and to exclude those interests and resort to a structure designed in 1982, is inappropriate.

My final observation is that whilst some progress has been made, the pace of delivery appears to the outside world as being painfully slow. The information flow and engagement with the wider community is still very intermittent. I would therefore urge you to embrace the new Liaison Group as a way of discussing with local representatives how things are being taken forward and when and that there is a commitment to moving forward with pace.



Environment & Infrastructure

I would appreciate a formal response to these points and a clear timetable setting out your plans, as quickly as possible now. I am copying this letter to Hertingfordbury Parish Council and Friends of Panshanger Park.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan Hayes-Griffin".

Jan Hayes-Griffin
Assistant Director (Planning & Economy)

