

# Deputation Submitted by Mr Childs.

## Application Summary

**Address:** Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, Reservoir and Pipe Line, Middle Park Way, Havant

## Comments Details

**Commenter Type:** Complainant

**Stance:** Customer objects to the Planning Application

**Reasons for comment:**

**Deputation;**

There are many reasons why this should not proceed. Many of the local residents have no idea what is going to happen, despite the poorly advertised and attended covid affected public consultation. Some have been horrified to discover the embankment height is way above the height of their rooftops and only a few 100 metres from their front door. Why have the local community not been informed of the impact, have they seen the floodmap?

- **OFWAT: January 2021: raw water pipeline from Havant Thicket to Winchester**

There will be a new £176 million pipeline joining Havant to Otterbourne water treatment works at Winchester. Purpose - use the storage at Havant Thicket reservoir to supply an additional 61Ml/day raw water transfer during drought in addition to the proposed 21Ml/day potable water transfer.

**This 40 km pipeline is a game changer**, allows for two or more smaller reservoirs and must be investigated thoroughly. Options for a smaller, less damaging reservoir at Havant Thicket or surrounding area have already be proposed by PW.

A smaller local reservoir would provide water for the local area (when required) and provide staging for additional smaller reservoirs along the 40 km pipeline route to contain water for Winchester, Southampton and beyond. These additional reservoirs can be located on arable land reducing or negating the destruction of ancient woodland and wildlife in our Borough and beyond.

- **No wildlife corridors have been proposed in the reservoir plan.**

Without them Staunton Park and the surrounding meadowlands will be effectively cut off from Havant Thicket further increasing the damage to our wildlife. At a minimum PW should have allowed for an 80 x 620 metres wildlife corridor along the east of the site with fully restored woodland joining Havant thicket to Staunton Park. Why has this not been included?

BUT – this will not save the approx. 3.2 km of established meadow and marshland. This land has never been used for agriculture and supports many endangered species such as Skylarks, Lizards, Adders, Slowworms to name but a few. It provides feeding grounds for Bats, Nighthjars and possibly great crested newts. It is the jewel in the crown for Havant

Borough Council and the beating heart for the wildlife of Havant Thicket and Staunton Park.

- **With reference to the conservation officer report appendix A**

The officer states in essence the lost habitat is not and cannot ever be replaced. Not just the ancient woodland - also the 3.2 square km ephemeral surrounding meadowland. This amounts to criminal damage to our environment and is against all current environmental directives including recent announcements from our government.

Supposed Mitigation is either out of our local area or linked to the wet lands which are in no way guaranteed to be a success.

He states that coastal bird species 'should' benefit. This is not a clear and positive confirmation. Therefore, the statement that there will be a net gain is not valid.

He says there is no doubt that biodiversity gains can be made through better management of the surrounding woodlands. WE DO NOT NEED A RESERVOIR to do this. We can do it anyway.

None of this damage would occur if PW had based the site selection on the environment and community and not on cost. Ofwat reports state Havant reservoir is the cheapest option. They do not say it will have the least impact on our environment.

PW have sold this to our community with pictures and videos of a dark blue full reservoir yet they know it will be much lower in the summer/autumn months. We will inherit a massive 1/2 full clay dust bowl. How will this benefit our community?

- **No to the proposed visitor centre, roads or car parks in the centre of Havant Thicket**

Havant Thicket has remained a secluded wildlife refuge due to the fact there is no vehicle access. People have to walk meaning it is enjoyed by ramblers, dog walkers, cyclist etc. the foot fall is low allowing species such as bats, nightjars and reptiles to survive with the woodland undisturbed (apart from the awful motorcyclists).

YET PW have plans for a 'low impact' visitor centre - requiring two new access roads, including a 250+ car and 3 coach parking area, further impacting the rich biodiversity of Havant Thicket and reducing/destroying the little remaining space left for our wildlife.

Any visitor centre (if required) must be built on land to the east of the sight. There are existing fields available for this.

We already have an established successful and very highly rated leisure and family facility at Staunton Country Park. Why do we need a competing visitor centre?