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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Thomas Frankland-Wells
Development Management
Stevenage Borough Council
Daneshill House, Danestrete
Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1HN

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

9th August 2023 (by email)

Dear Mr Frankland-Wells,

Application no. 23/00548/FPM

Elm Green Pastures, Land at Lanterns Lane, Aston End, Stevenage

Change of use of agricultural land to archery ranges (Use Class F2(c) areas or places for outdoor sport or recreation) including storage, toilet facilities and informal parking.

I write with regard to the above proposal by the Green Dragon Bowmen for the use of Elm Green Pastures for archery ranges and associated services. We note that the site is identified as a Wildlife Site under Policy NH2 of the Stevenage Local Plan, where: "planning permission will be granted where proposals: a. Would not result in substantive loss of deterioration of a Wildlife Site; and b. Reasonably contribute towards the maintenance or enhancement of Wildlife Sites in the vicinity of the application site."

Notwithstanding the Applicant's comments in their Planning Statement under the heading Policy NH2: Wildlife Sites regarding the undertaking of surveys and willingness to cooperate "with relevant agencies", CPRE Hertfordshire is concerned that the proposed use may have significant implications for wildlife on the site. This may relate, but not be limited to, the impacts of car-parking and movements and provision of built facilities.

If this application is to be permitted, it will be necessary to impose robust planning conditions which relate to the maintenance and enhancement of wildlife. The site's proximity to residential development on the edge of Stevenage increases its significance as a wildlife reserve which maintains the difference between urban and rural environments.

We note the concerns of East Herts District Council with regard to the inadequacy of the plans for the proposed facilities, and Hertfordshire County Council Highways regarding access and further information. CPRE Hertfordshire supports these requests for further work to be done to enable appropriate assessments to be made to ensure that the requirements of Local Plan Policy NH2 are met.

CPRE is working nationally and locally for a beautiful and living countryside

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO
Chairman: Allan McNab

Registered Charity 1162419



Yours sincerely,

Chris Berry
Planning Manager

NOTE: We would request that this letter is published on the Council's website as a document relating to this application and should be grateful if you would notify us of the date of the appropriate meeting if it is to be determined by planning committee.