

Turvill Representation

With reference to the above application, we here at the Sherwood Forest Fun Park would like to raise our concerns and remind the planning authority of the original planning application 16/01499/FULM and the references to 'residential amenity'.

The noise from late night traffic on the Car and Coach parks which are adjacent to us here at the Fun Park would be unbearable, as it would be for the Senior Citizens whose bungalows back on to the said car parks.

When our planning application here at the Fun Park was granted, we weren't allowed to open beyond 6.00pm, because of the 'close proximity of the old folks' bungalows'.

All the primary schools that were already booked in with us for 6.30pm, had to reschedule and luckily we didn't lose any.

Last October, Saturday 12th, a 'Shadow Event' was held at the Visitor Centre and it continued until 5.00am.

The noise was unbearable for us, mini bus doors slamming, car doors slamming, head lights on and people shouting. This went on continuous until 5.00am and we simply could not function the next day.

At 9.00am on the Monday morning, 14th October, we lodged a complaint with the RSPB at the Visitor Centre and to this day no one has come back to us regarding this matter.

We trust that you will take on board our real concerns, already from 1st hand experience and note that the New Visitor Centre and its associated parking does not lend itself to late night entertainment!!!

Thanking you.

Alfred and Winona Turvill.
Sherwood Forest Fun Park

Peck Representation

Dear Licensing committee,

Re: application for drink and music etc. licence. Applicant: RSPB Sales

I'm representing a number of my constituents who live on Paddock Close, Edwinstowe to object on their behalf to an application by RSPB for a licence to sell alcohol at a number of specified events during the year which include music and films. It would appear that the application, if granted, would be in contravention of the existing planning conditions which were set at the time of the granting of planning permission for the new Visitor centre. Notwithstanding that fact, the new Visitor Centre, unlike the previous one, is in close proximity to a number of residential properties on Paddock Close (perhaps no more than 100 metres) and close to the elderly and disabled people's bungalows on Maythorne Grove (little over 200 metres away).

Residents have expressed to me their concern that the events listed could potentially give rise to public nuisance both in terms of noise, increased traffic, parking problems and possibly unruly behaviour. Likewise, the consumption of alcohol at such events could also give rise to public behaviour issues. There are therefore sufficient grounds to not agree to the application. However, if the Licensing Authority is minded to grant the application, I would ask that very strict conditions are put in place to address the concerns including the level of stewarding of events also that the District Council regularly monitors and reviews the licence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

John Peck

(County Councillor, Sherwood Forest Division)

Douglas Representation

I must say that (though I understand the “separation of powers” in the various pieces of legislation) that I’m rather surprised that a licensing application can’t take account of applicable legal restrictions that conflict with that licensing application. (I’m also sorely disappointed that an ostensibly responsible organisation like the RSPB would choose to make an application that appears to be clearly in conflict with constraints placed upon them).

Anyway, it is what it is.

There is still a representation to be made on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance (the other grounds would be generally difficult to object on in the case of a new licence).

The premises abut a residential area and are unsuitable for such licensed use by (non-exclusive) reason of noise from the premises and the parking of cars (avoiding the payment of charges) in the adjoining residential roads. Paddock Close already suffers from daytime parking and particularly when there are events on at the Visitor Centre. With opening hours currently restricted until 20:00, the evening disruption is at least limited; opening until 23:30 is going to make the nuisance from general noise and traffic intolerable.

This is no artificially manufactured objection; the impact of longer opening hours was clearly considered in the granting of planning permission and as we have discussed, the closing time of the Visitor Centre therefore restricted in conditions, viz:

020

The visitor centre and associated facilities shall only be open to the public between the hours of 08.00 to 20.00 Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

021

There shall be no deliveries to the site outside the following hours 07.00 to 18.00 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive and between 10.00 to 18.00 on Sundays, Public or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

Note the terminology “In the interests of residential amenity” – a clear acceptance that longer opening hours are likely to result in “public nuisance”.

Further to that, the application for extension of the opening hours with “entertainment” is no minor thing. The request is for licensing for up to 79 days per year to the late hour of 23:30; this means a likelihood of evening “nuisance” for some 20% of the year.

In further reinforcing the representation, my understanding is that various complaints have been made (and police called) to the adjacent Youth Hostel to deal with nuisance emanating from there. The noise carries clearly and disruptively to the adjoining residential properties.

Whilst I’m also not entirely convinced about the licensing within current opening hours (that the applicant describes as “Standard day for all of the licensable activities”), to be honest it is

more difficult to push back against these, since much of the noise and disruption (unpleasant though it is at times) probably already exists.

I'd therefore ask the licensing authority to consider the impact, as described above, of granting such licences where they extend beyond the current "Standard day for all of the licensable activities" and reject them on the grounds of prevention of public nuisance.

Since this has brought to attention the potential breach of planning conditions, I'm also forwarding this correspondence under separate cover to the NSDC Planning team to investigate the situation under the existing planning conditions.

Regards,
Bob Douglas

Edwinstowe Parish Council Representation

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below a response to the above application from Edwinstowe Parish Council

I would be grateful if you could ensure that this gets to the correct department.

Many thanks

Cllr Andy Freeman
Edwinstowe Parish Council

The Licensing Section
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Castle House
Great North Road
Newark
Notts
NG24 1BY

8th April 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Response of Edwinstowe Parish Council - RSPB Sales Ltd – Licensing Application

Whilst the Council is supportive of increased use of the visitor centre site this should not be at the expense of the amenity of local residents and the local environment and wildlife habitat. As such we would make the following representations.

The Parish Council is concerned that the non-standard timings represent a breach of the planning conditions original agreed when the original planning application was granted. Specifically the conditions set out below;

020

The visitor centre and associated facilities shall only be open to the public between the hours of 08.00 to 20.00 Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

021

There shall be no deliveries to the site outside the following hours 07.00 to 18.00 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive and between 10.00 to 18.00 on Sundays, Public or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

Also we are concerned that the proposed level of activities could have a substantial impact on the ecology and habitat as the site is directly adjacent to the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve and the proposed maximum level of such activities appear to be in contradiction to the RSPB's stated mission regarding "Homes for Nature" and "Species Recovery". As such prior to any license being granted the Council would ask that an

assessment of the impact on the ecology be undertaken. Any local authority failing to undertake such an assessment would be failing in its duty to protect the environment and specifically in relation to Newark & Sherwood's Community Plan which states that its aim is to;

"Protect, promote and enhance the district's natural environment"

Whilst the Parish Council is concerned about the impact on the local environment we are not averse to some activities taking place, albeit at a reduced level, in order to boost visitor numbers. As such we would like to propose the following changes to the non-standard timings;

Non standard timings

Plays – up to 10 days a year - 10:00 to 20:00

Films – up to five days a year – 10:00 – 22:00

Live Music – up to 10 days a year – 10:00 – 22:00

Recorded Music – up to 10 days a year – 10:00 – 22:00

Anything Similar – up to 10 days per year – 10:00 – 22:00

Alcohol – up to 20 days per year – 10:00 – 22:00

Non-standard times – 10:00 – 22.30

We would also ask that activities finish earlier on weekday nights (apart from on Friday) and Sunday nights.

I trust our comments will be considered.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Freeman

Chair

Planning Committee

Edwinstowe Parish Council

Smith Representation

Paddock House
Paddock Close
Edwinstowe
Notts NG21 9LP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to strenuously object to the application made by Gemma Howarth, Senior Site Manager, RSPB Planning Ltd requesting a new premises licence to Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. I am aware of the 4 licensing objectives which can be taken into account and I base this objection mainly on the grounds of Public Nuisance and Public Safety. I am also aware that planning and licensing work under separate legislation grounds but would like to point out that planning conditions currently in place directly affect this application.

020

The visitor centre and associated facilities shall only be open to the public between the hours of 08.00 to 20.00 Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

021

There shall be no deliveries to the site outside the following hours 07.00 to 18.00 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive and between 10.00 to 18.00 on Sundays, Public or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

At the heart of these planning conditions is the integrity of ensuring **residential amenity**. I have therefore enclosed additional information which illustrates existing challenges to local residents' residential amenity and examples illustrating public nuisance and existing health and safety concerns.

The RSPB Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre has been built, despite community objections, adjacent to a residential area. Since its opening we have suffered the intrusive way in which this centre has affected our village and home life so we are all too aware of what this proposed licensing permit for the sale of alcohol and licensable activities would further inflict on our everyday lives, health and well-being.

The proposal to hold plays up to 10 days a year with alcohol served up to 8pm and films, live music, recorded music and "anything similar" for what appears to be an excessive 80+ days a year up to 11.30pm and indeed 5am in the morning surely would be contrary to the licensing objectives of public nuisance and public safety? It has been confirmed that these outdoor activities would be held during summer, in addition to the Sherwood Festival which lasts over a fortnight. The proposal also details "anything similar". Thus far apparently they remain "ideas and concepts" but I would like clarification as to what this may entail as this open-ended request for a new premise licence is surely open to any interpretation?

The core purpose of this centre seems to have vanished. We had believed that the RSPB were supporting Sherwood Forest and the “conservation of wildlife and the wider environment”. The Centre should be promoting education and opportunities to educate youngsters especially about animals, wildlife, forests, conservation and Robin Hood! School parties completing their pre-trip Risk Assessments, would find it very difficult justifying visiting premises where alcohol is being served. Granting of an approved licence would ensure increased footfall, disruption, noise and pollution during anti-social hours.

The resultant public nuisance would surely compromise the RSPB mission statement and most importantly its commitment to the conditions 020 and 021 of planning permission 16/01499/FULM.

There was much discussion at the time of this application and many promises made. We were reassured that the planning conditions of 020 and 021 would guarantee us residential amenity and therefore cannot understand that this application has even been put forward. Surely this application contradicts these conditions already in place? What has actually changed?

Granting this licence of alcohol and licensable activities for so many occasions will in effect mean large crowds of people continually descending in one small area of the village with resultant noise, transport and parking issues. Preparation, management and clearing up afterwards necessitate deliveries and refuse collection. Temporary toilet provision would need to be made. All this would take place in one small area of the forest. There will be public nuisance and real safety issues. We have so many anti-social issues here as it is and encouraging more visitors in extended hours is I believe totally irresponsible.

The site has been built really close to residential properties, a church, cemetery, primary school, youth hostel and craft centre. As residents we already know how disruptive the existing RSPB events can be. Such late timings will mean even more anti-social behaviour with excessive noise into the early hours of the morning. Many bungalows near Forest Corner are for the elderly and infirm. Surely all residents will be more vulnerable and personal safety be further compromised.

The granting of this licence will result in interfering with general community interests. It will ensure more public nuisance and safety issues which we have experienced already. It will ensure vehicle pollution, intrusive loud, constant noise pollution on an excessive number of occasions during anti-social hours. There will be litter issues and highway obstructions. There would be far more people around late at night in this small village with the potential for crime and disorder. It will put our properties and more importantly our residents at unnecessary risk. It will negatively affect the day to day life, mental health, well-being and comfort of the residents both in their own home, in their gardens and in their exercise and enjoyment of rights common to all.

I am objecting to the application on the grounds of public nuisance and public safety. As these objections can only be predicted and not be proven until and if the licence is approved and proposed events take place, they must by definition be described as potential. However, I have included details of true circumstances which illustrate examples of noise pollution, highway disturbances, health and safety, anti-social behaviour and other public nuisance and public safety concerns. I presume that these would be considered alongside the application from Sherwood Visitor Centre.

I would like to be reassured that despite having different legislation both yourselves and planning will discuss the implications of granting a licence whilst planning conditions already exist to actively prevent such proposed activities to take place.

Elizabeth Smith

Additional information: Licence and Planning

As you might be aware there was much public outcry at the proposed building of this highly expensive centre so close to a residential area and cemetery but this application was from the RSPB which **gave residents more hope especially when we looked at the RSPB mission statement.**

Aims: The Mission Statement represents the long term purpose for the RSPB. The RSPB strives:

For the conservation of wild birds and **the wider environment** on which they depend, in the conviction, not only that the beauty of birds and nature **enrich the lives of many people**, but also that nature conservation is fundamental to a **healthy environment on which the survival of the human race depends.**

To maintain bird numbers, diversity and geographic distribution and to increase these where general conservation values are enhanced by doing so. For the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and for the re-creation of habitats as the most important means of conserving wild birds as well as other animals and plants.

There was much discussion at the time of this application and many promises made. We were reassured at least with the conditions **020** and **021** of planning permission **16/01499/FULM** as we believed these **would assure us some form of Residential Amenity.**

020

The visitor centre and associated facilities shall only be open to the public between the hours of 08.00 to 20.00 Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

021

There shall be no deliveries to the site outside the following hours 07.00 to 18.00 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive and between 10.00 to 18.00 on Sundays, Public or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

The Reality of our Residential Amenity

Fast forward a couple of years and we are now altogether well aware of the reality of what turned out to be a highly expensive structure but in all essence a small café and larger shop. There has been little evidence thus far of **fulfilling the principles of the RSPB** mission statement and some would say there is evidence of quite the opposite.

Forest, Birds & Wildlife: There is little evidence of anything to do with birds and bird protection. Indeed the reduction of trees and increased football is causing much disturbance to wild life.

Health & Safety

There is an expanse of water near the Centre known as SUDS which is used we believe to store and re use drained water at source. It is protected by a single rope on sticks around it. This water is dangerous for the public especially young children and proves an attraction, as does the children's playground, for dare devil teenagers after closing hours.

The Centre has a well-documented problem with its sewers. The appalling smell of sewerage from the Visitor Centre is an ongoing problem yet to be satisfactorily solved.

General management of the site appears reactive rather than proactive- poor car parking management next to cemetery and staff carpark - amateurish signage, hastily written additions to notices, staff car parks half-finished, landscaping yet to be completed and signs left lying around where they have fallen.

At many community meetings to discuss the planning proposal of the Centre, we were promised that visitors to the forest "would not be herded in one or two directions to visit the forest" but that is sadly the case. This causes congestion and is a serious safety issue for older/ less mobile / people on wheelchairs/ with pushchairs competing with dogs and dog walkers, cyclist, runners and horses.

Highways / Access: The many metres of wooden fencing cordoning off large areas of the forest as part of conservation also fulfil no doubt Natural England's demand in the original planning application to "prevent casual access" of the forest. However, this has closed off access to the forest except at one crowded corner [Forest Corner], where despite the zebra crossing, there is still unsafe access across Swinecote Rd, which remains an accident waiting to happen. Dangerous parking exists at overcrowded parking in unsafe areas along Swinecote Rd. This increases whenever there is an event at the Centre.

Despite the assurance that the Centre would "increase business for the High Street", I would venture to say that it has resulted in the opposite. Shop owners and residents trying to access the Health Centre, pharmacy and local businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to park. Many cars left on the High St belong to visitors to the Centre who are avoiding RSPB car park fees. Therefore, local residents find it harder to shop locally. Inappropriate parking is evident around the area causing major ongoing problems for residents.

Access to Cemetery: The journey to the Cemetery should obviously be dignified, pleasant and well maintained demonstrating respect at all times. However, the staff car park site which runs alongside this road remains untidy and unfinished. There are, for example, hastily written notices dangling on free standing metal partitions kept in order to hold open the staff carpark barriers. The sudden introduction of a large dilapidated building plonked in the staff carpark being used as "storage" as unbelievably there isn't enough space for storage in the aforementioned expensive Centre, looks ugly and incongruous. There is an unpleasant looking "feed the birds van" parked all times alongside the route to the Cemetery.

Noise Pollution & Pollution: Increased footfall close to residential properties has resulted in noise and car pollution for the long suffering residents. Many trees have been cut increasing noise from traffic on Swinecote Road and the Centre itself including buses and goods vehicles at all times during the day.

We have to deal with Alarms at the Centre suddenly going off during the night and no back up from staff as they are not on the site.

Night events have taken place at the Centre which have resulted in excessive noise and disturbance throughout early evening throughout the night till 5am.

We have been woken up at **4am** with flashing lights, men shouting, vehicles revving, clashing and clanging noises lasting for almost 45 minutes. When we pursued this matter, we eventually were told it was Bin Lorries making an early start!

There are so many other examples to give which illustrate the challenges we have to face. We therefore have no confidence that such a huge scale up scale of activities as detailed in this licensing application could be managed safely and effectively thus resulting in both public nuisance and public safety.

EASmith

Sansom Representation

Ashley Sansom

20 High Street

Edwinstowe

Notts

NG21 9QS

3rd April 2020

RSPB Sales New Premises License Application

Dear Sir

I wish to object to this application and my reasons for doing so are:

1. The Visitor Centre currently has only a small café and is not an appropriate venue to be licensed.
2. The Visitor Centre has a role in providing stewardship to the surrounding Sherwood Forest area. Provision of alcohol to visitors is not consistent with the stated aims of the RSPB and its partners.
3. Visitors with children are encouraged to explore the surrounding paths and tracks. It would be a foolish move to introduce alcohol in any form on the site because this would detrimentally affect the surroundings and their ambience.
4. The adjacent Youth Hostel is licensed and alcohol must be consumed only by residents while indoors. The Visitor Centre has neither accommodation nor indoor drinking area apart from their small café. The adjacent Cricket Club infrequently sells alcohol to the public during matches.
5. People living close to the site have suffered major disruption from visitors parking on their streets to avoid parking charges at the Visitor Centre Car Park. Having inebriated customers coming by their homes would be a further imposition.
6. The "Non Standard Timings" list events that give rise to major concerns, namely Films, Plays, Live and Recorded Music and "Anything Similar". I presume that these are outdoor events and most likely to happen during summer evenings and nights. We currently have Rufford Park, Clumber Park and Sherwood Pines close to our village providing this type of event. The difference is that these venues are situated well away from houses and towns. The Visitor Centre is not and any one of these activities would cause noise and foot/motor traffic disruption which would affect both residents in the immediate vicinity and also the wider area. Allowing alcohol into that mix is unwise and unacceptable.
7. I conclude that the applicants see the popularity of the other local hosting venues and wish to draw similar crowds and income. There is no quiet and secluded enclave to host films and music events at or near to the Visitor Centre. The other venues cause massive disruption to traffic. Sherwood Pines is swamped with cars and taxis when they stage their annual concerts. The relatively remote roads can barely cope. Edwinstowe's streets cannot be expected to handle the concert visitors all leaving at the same time some of which will be inebriated!
8. I am not aware of any applications relating the construction of an "arena" or remote venue for these events and if there is, please direct me to them. My assumption is that the intended area for hosting them is the level grass area between the cricket pitch and the graveyard which is directly in front of the Visitor Centre. This is far too close to homes and within direct line of sight of the Alms Houses on Church Street.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Sansom

Burrells Representation

22 MAYTHORN GROVE
EDWINSTOWE.
MANSFIELD NOTT.
NG21 9QB.
2-4-20

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re:- Application for New Premise Licence
Sherwood Forest Visitors Centre

I have read with "Horror" the proposed use for all this entertainment + hours involved at the Visitors Centre.

I live right opposite in what is supposed to be + once was a rural setting. How could anyone be so cruel as to inflict noise like this until late at night or all through the night on us. Our bungalows are for elderly + or disabled people.

Already I have to put up with a recently introduced car park right next

to my back garden plus the fairground
has been moved there too

The last thing we want round here
are noisy crowds probably drunk going
past our properties late at night disturbing
our rest. There are plenty of pubs in the
village.

I'm dead against alcohol being consumed
at all at this visitor centre. It is for families.

By the way, the RSPB is supposed
to look after birds who need to roost at
night. Talk about money grabber.

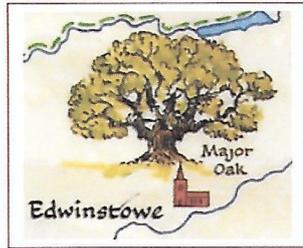
I protest really strongly regarding this. I
do not want my life destroyed.

Yours faithfully

J.P. Borrells

Mrs. J.P. BORRELLS

Warsop Representation



*"Paddock House",
6, Paddock Close,
Edwinstowe,
Notts. NG21 9LP*

2nd April 2020

*Licensing and Enforcement Section,
Newark & Sherwood District Council
Castle House,
Great North Road,
Newark on Trent,
Notts. NG24 1BY*

*Licensing and Enforcement Section, Newark & Sherwood District Council
Application for new Premises License - RSPB Sales Ltd.*

As members of the local community and neighbours to the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre we want nothing more than support the RSPB to preserve and strengthen the integrity and beauty of Sherwood Forest.

We purchased our home almost 25 years ago in the knowledge that we would be sharing the Forest with visitors, have a Fun Fair as our neighbour and events, like the Robin Hood Festival, would take place. We also knew that we would have some respite after 5pm when the barriers were closed and most people went home!

When the Centre was built, we felt that it was a total overdevelopment of the Forest Corner site. Everything has been crammed into a relatively small and very busy area with visitors being herded from the car park to the Visitors Centre and then on to the Forest. It is like a motorway at the bottom of our gardens!! By virtue of the position of the old visitors centre far more events took place some distance away from our properties. Evening events and daytime events like the 'drumming school' are so close to us that they make life intolerable for local residents. Everyday noise is a real burden. Throughout the year, especially at weekends and holidays, Paddock Close is a popular parking area to avoid parking charges. There are many instances of visitors parking dangerously. At times pavements are blocked restricting access to wheelchair users and families with pushchairs.

We couldn't believe the details of the licence application. The times for even more noise and disruption are extended between 10am and 11.30pm. The option for late night refreshments on a Saturday is extended to 5am on Sunday morning!! Traffic leaving the site would extend the disruption. We have problems with the adjoining Youth Hostel with alcohol being consumed and late night noise and anti-social behaviour until 2am and beyond. We already have the noise from events at Centre Parcs and Sherwood Pines. Why are the RSPB with its core values to protect wildlife and to give nature the home it deserves putting in an application like this?

I can't believe that the Licence is even being considered when it covers hours well outside the opening hours quoted on it. It cuts across the constraints placed on the development by the granted planning permission, which already recognised the issues-

Condition 020

The visitor centre and associated facilities shall only be open to the public between the hours of 08.00 to 20.00 Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

Condition 021

There shall be no deliveries to the site outside the following hours 07.00 to 18.00 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive and between 10.00 to 18.00 on Sundays, Public or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

The fact that the impact on "residential amenity" was recognised in the Planning Permission (and constraints applied) is obviously quite germane in this case. Potentially this would cover 89 days, over a quarter of the year with a disproportionate number taking place in the Summer. The amphitheatre is highlighted in the plans as an area for events. As highlighted, we already suffer from noise from this area between the hours of 10am and 5pm.

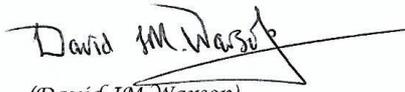
The Planning Department have confirmed that condition 020 and 021 of planning permission 16/01499/FULM remain in place. Should the visitor centre regularly breach these conditions, the Local Planning Authority would of course consider formally enforcing the matter through a Breach of Condition Notice. It was also confirmed that the planning conditions have been imposed for a reason, ie in the interests of residential amenity.

I totally oppose the application on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance. Matters of Public Safety and Prevention of Crime and Disorder resulting from an all-day alcohol licence are matters to be considered.

The process of this application is extremely compromised by the current COVID-19 crisis. Many residents can not leave their homes and are not aware of the application. It is very difficult/impossible to have a discussion or contact local councillors or officers of the District Council. Local Businesses and shops are closed. It should have been deferred until the crisis is over.

The RSPB and its partners need to ensure that future developments and activities in Sherwood Forest are in keeping with the ambiance of the area and are not detrimental to the well-being of those who live nearby. We are only custodians of Sherwood Forest and need to be mindful that any decisions made now will impact on this legacy for the future.

Yours sincerely,


(David JM Warsop)