



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs M Watkins
Clerk, Somerford Keynes Parish Council
Waterford House
Somerford Keynes
Cirencester
GL7 6EN

When calling please ask for Philippa Lowe
Tel: 01285 623000

2nd February 2012

Dear Mrs Watkins,

Lake 31 - Country Park

Thank you for letter to David Neudegg, sent by email from Sarah Powell on behalf of the Parish Council, setting out a number of concerns regarding Lake 31, for which he has asked me to respond.

I do understand how you feel in terms of the level and strength of concern from within the community and I share much of your frustration that the planning Enforcement regime does not provide a solution.

The Council's position is, as you rightly say in your letter, that a breach was not confirmed to have taken place until October 2011, at which point works were then considered to be substantially complete. Planning Committee considered a report by Pegasus independent Planning Consultants which set out the next steps to be taken at the site, with the first trigger point being at the end of February 2012. As this report provides full details about how a breach is assessed and the test for expediency, I have attached a copy of the report for ease of reference.

Whilst there are still a number of weeks to go before that trigger point I have already spoken to the Chairman of the Parish Council to invite a group of your members to a meeting to discuss in more detail the next steps, very much along the lines set out in your letter. I had provisionally suggested dates next week and hope a convenient time can be found.

I must reiterate my continuing willingness to respond to concerns and await confirmation of who is able to engage in this work. Clearly, at present the works at the site do not represent a finished scheme and the Council wants to work with the community to secure an acceptable outcome.

I am also happy to meet with a wider group of community representatives to answer any questions or queries regarding planning issues within your area including a more general discussion of ways in which the community can feel better engaged with the planning process.

I conclude by assuring you of our best intentions in dealing with planning and enforcement matters. Like you, we are committed to ensuring that the Country Park can be enjoyed by the community and visitors to the area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Lowe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Philippa Lowe

Head of Development Services

Cc Geoffrey Clifton Brown, MP
Cllr Clive Bennett
Cllr Esmond Jenkins
Cllr Juliet Layton
GCC Cllr Shaun Parsons
South Cerney with Cerney wick Parish Council
Poole Keynes Parish Meeting