



16 July 2012

To all Cotswold Water Park Parishes and residents:

Joint application between the Cullimore Group and the Cotswold Water Park Society at land known as Freeth's Field

Gloucestershire County Council is currently considering a joint planning application from the Cullimore Group and the Cotswold Water Park Society to extract gravel from Freeth's Field near Spratsgate Lane and to turn the land into a car park when gravel extraction is complete.

The Cotswold Water Park Trust would like to take this opportunity to clarify the situation with respect to its continued involvement with this application through the Cotswold Water Park Society (now a subsidiary of the Trust).

The Society's aim throughout has been to enhance Keynes Country Park by creating a separate car park so that traffic is easier to manage and the Country Park becomes a more enjoyable and safer place to visit.

Freeth's Field is situated next to the entrance to Keynes Country Park and is the only realistic option for a car park.

The Society became involved after local mineral extraction company, Cullimore Group, purchased Freeth's Field and indicated that it wished to apply for consent to extract gravel. The Society wanted to find a way of using the site after extraction to solve its car parking needs and Cullimore Group agreed in principle that the Society should use the field for this purpose once it was restored.

The application was granted planning permission by Gloucestershire County Council but a judicial review subsequently decided that, due to insufficient consultation, it needed to be re-considered. This is now in progress.

The Trust (which now controls the Society) decided that it is in the best long-term interest of Keynes Country Park for the Society to remain as joint applicant and for the car parking improvements to go ahead should planning permission be granted.

The Trust respects the right of local communities to raise legitimate concerns over planning applications. Should planning permission not be granted, the Trust would be happy to explore other options for development of alternative car parking facilities.

In January 2012, the Trust published details of the agreement brokered by Mr D.S. Grant (ex CEO of the Society) to lease Keynes Country Park to Watermark Investments Leisure Developments Ltd and gave its categorical assurance to local communities that it would not permit any inappropriate development. On behalf of the Cotswold Water Park Trust Board, I wish to repeat that assurance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David John', written over a horizontal line.

Sir David John KCMG

Chairman
Cotswold Water Park Trust

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