Kidlington Parish Council

Motion 1

Our response to the stadium planning application says, "*Kidlington Parish Council asks **OCC and CDC** to independently assess and confirm if the Triangle meets the criteria for designation as a Local or District Wildlife Site (LWS/DWS) and consider it for inclusion in the Oxon Nature Recovery Strategy Priority Habitats list before determining the application*".

The purpose of Motion 1 is to ask Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to assess whether the site merits designation as a wildlife site.

Proposed Motion 1

That Council writes to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) asking the Oxfordshire Biodiversity Officer to consider adding the land known as the Triangle and the adjacent Long Established Woodland to the County's list of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

Proposed Motions 2 & 3

There are conflicting ecology reports on the current biodiversity of the Triangle and adjacent woodland. Ecology Solutions (acting for OUFC) say the stadium development will result in a biodiversity net gain (BNG) of ≥10% on site.

Dr Judith Webb (an independent ecologist) has studied the site and the adjacent woodland extensively[1]. She considers the adjacent woodland (Stratfield Brake East Woodland) and the Triangle to be ecologically interdependent and that the area is worthy of full LWS status. Moreover, Dr Webb also considers, based on her findings, that the woodland should be classified as ancient woodland which is afforded a higher level of protection in planning. She considers Ecology Solution's claimed BNG net gain to be unbelievable and says Ecology Solutions has made errors in habitat mapping and habitat classification in the baseline BNG assessment.

Both cannot both be correct. There is public concern on social media over the possibility that the ecology reports may have been influenced by a conflict of interest. I believe the correct approach is to ask the relevant authorities to adjudicate on the ecological value of the site. It is important that planning decisions are based on accurate, impartial expert information.

The purpose of Motions 2 & 3 is to ask Natural England for their assistance in determining the actual ecological value of the site and whether the plans for achieving a BNG of ≥10% on site are realistic.

Proposed Motions 2 & 3

2. *That Council writes to Natural England asking it to consider conflicting reports from an independent ecologist, (Dr Judith Webb) and Ecology Solutions.*
3. *That the Council asks Natural England to provide bespoke advice for the Stadium Planning Application 24/00539/F - land to the East of Stratfield Brake and West of Oxford Parkway station, known as the Triangle.*

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[1] Dr Webb's two biodiversity reports are available to read at:
https://www.friendsofstratfieldbrake.org/2024/03/23/biodiversity-reports/