

Mr. Alan Morey
Forward Planning
Chesterfield Borough Council
Town Hall
Rose Hill
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S40 1LP

Our ref: LT/2006/000178/AP-04/PO1-L01
Your ref:
Date: 21 February 2013

Dear Alan,

**STAVELEY AND ROTHER VALLEY CORRIDOR AREA ACTION PLAN –
PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

Thank you for consulting us on the emerging Area Action Plan for Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor and for granting us an extension of time to reply.

We believe that sensitive regeneration of the Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor provides a significant opportunity to clean-up and remediate a site that has been heavily polluted by former industrial activities; to reduce the risk of flooding; and to secure environmental improvements that will deliver on Water Framework Directive objectives.

As such, we're looking for the Area Action Plan to deliver the following:

- the site needs to be comprehensively assessed in terms of risks to land and water from the legacy of heavily polluting uses;
- a comprehensive remediation strategy needs to be agreed up front, which will then inform the phasing of development;
- regard shall be had to the current status of environmental permits for various industrial activities on site, one of which is imminently due to be surrendered;
- improvements to restore the River Rother to a more natural channel and enable the passage of fish will deliver on Water Framework Directive objectives, but must not re-mobilise contamination and shall maintain appropriate levels of flood protection;
- the risk of flooding from all sources (River Rother, Chesterfield Canal, Trough Brook and surface water drainage) needs to be fully assessed in a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment – we're aware of the Works Road Area in particular having a history of flooding and road closure in the proximity of the River Rother;

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- a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment shall inform the emerging Masterplan through application of a sequential approach whereby residential development is steered away from areas at highest flood risk;
- the development shall be an exemplar of sustainability; shall be highly water efficient and gives priority to the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);
- the environmental infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, water supply and waste services) that serves the proposed development has sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand; and
- energy generation (landfill gas and hydropower) is carefully designed with high levels of environmental protection – we encourage early engagement with us as schemes may require an environmental permit from us as well as planning permission.

We believe that the development can help deliver Water Framework Directive and Humber River Basin Management Plan objectives by improving floodplain connectivity through restoring the original course of the River Rother, including the reconnection of the oxbow lakes; lowering redundant flood embankments; extending an existing off-take channel to the north from the river to form pools or backwaters; and introducing fish and eel passes into the existing weirs or proposed hydropower schemes. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these ideas with you.

We're aware that Chesterfield Borough Council is currently preparing a Flood Risk Background Paper to the Area Action Plan, incorporating the results of the flood risk Sequential Test. We ask to receive a copy of the Background Paper when available.

If possible, we ask to have a continued involvement in shaping the emerging Area Action Plan and to understand the development process, beyond our normal role of responding to statutory consultation stages of the plan-preparation process. We welcome your thoughts on how best we can fit into the larger process.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Naomi Doughty
Planning Liaison Technical Specialist

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