

Throop and Holdenhurst Village Parish Council

Development of Throop SANG

Background

1 BCP initially submitted a planning application for a SANG at Throop to mitigate against the Winter Gardens Development requirement. REFUSED by BCP Planning Committee 12-3 in October 2020.

2 BCP re-submitted an almost identical second planning application. 7-2021-7824-C SANG APPROVED by the BCP planning Committee 10-1 in August 2021.

3 BCP proposes to open the SANG to the public in Autumn 2023.

4 BCP Cabinet meeting 9th March 2022 - Cabinet Questions

Ms Sarah Fisher asked a private question:

SANG Planning Para 193 stated : *The car park is inappropriate development, a Very Special Circumstance, combined with further Very Special Circumstances*. Vectos Transport stated: *'there is Sufficient parking with no overspill parking onto nearby streets'*.

However, two planning breaches have already been reported to LPA. (Para 25 Conservation Area All proposed work falls outside the Throop and Muccleshell Conservation Area and Para 194 Grant Conditions – Information boards and displays require submitted plans and approval in writing to LPA) which is a cause for concern.

Assuming BCP/NE submitted a true five-year management plan can BCP assure me -Yes/No- that no more maverick attempts to distort the actual, spirit or purpose of this consent will be made including:

- No more car parks in Throop.
- BCP marketing/materials/events will reflect Vectos's report for expected upper limit of vehicles/people, and scaled to achieve, but never exceed, these limits.
- All wildlife appropriately protected

BCP reply by Cllr Anderson

I would like to thank Ms Fisher for her question

BCP council will discharge the planning conditions in advance of work commencing on the Hicks farm sign and will communicate with stakeholders throughout the project and once the SANG opens for public use.

BCP council have no intention to provide any further car parking provision for the SANG and respect the character of Throop and do not want to increase traffic unnecessarily. Any information published by BCP will reflect this.

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The wildlife value of the SANG is very important locally and the context of Climate and Ecological emergency. Baseline data has already been captured in advance of any works starting and ecological monitoring is provided within the proposal for allocation of funds.

Significant work will take place to improve biodiversity across the SANG including protecting the riverbank, planting thousands of trees to recreate hedgerows and small areas of woodland, all to be part of the countryside Management across BCP.

5 **Cabinet Item 7 considered Report: Development of the Throop Nature Park (Hicks SANG) with recommendations (see attached)**

Cllr Mark Anderson introduced the Item with additional financial requests for £60K for electric power points in the car park, £18K for Ecological enhancements and monitoring and £5K for a timber structure to the car park.

It was approved unanimously by Cabinet.

Proposal

THVC wishes to ensure that all aspects of the **Throop SANG planning consent 7-2021-7824-C**, and the subsequent Cabinet Report **Development of the Throop Nature Park (Hicks SANG) with recommendations** are delivered according to their permissions with special regard for:

1 **Ecology, Habitat and Wildlife**

A key component of the SANG is for BCP to conduct wildlife surveys to establish a baseline of nature which will inform future development of the SANG. BCP published research to date: A one day survey by Abbas in 2021, A Vole report 27/01/2021 by Tom Bennett & Ken Hutchinson: Bird Breeding Survey last conducted in 2018, and a report of Hicks Farm 2007 as the only published surveys. (all published on THVC web site). This is woefully inadequate of to establish a decent database as required by the Planning consent. There are a number of knowledgeable naturalists with a deep understanding of both the area and the wildlife who are willing to support research into this baseline survey.

2 **Structural elements of the SANG**

It is very important that proper continuous monitoring of the development of the SANG is regularly scrutinised in view of the early reported lapses of the Planning consent. This lack of respect for the planning consent is to be regretted.

Resolution

THVC notes both the Throop SANG planning consent 7-2021-7824-C (August 2021) and the BCP Report: Development of the Throop Nature Park (Hicks SANG) with recommendations submitted at BCP Cabinet on 9th March 2022.

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Within the BCP Executive Summary 9th March 2022 states **'We will work constructively with the Throop and Holdenhurst Parish Council to deliver the SANG'**

THVC resolves to take BCP up on this important statement and proposes to establish regular, practical working arrangement and meetings with BCP to ensure the SANG is delivered to the highest standards of both the structural arrangements and the protection of the wildlife for future generations.

THVC Propose that a small working group of councillors will be formed to work with BCP. This working group will co-opt additional experts to advice and support, in the first instance to establish, research and publish a quality baseline assessment ecological of all wildlife, flora and fauna.