

Nick Dexter  
Housing Supply Strategy  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

26 February 2007

Dear Nick

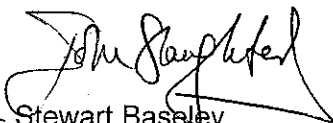
### THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPA ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Now that the assessor's report has been published and we have all had some time to digest its contents HBF is very keen to set up a meeting with key Government stakeholders to enable us all to move forward quickly on this issue and end the current moratorium on new house building in the SPA authorities. This meeting will follow on to the meeting you kindly chaired last August at which myself and other HBF staff and Members met with DCLG, GOSE, SEERA, PINS and Natural England at GOSE's offices in Guildford.

We now have a very clear set of recommendations from the assessor for action in the short, medium and long term. What is less clear, however, is who is to take responsibility for taking forward which actions and within what timescale. HBF is aware that you are meeting with SEERA and Natural England this week to discuss these issues. Clearly, it is in everyone's best interest for future actions and decisions to be taken collaboratively involving all stakeholders, not just Government departments. With that in mind we would very much like to arrange a meeting with the above parties to work through how to best take the assessor's recommendations forward. It would probably be helpful if, in addition to the above, a representative from the local authorities was also involved given their key role as competent authority for the purposes of the Habitats Regulations.

HBF would be happy to host the meeting at our offices in London. It may be more convenient, however, if it were to be held in Guildford at either the SEERA or GOSE offices. Given your role in co-ordinating and chairing the previous meeting I wonder whether you would take on the role of co-ordinating proceedings for this event. You will see that I have copied this letter to the various parties though not the local authorities as I am not sure who would be best to invite. If I could leave that for you to give some thought to and to come back to me with some suggested dates and preferred venue I would be very grateful.

Yours sincerely

  
*for* Stewart Baseley  
Executive Chairman

c.c. Lesley Creedon – GOSE  
David Paine – SEERA  
Ben Linscott – PINS  
Rob Cameron – Natural England



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