

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 10 February 2022

Public Questions

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Joanna Barnett	Councillor Archer, Executive Member for Investment and Companies	Ecology surveys for the Horley Business Park site

Council Meeting: 10 February 2022

Joanna Barnett will ask the **Councillor Archer, Executive Member for Investment and Companies**, the following question: Ecology surveys for the Horley Business Park site

Question:

In December 2020 the Council's joint venture partner for the Horley Business Park LLP, destroyed 6 acres of mature woodland on the site of the proposed business park in Horley. Concerns were raised by the public about the damage to wildlife, including bats that were living on the site prior to the illegal felling. A copy of the surveys was requested from the Council by the public.

We know that in 2017 Avian Ecology was commissioned by the Horley Business Park LLP to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal on the business park site, which included the site of the felling at Meadowcroft House. Other surveys were mentioned in the report. I submitted Freedom of Information Request for the additional surveys in March 2021.

In response to requesting the additional surveys I was told in July 2021 "the other surveys that I referred to are not held by the Council and that The Council has been working to ascertain whether these other surveys were carried out by Avian Ecology and if so to secure the paperwork from them." In December 2021 I made a FOI for a copy of all communications between the Horley Business Park LLP (the Council) and Avian Ecology. I was told that the Council holds no records of any communication.

With all of this in mind, can you please confirm what replacement ecology surveys the Joint venture (of which the Council is a member) plan to carry to inform the second draft of the SPD and prevent any further damage to wildlife on the site?

Thank you.