

Email Exchange About Proposed Imminent Removal of 78 Hectares

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2022 17:09
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Clear cutting in Portsmouth

Yes, thanks for copying us in on this [REDACTED] and it does sound very worrying.

From my recollection it was usually only TPOs that specifically came to TC unless part of wider planning applications. But it certainly has lots of implications which should be considered.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:52:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Clear cutting in Portsmouth

[REDACTED] useful to know this. I doubt there is any power to stop the clear fell as it's a plantation of conifers not natural woodland.

Great shame about Havoc though. I had only yesterday mentioned it to Chair of Town Board as a business we ought to be working with.

If they can't get back there might be worth seeing if Town or Calderdale Councils or Town Board/Youth Panel can help them find an alternative.

[REDACTED]
Ward Councillor for Todmorden
Cabinet Member for Resources

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:28:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Clear cutting in Portsmouth

Hello [REDACTED]

Hope you are well.

Firstly I should re-introduce myself as the new Neighbourhood Coordinator for Todmorden, working alongside my job share colleague Jane, who will mostly cover Ryburn.

We held the Encouraging Responsible Cycling meeting this morning and there are a couple of urgent things to share with you. I'm doing so from this address rather than my Blackshaw clerk address partly to introduce my new role to you, but also because the first point below extends into the remit of my new job.

We had invited the coordinator of Havok, the mountain bike park up in Portsmouth to come and speak to us, expecting him to be talking about how they are trying to extend their opening hours and membership. However the news he had to share was very alarming and may have impacts well beyond the cycling group.

He told us that Havok hadn't had access to the bike park since Storm Arwen when some trees were damaged and destroyed. But worse, the landowner is now on with trying to clear fell the entire woodland. I wonder if Todmorden TC knew of this?

A clear fell of such a large area has ramifications for water retention and flooding, visual amenity, use by walkers etc, and also for cycling provision in Calderdale, Havok being our only similar bike trail. It catered primarily to a youth audience, and as such, it also impacts the provision of youth amenities in Calderdale and Todmorden specifically.

Julie Swift (CMBC) has gone away to try to establish whether there is already a felling license in place, but we wondered whether Todmorden TC would ordinarily be a consultee on this? We are also going to contact Slow the Flow, because the removal of 76 hectares of relatively mature trees will undoubtedly affect flooding.

I am going to draft a letter of objection to the clear felling (of course, the landowner will want to fell to get their investment back, but not as one entire clear fell) and in support of Havok to be sent to the landowner and his contracted forestry company on behalf of the Encouraging cycling group.

Please could you raise this in any way you can, as urgently as you can, as we understand that any clear fell would need to be done before 1st March. I have copied in the clerk at TC, and hope that he could forward to the councillors representing Portsmouth and Cornholme too.

The second point was with regard to the monies in the budgeting process for the parish and town councils in order to support the work of the Encouraging Responsible Cycling group – see previous minutes if you need more on this.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]