



Saving the world one village at a time...

## **Gamlingay Environmental Action Group**

Group Co-ordinator: Brycchan Carey, 18 Mill Street, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, SG19 3JW  
Telephone: 01767 651141 • Email: [brycchan@brycchancarey.com](mailto:brycchan@brycchancarey.com) • Web: [www.geag.org.uk](http://www.geag.org.uk)

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Peter Bradley  
Site Manager, The Lodge Reserve  
The RSPB  
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

28 October 2010

Dear Peter,

### Re: Proposed Lodge Visitor Centre Development

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group (GEAG) discussed the proposed new visitor centre for the Lodge at our meeting on 15 September 2010. We agreed that this development could be a very positive development for the local environment and economy and we therefore welcome it.

The RSPB is an important local, national, and international conservation organisation. Many of GEAG's members are also RSPB members, and several of our members work for the RSPB. We are well aware of the work that the RSPB does for the local environment, in particular managing the important nature reserve at the Lodge. We also recognise that the RSPB generates significant wealth for this area, both as an employer and as a visitor attraction. Our view is that the proposed improved visitor centre would enhance the visitor experience and, by bringing more people to the Lodge, would contribute to public education about conservation. The development would also benefit the local economy and would directly or indirectly provide jobs in an area with significant rural deprivation.

We understand that the RSPB will be under certain restraints when redeveloping a listed building in a rural setting, but we would like to encourage the Society, where feasible, to consider the environmental aspects of this development. For example, it may be possible for

the new buildings to be constructed with a combination of recycled materials, eco-cement, and materials from sustainable sources. Likewise, we would encourage the RSPB to consider microgeneration, energy-saving, and low-energy technologies. When the café is open, we would hope the emphasis is on seasonal, locally-sourced organic produce, or fairtrade produce for overseas foods and drinks. We also urge the RSPB to adopt any possible measures to encourage people to take public transport to Sandy and to the Lodge or to walk and cycle.

The above are of course suggestions for the 'best possible' development. Whether or not the RSPB is able to adopt them all, we are confident that the new centre will have an important part to play in the local environment and economy. We would welcome working with you further as this exciting project takes shape.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brycchan Carey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brycchan Carey  
GEAG Co-ordinator