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29 Springfield Close  
Corsham  
Wilts. SN13 0JR

18<sup>th</sup> May 1999

James Gray MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Dear James,

Thanks for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> April enclosing the response from Ashfield Land regarding the destroyed woodland at Westwells. As the woodland is gone, there seems little point in pursuing the matter ad infinitum but I must point out that the statements and euphemisms in Mr Faber's letter are unreasonable.

Local residents have not "misunderstood" anything. I have walked in this woodland for the past 25 years. Over this period, I have enjoyed and documented the unusual floral combination which was to be found here. The people of Corsham have, during the month of April, been able to enjoy some of the woodland scenes through an exhibition of photographs in the local library. They were also able to see the devastation which Ashfield Land's "landscape architects" have wreaked on the area.

Are Ashfield Land and the "landscape architects" aware of anything that they have destroyed? Did they enjoy the woodland? What did they think of the unusual fauna? Did they appreciate its importance as wildlife habitat? I presume the "management work" being undertaken is to a plan. Perhaps we local residents who lack understanding could see the plan - then perhaps we will understand.

With regard to the unlawful tipping. This is a problem throughout the area, not just on this site. I could have collected together the rubbish on this site in one day, called North Wilts District Council to remove it, and charged nothing. Perhaps Mr Faber could explain the logic behind his reasoning of: problem - rubbish in woodland; solution - remove woodland. The illogicality of this is actually indicated in his letter when he states "... additional work is required ... which will involve securing boundaries to avoid further unlawful tipping". So that was the solution all along!

Before modern man came along to "manage" woodland, it seemed to get along fine by itself - Britain was once 95% wooded. Often, woodland management is undertaken by organisations attempting to justify their own existence by being seen to be doing something. In this case, I believe the euphemism "woodland management" is being used for other reasons which have not been divulged.

29 Springfield Court  
Corsham

Mr. Faber states that " the site has suffered from ... lack of management and general neglect". The exhibition of photographs showed the local community something of which I was already painfully aware, that this was infinitely preferable to its current state. The beauty of Westwells Wood was that it was neglected.

James Gonyall  
House of Commons  
London SW6A 5AA

Yours sincerely

Dear James,

Paul Turner

Copies to:

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