

We are writing regarding the application for a variation to condition 10 (opening hours) associated with the Hounslow Heath Golf Club (ref. P/2024/1984).

Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) were heavily involved in discussions with the developer and the council regarding the original planning for this development on Hounslow Heath Golf Club. At the time we were concerned at the impact of the development on the ecology of this high value Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and public asset. We had detailed discussions about:

- The impact of any flood lighting with appropriate control
- Environmental improvements and protections at the site
- Public access on a north to south pathway along the riverside part of the site
- The removal of the invasive species – Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed – from the site

However, we have had no communications from the developer or LB Hounslow since the site was opened and as far as we are aware none of the improvements that we discussed have been implemented. Certainly the flood lights have no evident cowling controls and large riverside stands of Japanese knotweed that were supposed to be removed are still in place.

This proposal will further impact the night time ecological value of the site and the surrounding high value ecosystem – including impacts on bats and other night-time animals. We note that there have been no objections submitted but we also note that FORCE were not informed of this proposal and have only found out about it through the LBH planning listing. We are also aware of several other groups with an interest in the Heath who we suspect are unaware of this proposal.

We would expect the council to have discussed this application with its own ecologists; to have requested from the applicant an evaluation of the impact of the lighting on the surrounding eco-system; as well as providing appropriate conditioning regarding properly designed light cowels and lux controls to minimise the impact if permission is to be granted.

We would also expect the council to ensure that the conditions from all previous agreements had been implemented before allowing any subsequent variations.

We request the council sets out if these and other actions have been undertaken and the outcomes.

We are happy to discuss these comments with you and/or the applicant.