

**From:** Village Concerns villageconcerns2016@gmail.com

**Subject:** Update 155 Long Pond and your vigilance

**Date:** 6 June 2023 at 11:12

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Long Pond is a small but critically important Pond in its biodiversity and what it contains, Newts, Great Crested Newts and Water Voles. It is on the London Road just by Thomas Turner Drive.

Village Concerns is very concerned about Redrow's planning application WD/2022/0341/MAJ which indicates a footpath being constructed in a wildlife protected area, Long Pond, which would be undesirable and unnecessary.

Both Water Voles and Great Crested Newts are protected species and importantly their habitat is also protected. The proposed footpath cuts right through their protected area.

Water Voles are on the endangered Red List so Long Pond is critical.

One of Village Concerns' supporters has tried to correspond with Redrow staff regarding this with little or no response.

This was raised at the last Redrow liaison meeting and Redrow thought they could "reduce the size of the pond" because the proposed path route was cutting across the far end of the pond. Village Concerns however doubts whether the Water Voles or the Great Crested Newts would agree with this course of action.

Both the residents and Village Concerns have identified the concerns and locals would like the proposed footpath through Long Pond rerouted to eliminate or at least reduce the issues identified.

At the most recent liaison meeting at which Village Concerns have two representatives our feedback was that Redrow are talking evasive nonsense about Long Pond. Not good!

According to Wealden Planning, the footpath has been approved in the location shown on the plans. If there is to be a change then there would need to be an amendment.

Why does everything have to be a struggle? This is our Village. Listen to us please. Is that so hard?

Village Concerns would like to form a group, Friends of Long Pond. If you are interested in joining please let us know.

Links to ecological groups include, and for the Water Vole:

<https://www.mammal.org.uk/species-hub/full-species-hub/discover-mammals/species-water-vole/>

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for the Great Crested Newts:

Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Group

<https://groups.arguk.org/sxarg>

Please write to them if you are worried about Long Pond.

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And finally, thank you for your continual vigilance regarding violations by Redrow and their contractors, especially the recent damage to the tree on the London Road.

Please carry on reporting anything you notice in the future and report it to either us, Village Concerns or the following email or both of us:

[redrow.comments@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk](mailto:redrow.comments@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk)

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