

FILE COPY

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By Post and Email

Ref: MJS/RD/AMM

26 March 2008

Dear Richard,

Re: Bath Road Reservoir

I am writing further to the meeting I organised with you and your planning consultants, members of the 'Save the Bath Road Reservoir Campaign' and local councillor Paul Gittings on 22nd February to press you for a formal response to our proposal that you scale back your plans to develop this important wildlife site.

Paul, Debbie Watson and myself have carried out a residents' survey on your original plans to build 110 homes on the site of the two reservoirs on the land between Bath Road, Western Road, Glenbeigh Terrace and Petworth Court. Not one single person supported Thames Water's plans but a small majority of respondents could accept limited development of the existing buildings at the front end of the site providing the back reservoir and the land surrounding it was retained as a nature and wildlife site. At our meeting we spoke about the possibility of entering into an arrangement whereby this part of the site could be managed as a local nature reserve with the involvement of the Council and local schools. This would fit well with Thames Water's policy statement "Planning for Sustainable Future" where you state quite clearly:

"The views of our customers and other stakeholders help to inform our decisions on levels of service and priorities ... Our assets are not just restricted to water and wastewater treatment facilities. They include sites of local, national and international importance for their wildlife which we work hard to protect and enhance."

(Page 50, Asset Stewardship – Taking Care of Water, December 2007 – www.thameswater.co.uk)

The rear of the site has been largely undisturbed for the last hundred years. It is home to a rich diversity of species including roe deer, badger, mink, owls, and a huge variety of bird life. You have an opportunity to make good the fine words in your policy document "to protect and enhance" wildlife sites. This

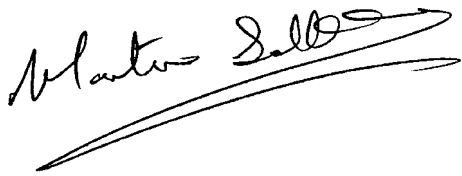
MARTIN SALTER, Labour MP for Reading West

cannot be achieved by bulldozing the entire site and covering it with concrete and bricks.

You kindly promised at our meeting that you would ask your property people to prepare a revised scheme. I must now press you for an answer.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Salter', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Martin Salter MP

**Cc: Cllr Paul Gittings, Debbie Watson
David Breeze, Reading Borough Council Planning
Local Residents**