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Mayor and Members of Council

City of London

I would like to share some thoughts with you on the Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA which was presented to the Environment and Planning Committee last week. Unfortunately, I was unable to be in attendance as a result of a previously scheduled commitment.

Some of you will be aware that the Coves Subwatershed Report and the Coves Conservation Master Plan were approved by previous Councils and know that we have been involved with the Coves Environmentally Significant Area since the year 2000. During this time we have built a solid working relationship with the City of London and the Upper Thames Valley Conservation Authority. We were also involved in the development of the award winning Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas. Needless to say, we have heard most of the points discussed in the committee meeting previously and have given much thought to possible solutions. This has led to the restoration and protection of the various features which make ESA's so essential to the creation of a "liveable city". Some would even argue that they are in essence, "the very soul of the city "

In the Coves ESA, we have moved steadily forward since the completion and approval of the master plan. City and UTRCA staff are most helpful and their expertise is readily recognized. Very few of the problems identified in the Medway Plan debate remain unresolved in the Coves Plan. This speaks to the willingness of each partner to get on with the job.

Board of Directors

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