

Email exchange with Mike Taylor 16th April 2021

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 16 April 2021 14:13

To: mike taylor <mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Robert Body Destruction of wildlife habitat in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act

My goodness, your response is quite unbelievable.

Do you truly think that if someone cares about wildlife, they don't care about fly-tipping. It is not an either or. Not dealing with waste in the appropriate way, dumping it on someone's land is a disgrace and I would never, ever condone it. However, the approach to the clearance is also a disgrace in this instance. There are many other appropriate ways to deal with the situation e.g. doing it outside of bird breeding season (or reptile hibernation season etc.), doing it gently, without the use of diggers and tipper trucks to just push trees over, leaving some trees and scrub in place around the edge for example, reporting the fly-tipping, taking appropriate legal action against land encroachment and so on. If you care about wildlife in the way you say you do, you should be as outraged by this destructive approach as I am, and presumably could have suggested an alternative to this type of action yourself.

I am very shocked that you seem to think that making false claims about orders from KCC and the Environment Agency on social media is nothing to be concerned about, given your role in public service. I will certainly be making a complaint about your behaviour to TMBC.

The police officer agreed with me, that there was no way that there weren't birds nesting in the scrub and trees and that their removal would have been an offence. The fact that any evidence of the offence has been obliterated by the destruction is the reason that a prosecution can't take place, not that it didn't happen. And I watched it happen.

And as for your assertion that I just sit at home and criticise, I have worked in nature conservation for 15 years, as I said, so that is demonstrably not the case. I am also taking appropriate and sensible avenues to report behaviour and make complaints. My money is well and truly where my mouth is, it is my career and my life purpose.

I also note that Robert Body was fined £26,000 in 2018 for a contravention of the EPA, this is a matter of public record, so perhaps it is him that should read the law about waste and environmental protection as you suggested to me. As I have said, I have worked for KCC and Natural England, the government adviser on nature conservation, I know the law and policy in regard to nature very well, I am surprised that you don't seem to. Furthermore, it is TMBC that deals with fly-tipping, not KCC, so perhaps you don't understand who deals with what areas of waste management and enforcement.

No, I am not a guilty resident, and I do not defend any of them. I am appalled by their actions as well as Robert Body's habitat destruction and indeed your manner in your response and your comments in public. As I have said, it's not an either or, there are the

right ways to do things for both waste disposal and managing vegetation, and no one in this situation has done them. You have decided to side with one of the wrong doers in this instance. It doesn't mean fly tipping is right, but the destruction of habitat used by protected species can't be excused in response to it, both are wrong and that is supported by policy and legislation. It's an old saying, but it's true, two wrongs don't make a right. No matter what you say, or how you try to deflect the issue, that is in fact the truth of the matter.

[REDACTED]

From: mike taylor <mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk>

Sent: 16 April 2021 13:00

To: [REDACTED] >

Subject: RE: Robert Body Destruction of wildlife habitat in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act

Are you saying it is entirely appropriate for this "wildlife habitat" area to be used as an unofficial fly-tip? Just read the multiple posts across social media about fly-tipping elsewhere. If this wildlife habitat is so important, why have the adjacent residents not protected it, or made arrangements to have it cleared. The last time I saw rubbish like this was walking Stangate and Isles Quarries, or Joco Pit, when they were actual general waste landfill sites.

I have never seen a single post ever supporting the fly-tippers

Read the [law](#) on how Robert Body is required to operate an inert landfill site. That site is controlled by the Environment Agency and KCC. I take your point that the works may not have been actually ordered by EA/KCC, but they were carried out under EA/KCC requirements, and other legislation that requires a landowner to clear fly-tipping on their land at their own expense.

Incidentally, as I understand it the Police did visit the site, and there were no offences that they could take action on. However, there are pictures of the appalling mess left by fly-tippers.

I do not know if you are one of the guilty residents or not, but I suggest you go and look at the rubbish and perhaps condemn that behaviour rather than condemn me and the man who is trying to clear it all up. Let me see you justify that. Did your neighbours check breeding times and habitat before they dumped this stuff? Is that the official way to treat a wildlife habitat?

And finally, you talk about your feelings, but I put my heart and soul and life into protecting green space and wildlife habitat, I don't just sit at home criticising others. I have been personally instrumental in saving huge swathes of local land for public recreation and wildlife habitat, I put my money where my mouth is.

Mike Taylor

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 April 2021 13:23

To: mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk; mike.truck@btconnect.com

Subject: Re: Robert Body Destruction of wildlife habitat in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act

I am forwarding my email below to your other email addresses, as you seem to have many.

I am also emailing again in light of your BG Pinboard Facebook post and the announcement of the intention for the habitat destruction to continue in other areas of Robert Body's land.

KCC and the Environment Agency would not have 'ordered' this work to be carried out in this way in the bird breeding season. Your approach to this habitat destruction makes me realise that you really don't have any understanding of protected species legislation and in your position, this defence of an illegal act and lack of understanding is incredibly worrying.

I have made contact with KCC and all other responsible bodies.

Please follow up on your Facebook post with a factual correction of the situation you have erroneously described.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 April 2021 09:12
To: mike.taylor@tmbc.gov.uk <mike.taylor@tmbc.gov.uk>
Subject: Robert Body Destruction of wildlife habitat in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act

Hello,

I am deeply stressed and upset about the actions that Robert Body has recently taken on his land. Whilst my personal feelings about it and the impact on the people that have to live alongside this carnage seem to be of no importance to anyone at all, I am deeply disturbed to hear that you appear not to know about the legislation to protect wild birds, their eggs and nests in the breeding season, not to mention other protected species that may have been present, and therefore appear to have excused his actions to some of my neighbours.

I know wildlife legislation and planning policy as I have worked in nature conservation for 15 years, some of that time for KCC and now for Natural England. The rural crimes police officer who visited the site also knows these things and we both are 100% certain and agreed there would have been birds nesting in the large area of scrub and trees recently decimated. I also know it, because I looked out on that area every day of my 15 years living here. The fact that he has completely annihilated the habitat that was there before this Monday and destroyed any evidence that would show this, means the police will not be able to take it any further, but they know he broke the law and so do we.

If you don't know what wildlife legislation is out there to try, against all the odds, to look after these tiny scraps of land that our wildlife cling on to, not to mention to protect their actual lives, I think it is your obligation to make yourself aware due to the position you hold. If you do know this legislation then you too know what has happened here is against the law and you should be clear about that when you communicate with others and with him.

Let me be clear. Whilst I am devastated about what he has done, I am not expecting you to care in the slightest about my feelings. The point is the way he has done it and it is clear that

his actions are outside the law. There are ways to approach something like this with sensitivity, with good communication, legally if it pertains to fly tipping and encroachment on his land, and legally with regard to protected species. He has done none of this.



Facebook post 16/04/21

