

From:

Paul Millmore
Vice Chairman of the South Downs Campaign

To: Ms De Vecchi
Council Leader
Lewes District Council
32 High Street
Lewes East
Sussex
BN7 2LX

Date: 12th November 2009

Dear Anne,
Re: River clean-up and shopping trolleys.

It was good to catch up with you at the South Downs National Park confirmation do in Ditchling this morning where we had a brief chance to discuss the need for action over the shopping trolley issue after Mr Deacon's clean-up of the river a few weeks ago. In effect what follow-up was required to avoid having to do this sort of thing again and again.

Clearly, both Lewes District Council and the Environment Agency have overlapping duties in this regard and I would like to know if and when you are going to have a joint meeting to resolve precisely who does what?

I think we agreed at our Ditchling meeting that it was really down to LDC (under the Clean Neighbourhoods legislation) to set up an ongoing dialogue with the various Lewes Supermarkets to get them to introduce some sort of control (be it coin keys attached to the trolleys or some sort of automated wheel locking system or both) so that this river littering problem is stopped. Can you please advise whether this has been initiated and if not when will it be done?

I pointed out that the Environment Agency had been somewhat economical with the truth when they told Mr Deacon that they had cleared the river of trolleys and his clean-up event highlighted that they hadn't really been doing their job properly for some considerable time. It would be really helpful if LDC could bring some pressure to bear on the EA to 'get their act together' over removing all the obstructions from the river as we all know that a clutter of trolleys is likely to seriously aggravate any flooding in the town – as well as being a hazard to both wildlife and navigation. Can I have your assurance that LDC will do this?

The fact that the town and its river now lie within a confirmed National Park only emphasizes the need for concerted long term action.

I look forward to your response over this matter with interest.

Yours sincerely,

Paul H. Millmore