**From:** Emma Rewild <[emma@therewildproject.com](mailto:emma@therewildproject.com)>

**Sent:** 21 December 2022 10:44

**To:** West England, Estates <[Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk](mailto:Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk)>

**Cc:** Sam Rewild <[sam@therewildproject.com](mailto:sam@therewildproject.com)>; Scott Rewild <[scott@therewildproject.com](mailto:scott@therewildproject.com)>; [renie@therewildproject.com](mailto:renie@therewildproject.com); [rosie.greenwood2012@outlook.com](mailto:rosie.greenwood2012@outlook.com)

**Subject:** Re: FAO Directors of The Rewild Project (L5/7/125)

**Importance:** High

**This Message originated outside your organisation**

Hi There,

Apologies, we have been busy delivering sessions over the past couple of days.

We have received your letter and will respond shortly.

**Emma Gleave**

The Rewild Project CIC

*Connecting People to Nature*

[www.therewildproject.com](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.therewildproject.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cestates.west.england%40forestryengland.uk%7C5e0662363e3b454103dc08dae4060a1c%7C05c525e9f9e44ca28c55e4740272c3bc%7C0%7C0%7C638073011831439978%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oR6bsXZ%2FTDoP2LDCuhYNp6WKSeN8UCVxERmlOnqEYo0%3D&reserved=0)

07922505272

On 21 Dec 2022, at 16:06, West England, Estates <[Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk](mailto:Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk)> wrote:

Dear Emma

Thank you for your holding reply.

We are emailing to inform you that there will be no members of staff in the office past midday on Friday 23 December until the New Year, due to Christmas leave.

This is a reminder that The Rewild Project’s existing Licence for the shared use of Kensley Sheds will likely expire without renewal on 31 December 2022 unless we receive a substantive response from the Directors within the next 24 hours and unless matters are resolved.

As there is no facility to holdover, Forestry England will require Kensley Sheds to be fully vacated by the Rewild Project upon the expiration of the Licence and until such time that either a renewal can be agreed, or a decision is taken over the future use of Kensley Sheds.

Kind regards

Forestry England

West England

**Forestry England**

**Main Reception:** 0300 067 4800

[www.forestryengland.uk](http://www.forestryengland.uk/)

**From:** Emma Rewild <[emma@therewildproject.com](mailto:emma@therewildproject.com)>

**Sent:** 22 December 2022 10:19

**To:** West England, Estates <[Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk](mailto:Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk)>

**Cc:** Sam Rewild <[sam@therewildproject.com](mailto:sam@therewildproject.com)>; [renie@therewildproject.com](mailto:renie@therewildproject.com); [rosie.greenwood2012@outlook.com](mailto:rosie.greenwood2012@outlook.com); Gareth Kiddie <[gareth@gka.org.uk](mailto:gareth@gka.org.uk)>; Alexandra Cave <[cave\_alexandra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cave_alexandra@yahoo.co.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: FAO Directors of The Rewild Project (L5/7/125)

**This Message originated outside your organisation.**

Dear Forestry England,

We are shocked and saddened by your response to a complaint made and would like some clarification regarding your concerns.

The Rewild Project CIC and Forestry England have enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership over the past 7 years.  Prior to the onset of Forester's Forest Landscape Partnership funding which ran between 2017-2022 (TRP delivering 5 separate contracts over this duration) we, FE & TRP co-ran sessions for GFAPs (Excluded Unit) students and have continually delivered positive results, with no complaints, and no serious accidents.

As part of Forester’s Forest - on top of the 3 contracts we successful ran, we applied for funding, from the FF underspend to run sessions for Home Educated children, and single parent families and successfully ran weekly sessions 9.30am - 3pm for around 12 months, as part of which we went for a walk as part of the rhythm of the session.

For matters of due diligence and under the terms of our insurance we have the following safety measures in place:

- Following the 12 steps to safer recruitment (interviewing process, references checks, DBS / ID checks etc)

- Enhanced DBS checks for all staff and volunteers.

- Safeguarding Level 2 training for all staff. (Adults/children depending on nature of role)

- ‘Prevent’ Government anti radicalisation training.

- Outdoor First Aid training (+Forestry / +Paediatric protocols)

- Full Safeguarding procedures, including level 3 training for DSL (Designated Safeguarding Leads)

- Full risk assessments in place and published on our website, and provided to our partners, when requested, such as Dfe / GCC / Belong Learning Alternative Provision / Glos Wildlife Trust.

We do not remember being asked for risk assessments for this activity, or indeed any of our Kensley Sheds activities, by yourselves - we have only ever done this for Forestry Operations, and the St Anthony’s Well Clearance, public engagement days, and Borden Spring refurbishment works.

We have, however been providing regular updates of all of our work, both through reports made under Foresters Forest funding, and through ’tagging’ and thanking Forestry England in our regular social media updates as our partner in this amazing work - bringing people into the forest for community based crafts, healing and nature connection.

Here is the last report to yourselves showing highlights of 2021 work -[https://www.canva.com/design/DAE2LZE\_\_dg/WZ9gUckam7brBCROe7KwKg/view?utm\_content=DAE2LZE\_\_dg&utm\_campaign=designshare&utm\_medium=link&utm\_source=publishsharelink](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.canva.com%2Fdesign%2FDAE2LZE__dg%2FWZ9gUckam7brBCROe7KwKg%2Fview%3Futm_content%3DDAE2LZE__dg%26utm_campaign%3Ddesignshare%26utm_medium%3Dlink%26utm_source%3Dpublishsharelink&data=05%7C01%7Cestates.west.england%40forestryengland.uk%7C5e0662363e3b454103dc08dae4060a1c%7C05c525e9f9e44ca28c55e4740272c3bc%7C0%7C0%7C638073011831439978%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ewCNkB1lYYjVqNdv4w7hEHse2bw2NR3cYhf4ILbzwwE%3D&reserved=0)

It is worth noting that during covid lockdowns, our operations were completely shut down, and although we struggled during this time due to not being able to access wood, or the sheds - we made it through.

We now have a number of PAYE staff employed by TRP to run the community engagement sessions at Kensley Sheds, these are local people who rely on this paid work, as well as the many local people who attend the sessions who have mental health issues, disabilities, or other social challenges (case studies in the presentation) - this is their lifeline, and through attending the sessions we run are slowly improving their health and finding pathways back into society.

We have a tremendous amount of public support for the work we do, we are the only organisation doing this kind of work in The Forest of Dean, and our youth provision especially is much needed due to the recent epidemic of teen suicide and youth offending rates (informed by our close partnerships with the local constabulary) and I hope that you will take this into consideration during your investigations.

In light of the above facts, we would like to ask you to share with us, as your partners, the nature of your concerns and the basis of your investigations i.e. what your complaints policy is under which this is being investigated; any relevant FE policies you are using to test our competency against; which clauses of our Licence you may be in breach; any background information used; any witness statements taken into consideration.

Please see below, witness statement from Sam Wingfield who is a Rewild Project Director who has approximately 10 years of prior experience working with youth at risk, delivering Qualifications and therapeutic horticulture sessions at Wild Goose, a Worcester based charity.

I myself have many years previous experiences dealing with high level complaints from members of the public, negotiating with OFCOM / OFGEM and resolving issues and placating often extremely irate, triggered and sometimes abusive members of the public in line with company policies and procedures.  I have also taken a setting through OFSTED registration, so through all of this experience I understand your pressures in maintaining a positive public image, the need for proper investigation, action, and due diligence in all matters and hope that upon pragmatically reviewing the information gathered, we can come to a positive resolution for all.

Best regards

Emma Gleave

**With reference to your letter emailed to the Directors Date 19.12.22**

Regarding the incident that occurred at approximately 14:20 on 16/12/22 at Woorsgreen lake.

I have been made aware of your intention to terminate the license held by The rewild project, therefore I would like to address to incident that you refer to in the letter

At the start of the day, before the session both Scott and I walked around the lake, as is usual to walk the dog and to do a sweep for any additional risks.  We were looking for risks of slips/ trips / falls, any broken glass and to assess weather conditions such as wind, ice, sun.

We identified that the lake was frozen solid and would be a point of interest to the children that day, as they enjoy paddling there in the summer.

Part of the Rekindle Youth sessions is about being out in the elements and experiencing nature throughout the seasons.

We are familiar with the lake and environs– the main risk would be children on this day was identified as slipping and sustaining injuries from a fall due to icy conditions on the paths and frozen puddles As per our risk assessment, in line with Forest School provisions – this is not a risk that we mitigate as it is an important part of brain development for young people, to have the opportunity to explore different terrains, have falls and to learn about risk.

Young people who have the opportunity to take risks and have accidents are much less likely to experiment with risky behaviour in their late teens / early twenties.

Towards the end of the day I decided to take the children for a second walk, as I didn’t want the morning latecomers to miss out on this rare event of everything being frozen and beautiful.

During the walk some of the young people wanted to go out onto the ice, obviously I said that this was definitely not possible, all of the children remember me clearly stating this repeatedly during our walk, very vocally and some of the other walkers found this amusing.  During the walk I was with the children at all times, closely supervising.

As we neared the end of our walk around the lake, 2 of the children, stepped out onto the edge of the ice. I immediately told them to come off, and straight away a man also shouted for them to get off and they did, we continued back as a group we were then followed by the man, a volunteer of the Gloucestershire wildlife trust, who was very irate and abusive to me and the children, I asked him to leave, all the children were fine, we were not near the lake, the children were safe and I was trying to talk to them and reiterate why they shouldn’t have gone onto the frozen lake.   He asked me why I had let the children go out onto the lake and I replied that I hadn’t, he asked me why I could not control the children, and I replied what did he expect me to do? I could not have physically stopped them! In hindsight, this was not the best response, but I am not used to being shouted at loudly by 2 people, he had been joined by a woman now, and I was concerned about the effect this behaviour was having on the children as they were visibly upset by his behaviour.

Most of the children suffer from various forms of anxiety, trauma, ACES and are not in schools because they cannot cope with the environment, so this persons behavior was definitely not acceptable.

Luckily a wildlife warden appeared, Kevin,  who asked what had happened  and knew the abusive volunteer, his immediate response was to removed the people who were shouting at us as he too could see the children were scared.   Upon his return, I explained what had happened, gave him  my name and telephone number as he said he would have to report the incident. He said he was sure that there was no danger and apologised for the volunteers behaviour and said that he was well known for this type of behaviour.

Today I have contacted the Wildlife trust by phone and email to say that I would like to be able to have access to the report as this would shed light onto what actually happened rather than heresy.

I am sure that the Trust would be willing to discuss the incident with yourselves and I am sure the warden will verify my report

Please feel free to contact me regarding the incident, I feel that this is a misunderstanding and is understandable in light of the tragedy that befell 4 boys on the lake near Solihull.  I understand this was the reason why the volunteer was so angry and upset.

Thanks for your time

Sam Wingfield Rekindle and Growing Futures Youth Worker

[sam@therewildproject.com](mailto:sam@therewildproject.com)

07716397743

**Emma Gleave**

The Rewild Project CIC

*Connecting People to Nature*

[www.therewildproject.com](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.therewildproject.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cestates.west.england%40forestryengland.uk%7C5e0662363e3b454103dc08dae4060a1c%7C05c525e9f9e44ca28c55e4740272c3bc%7C0%7C0%7C638073011831439978%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oR6bsXZ%2FTDoP2LDCuhYNp6WKSeN8UCVxERmlOnqEYo0%3D&reserved=0)

07922505272

On 22 Dec 2022, at 13:37, West England, Estates <[Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk](mailto:Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk)> wrote:

Dear Emma

Thank you for your reply and for providing Sam Wingfield’s witness statement.

With regard to the witness statement, the contents cause serious concern to us due to the fact that the account provided therein is directly contrary to information which was provided previously by the Rewild Project and other witnesses about the activity and incident.

The Risk Assessment (which, for clarity, was not provided to, nor discussed with, Forestry England by the Rewild Project prior to this incident, only after the event), apparently written by Sam Wingfield and dated 23/05/2022, includes the planned activity  *“Going on the lake when iced over”.*

The witness statement contradicts Scott Baine’s telephone conversation, with Forestry England’s Tom Brockington, following the incident.

We have also been made aware that a director of the Rewild Project has openly defended the incident as a planned activity and untruthfully claimed that Forestry England were happy with the Risk Assessment and activity.

You were informed at our last meeting at Bank House that any renewal agreement for Kensley Sheds would be granted only on the basis that Forestry England had confidence in the Directors of the Rewild Project.

Due to the incident itself, as well as the conflicting accounts from Directors of the Rewild Project, we cannot renew the Licence agreement for Kensley Sheds with the Directors of the Rewild Project whilst we do not have trust in the professional management of the organisation.

I would therefore remind you that the Rewild Project will be required to vacate Kensley Sheds entirely on 31 December 2022 whilst this matter remains unresolved.

Kind regards

FORESTRY ENGLAND

West England

**Forestry England**

**Main Reception:** 0300 067 4800

[www.forestryengland.uk](http://www.forestryengland.uk/)

From: Emma Rewild <emma@therewildproject.com>

Subject: Re: FAO Directors of The Rewild Project (L5/7/125)

Date: 23 December 2022 at 13:18:01 GMT

To: "West England, Estates" <Estates.West.England@forestryengland.uk>

Cc: Sam Rewild <sam@therewildproject.com>, "renie@therewildproject.com" <renie@therewildproject.com>, "rosie.greenwood2012@outlook.com" <rosie.greenwood2012@outlook.com>, Gareth Kiddie <gareth@gka.org.uk>, Alexandra Cave <cave\_alexandra@yahoo.co.uk>

We are all shocked and dismayed by your last email.As an organisation we have worked extremely hard to provide an exemplary work over the past few years. The services we provide is of importance to the users of our projects.

We fully realise and appreciate the importance the sheds are as a home to our employees, students and people who need our project.

So we ask what can we do to amend and resolve this?

We do not have a track record of problems with you but rather do have wonderful and needed workshops and education programs.  
The loss of the sheds will disrupt and put into jeopardy our work and the mental health of our participants

How can we resolve this issue? We realise that time is short and we truly seek to restore your respect in our integrity.

However, if Forestry England wish to end the licence, legally this is your prerogative, we ask that you give reasonable notice to quit.

Timeframes stated in the licence are 14-30 days and we would hope that as a gesture of good will, after 3-4 years track record at Kensley Sheds, that we would be able to complete the academic year, so as not to interrupt the qualification the young people are working towards and to give us ample opportunity to make alternative arrangements for both classes and courses booked in, and of course for removal of equipment and property, including the shipping container.

Please could you reply as soon as possible   
Regards   
Emma Gleave  
On Behalf of The Senior Leadership Team  
  
**Emma Gleave**  
The Rewild Project CIC  
*Connecting People to Nature*

From: Emma Rewild <emma@therewildproject.com>

Subject: Kensley Sheds Complaint

Date: 3 January 2023 at 09:56:25 GMT

To: kevin.stannard@forestryengland.uk, Tom Brockington <tom.brockington@forestryengland.uk>

Bcc: lloyd-maria@sky.com, Sam Rewild <sam@therewildproject.com>, Scott Rewild <scott@therewildproject.com>, Scott Rewild <scottrewild@gmail.com>

Hi Kevin and Tom,

We are still waiting for a response to our last email prior to Christmas about how this situation can be resolved.

In Gloucestershire Live article you made a statement that said you were waiting to have a conversation with us regarding the complaint - which we would have expected as part of your investigation.

I am of course still conducting my own investigations as the project Safeguarding Lead.

We still have no understanding of why you have asked us to leave Kensley Sheds as you have never asked us for our risk assessments, we have not broken any terms of our licence agreement, and we have not been dishonest in any way.

We have not seen your internal investigation and have not been asked for statements, except for the incident in the afternoon, where the Wildlife Trust volunteer was abusive  to our staff and young people.

If you want to be more specific about our activities going forwards we are more than happy to work with you to find an amicable way forwards that suits all parties.

I look forward to hearing from you urgently in this regard.

**Emma Gleave**

The Rewild Project CIC

*Connecting People to Nature*

[www.therewildproject.com](http://www.therewildproject.com/)

07922505272

---------- Forwarded message ---------

From: **Emma Rewild** <[emmarewild@gmail.com](mailto:emmarewild@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, 9 Jan 2023 at 09:08

Subject: Kensley Sheds

To: <[kevin.stannard@forestryengland.uk](mailto:kevin.stannard@forestryengland.uk)>

Hi Kevin,

It has been a week since our last email to you and although we are yet to receive a response, we remain hopeful that you still intend on engaging with us to resolve this situation.

Your contractors were onsite at 8.30am last Tuesday 3rd January to change the locks and effectively take possession of all The Rewild Project’s equipment and assets.  It is clear that decisions have been taken over the winter break period and we are keen to understand on what basis these decisions have been taken.

As we have not had any correspondence from you or your team since Thursday 22nd December we feel concerned that hasty decisions have been taken without a full understanding of the facts.  Our trust in FE’s ability to deal with this situation fairly and appropriately has been severely challenged for the following reasons:

-       FE breaking the terms of our Licence agreement

-       No transparency provided on your complaints policy or procedure.

-       Not sharing with us details of the investigation

-       Not knowing how you are following a fair and due process which is free from undue bias, discrimination or conflict of interest

-       Not knowing how we can appeal or find a way forwards.

In this regard we have taken the decision to stay in full occupation of Kensley Sheds in order to secure the project’s assets and ensure our community groups can continue to run from other locations until a solution, or an alternative location is found.

The names on the previous licence agreement were Scott Baine and Emma Gleave, meaning it will not be possible to obtain an IPO (Interim Possession Order) and the only way to legally gain possession of Kensley Sheds will be to issue a claim in the County Court or in the High Court as per the attached Section 6 Notice which has been posted at all gates and entrances.

The time frame of a full eviction process is usually 6-8 weeks minimum.  As you are aware, we already have significant public attention and support.  Our preference would be to find a way of resolving this with you directly rather than pursuing a public media campaign and/or legal challenge.

We have been contacted by a number of other unhappy charities and community interest companies who are ex licensees / lease holders and are dissatisfied with the lack of due process and transparency in their own dealings with Forestry England.  We have heard accounts that this has resulted in significant losses of charitable investment of money and time over a prolonged period, as would be the case with us.  We have invested over £100k in this project and premises over the past 7 years alongside thousands of volunteer hours.  To claim possession of these community assets without a fair and transparent process, any access to appeal or a public statement regarding the future of Kensley sheds, is quite frankly theft from the local community.

Our case seems to have become a catalyst and serious questions are now being asked around transparency, cost efficiency and access to the benefits of Our Shared Forest for volunteers and the wider community, particularly those in need of support.

As the largest provider of community services to disadvantaged and otherwise excluded individuals within the PFE, it feels counter intuitive to be evicted at the point at which you are looking to expand these activities and outcomes.

We would therefore like to propose a process that we believe will help surface and resolve these issues, leading to positive outcomes for all of us, so that we can ensure ‘Our Shared Forest’ continues to support and improve the lives of those in and around the PFE.

We recognise that any further negative publicity about this ‘row’ is unhelpful and counter productive for both us and Forestry England as an organisation.  Our intent is to find a way to resolve this matter with you in a professional, courteous and co-operative way for the benefit of the community that we both serve.  We therefore invite you to come to the table with us, with a view to finding a speedy and appropriate resolution which doesn’t take up unnecessary time and resources for you or us.

We would like to meet with you formally or informally, to work out a path forward to resolution that meets both our needs and most importantly the needs of those we support across the Forest of Dean.  We would propose that this takes place at a neutral location with a pre-agreed agenda for discussion.

We suggest a meeting with our leadership team at The Old White Heart Inn, Coleford at your convenience.  We would be grateful if you could provide us with dates and times if you are in agreement and we will confirm.

We have set out below a number of information requests, some of which have been made previously.  We would be very grateful if you could provide these critical details to us prior to the meeting, so we can ensure that our time together is as productive as possible.  This information is also vital for us to complete our own internal investigations.

1.     Details of the actual complaint/s and any other ‘charges’ you are investigating regarding The Rewild Project.

2.     Your complaints process for partner organisations in the PFE, specifically when a complainant has refused to pursue the internal complaints process of the Partner organisation in the first instance.  Please include details of the process steps:  establishing prima facia, evidence gathering, decision-making, appeals process and timescales

3.     A named complaint handler.

4.     The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust incident reports and any other incident reports collected.

5.     The Licence terms you believe we are in breach of.

6.     FE’s understanding of the timeline of events on December 16

7.     Specific issues with our risk assessments as advised by your HSE Officer

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Emma Gleave

From: Emma Rewild <emmarewild@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Kensley Sheds

Date: 31 January 2023 at 20:38:12 GMT

To: kevin.stannard@forestryengland.uk

**Dear Kevin**

**Further to my e-mail dated 9th January informing you of our occupation of Kensley sheds, the reasons why we felt forced into taking this position and a request for a meeting with yourselves to discuss the issues.    I have yet to receive any response from you.**

**To reiterate, we have a responsibility to protect the assets invested for the community through The Rewild Project.**

**Your attempt to take possession of these assets without due notice, fair process, nor any consideration for the assets and how service users would be affected left us with no other option, in order to prevent this act of theft of the community assets.**

**We explained this to your estates team when they came to Kensley Sheds on the 17th of January, albeit they seemed unaware of your enforcement actions, and our position, as per our e-mails and the occupation notice.**

**Despite our attempts to engage you in a reasonable discussion about the facts of the incident, your subsequent actions and the processes underpinning those actions, including the evident and very concerning lack of consideration for the community and vulnerable people we serve, we have yet to receive any response from you.**

**We remain hopeful however that you are prepared to act in the best interests of the shared community we both serve and so our offer of a meeting with an agreed agenda to resolve this situation remains open.**

**We have no desire to cause any unnecessary costs or demands on the public purse, yourselves nor us and are keen to resolve this matter fairly.  Your continuing refusal to engage is making us increasingly concerned that the chances of us coming to an amicable solution are dwindling. As a manager of public funds with responsibilities to ensure value for money, please do your due diligence and explore options for a solution that doesn’t necessitate publicity nor legal battles but instead come to the table and discuss the situation in a friendly and professional way with us.**

**In summary we are requesting 3 key things:**

**1. Transparent access to your investigation, the evidence gathered and the process followed in order to be able to complete our own safeguarding & HSE investigations and the GCC LADO facilitated AMM process, of which you have been a part of.**

**2. A fair right to respond to the accusations against us through an appeal process.**

**3. A proper exit strategy to include: clear recognition of, and planning for, the impacts of removing an important and unique asset from our community more generally & our participants specifically; be reasonable in it's demands; provide fair consideration for The Rewild Project's assets.**

**I look forward to hearing from you.**

**Kind regards**

**Emma Gleave**

From: **Emma Rewild** <[emmarewild@gmail.com](mailto:emmarewild@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, 10 Mar 2023 at 11:43

Subject: Re: Kensley Sheds [MICHREF-ACTIVE.137605.417]

To: Jake Rostron <[Jake.Rostron@michelmores.com](mailto:Jake.Rostron@michelmores.com)>

Hi Jake,

Sent on an open basis.

Further to our previous correspondence on this matter over the past few months, we do not wish for money from the public purse to be wasted on this matter when we are willing to resolve the matter amicably outside of the courts and have requested this with both yourselves and your clients.

We have explained our limited capacity and our ongoing urgent talks with alternative venues and our desire for a proper 'wind down and exit strategy, to be agreed with your clients which will limit the impact on the local and wider community we both serve.

We are surprised at the speed at which this is moving, given that the your clients were preparing to arrange a long term lease for our use of Kensley Sheds throughout 2022, right up until December 2022 - however we were told that due to low capacity within the organisation, this was delayed.  It would appear now, given these actions that capacity was not the issue that was delaying the transactions.

We have requested numerous times, a meeting or conversation regarding two specific issues:

1. Our 7 year partnership with Forestry England ending on the basis that 'they do not have professional trust in our organisation'

We would like the opportunity to discuss these issues and share findings from our own internal investigations and HSE Audit regarding the events of 16 December 2022.

The LADO Safeguarding process has taken a considerable amount of time, due to your clients Forestry England, refusing to share their original internal investigation with us directly, or as part of the LADO Safeguarding process.  It has been extremely difficult to understand the basis on which decisions have been taken, or to draw certain conclusions, and for ongoing learning to take place for our organisation or indeed partner organisations in the interest of public safety.

The date for the wind up of the LADO investigation is 17 March and we would suggest a specific meeting between Forestry England, Gloucester Wildlife Trust and ourselves with agreed agenda following this to discuss the learning that has come from the situation.

Further to this:

We have received responses from our FOI regarding The Rewild Project and SAR for Scott Baine - it would seem that there have been no complaints or concerns logged or recorded, and are therefore struggling to understand ow a 7 year partnership of strong and positive community delivery can be ended, by a public body in such a manner.  At the least it would be helpful for our learning and future planning, as a community organisation to understand how decisions are taken, and what the basis of your decisions are.

We have been advised that there is a good case to request a Judicial review in this matter, and if eviction proceedings were to commence, then a Stay would be requested until the outcome decided.

2. Following the opportunity to explore the above mentioned specific issues or in the absence of a willingness to, a proper exit strategy must be explored:

A meeting or conversation to look at 'The Rewild Project CIC - Exit Strategy'

Some of the issue which need to be explored:

- Community access and use of Kensley Sheds, the Lottery investment and ongoing community access tied in with the Forester's Forest Landscape Partnership.

- Assets and time invested by New Leaf which have been transferred to The Rewild Project and removal of these assets - our view is that a list must be agreed prior to removal.  How do you or your clients propose that these discussions take place?

- Would your client prefer for us to remove the assets or for them to remain in situ at a cost to be agreed?  It is our legal duty as Directors to ensure that the Community Interest Company assets are protected and that we are able to continue to operate in the interests of the community.

We trust that as a public body, your clients also have the welfare of the community at the centre of the decisions taken, and we look forward to being able to find common ground as a basis on which to proceed our discussions.

Best regards

Emma Gleave