

**Anna Wisniewska**

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**From:** Lucy Greene  
**Sent:** 23 September 2014 15:15  
**To:** Anna Wisniewska  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Hazlehead developments

Hi Anna  
Please could this one be entered into APP as an objection and included in the list to Martin Allan  
Thanks  
Lucy

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**From:** Stephen Willis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2014 16:05  
**To:** Lucy Greene  
**Subject:** Proposed Hazlehead developments

Hi Lucy, I have been mulling things over re. the proposal for extensive developments in land adjacent to the woodlands at Hazlehead.

I would like to add that in the entire history of Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels' work in the northeast (we started in 2009) there is no single site where we have put in more effort for more positive results than the woods around Hazlehead. All that time and money will have been for nothing if the woods are bisected by busy roads and the fast recovering red squirrel population is threatened by a massively increased chance of road mortality.

I have no idea what mitigation is proposed but neither road signs or rope bridges will make much difference. Tests by Perth & Kinross Council (unpublished) showed that traffic speeds were unchanged by the presence of official council road signage specifically highlighting red squirrels. Rope bridges over roads have not, to my knowledge, been scientifically proven to work. The only study I am aware of was carried out in Argyll, and was put up over a forest road. This was an MSc. project (not published). Squirrels were quick to use the rope bridge, but did not habitually use it and still often crossed on the ground. There are rope bridges currently up at Gight Wood, in Ellon, and in Banchory. All are used by squirrels, but at the latter two there are almost always dead red squirrels in the vicinity. It merely demonstrates that the bridges have been well placed in areas where squirrels are regularly crossing, whether by the rope or by the road.

Rope bridges and signage are an obvious, and relatively cheap, means of being seen to mitigate for potential road casualties. We are yet to see any convincing evidence that either make any difference for red squirrels.

I am happy for the above to be made public, alongside my previous document.

I'm off on leave as of this afternoon but back on Monday 22nd.

Regards,

Steve

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