

## **Appendix 2(a) - Statement By Cllr Alvey**

### **Statement by Cllr Alan Alvey, District Councillor For Blackfield and Langley**

#### **TPO 0002/21**

#### **Blackwell Forest / The Ruffs**

In July 2020 I became aware of work being carried out in an area of woodland adjacent to the open forest at the end of Chapel Lane. I contacted the Tree Officer (Hannah Chalmers) who informed me that the land, originally part of "The Ruffs", had recently changed hands, and that she was aware of works being carried out. I expressed concern at what was going on and asked that she looked at it with a view to raise a TPO on the woodland. I felt that an area of woodland viewed from the open forest of Blackwell Common was being cleared and was changing the public amenity.

TPO 0009/20 was then raised and came to Fawley Parish Council for consultation. This was discussed and supported at the Council meeting on 9 September 2020. Concerns were later raised by the landowner as to the apparent lack of declaration of interests when the item was being considered at this meeting. These concerns were discussed by the Clerk and Democratic Services and were deemed to be unwarranted.

TPO 0009/20 was subsequently withdrawn and TPO 0002/21 raised. At the FPC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 a statement was read out by the landowner objecting to this new TPO. The meeting subsequently discussed the TPO and decided to support the issue.

Over the past year the woodland has been substantially cleared giving partial views, previously unseen, of properties in Langley. In my opinion the public amenity has been altered and reduced. To appreciate the change comparison should be made with views of the land of Dunfield Copse from Blackfield cemetery.

A company, Blackwell Forest Ltd, was incorporated in April 2021 whose business is stated to be "silviculture and other forestry activities". Whilst I am sure the current landowner has the best of intentions for this area we have to take a longer term view, and protect against possible future developments.