

Mrs E Powell  
Beachamwell Parish Council

By email parish-council@beechemwell.plus.com

30 August 2016

Dear Mrs Powell

## **HEYGATE FARMS - WOODLANDS**

I am assisting Heygate Farms with the preparation of a long term management plan for their woodlands and I write to advise the Council of four clearfell proposals which some Parishioners may have concerns about.

Over the last 15 years the Farm have planted several thousand trees in the Parish which I am sure you will agree considerably enhances the landscape. Under the Plan most of the plantations will be thinned but it is proposed to clearfell three compartments being 44, 48 and 49 as shown on the attached plan. Following felling, Compartment 48 and 49 will be cleared and replanted with hardwoods and conifer.

The proposal for 44 is to return the land to agriculture following felling. By way of mitigation for the removal of this copse two areas will be planted adjacent to Compartments 40 and 43 as shown of the attached plan.

In addition to felling the above it is proposed to fell the Poplars adjacent to the Swaffham Road shown by the number 42. The reason for this is purely for the safety of road users as Poplars are notorious for dropping branches and falling over without warning. There is very good young hedge under the trees which is being stunted by the shade of the Poplars.

Whilst there is a proposal to fell a number of trees it is also proposed to create 3.9ha of new woodland on the Estate. The plan attached shows the new areas in the Parish. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have approved the planting but formal confirmation is still awaited. The aim of the new woodland, which will include 20% open space, is to improved wildlife habitat, landscape and bio-diversity by a mix of broadleaves and conifers.

It is important to manage and rejuvenate woodlands which are such a vital wildlife habitat and important landscape features. The Management Plan is aimed at maintaining a healthy and productive woodland for those that follow.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me

Yours sincerely

Paul Evans

