



AGENDA ITEM 06 – DC/25/1356

**Crosswinds Hampers Lane Storrington West Sussex
RH20 3HZ**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on matters relating to Great Crested Newts and the District Licensing process and to present a revised recommendation in respect of the application.

2. PLANNING ASSESSMENT

2.1 Great Crested Newts – District Licensing Update

- 2.2 The submitted Ecological Appraisal identifies a positive eDNA result within a nearby off-site pond. As a result, the applicant has confirmed their intention to enter the Natural England District Licensing (DL) Scheme, administered locally by NatureSpace Partnership, in order to mitigate potential impacts on Great Crested Newts.

- 2.3 NatureSpace has confirmed that the applicant made an enquiry prior to validation of the application but that formal registration into the District Licensing Scheme has not been completed.

- 2.4 At this stage there appear to be no reasons why a District Licence could not be progressed, and this would ensure no adverse impacts on protected species / habitat. Planning permission cannot be issued until confirmation of entry into the District Licensing Scheme has been received, and this would be secured through the imposition of additional conditions (as appropriate).

- 2.5 NatureSpace has been formally notified of the Council's intention to progress the application and has been invited to provide any additional comments. Any comments will be reported verbally to Members during Planning Committee.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In light of the above, it is recommended that the application be delegated for approval to the Head of Development and Building Control, subject to:

- Completion of the District Licensing process for Great Crested Newts (including receipt of confirmation from NatureSpace Partnership), and
- The imposition of the conditions set out in Section 7 of the Committee Report and any additional ecological conditions required as a result of the licensing process.