

Name:
Address:

Date:

James Aven
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Parke
Bovey Tracey
Devon TQ13 9JQ

Dear Mr Aven

**Steward Community Woodland
Application for Planning Permission – Ref 0054/15**

I support this application for the following reasons:

The low impact living community and project is meeting the criteria of DNPA policies, in particular DMD30 (entitled 'Low impact residential development in the open countryside'), along with the National Planning Policy Framework. And they are proposing various conditions to guarantee the low impact nature of the settlement.

Living on-site is essential for the continued viability of this project. Living in conventional housing in nearby towns and commuting to the site could only be supported by having full-time (and well-paid) jobs elsewhere, leaving them with little or no time to carry out the project. Living in the woods enables them to dedicate their time to the project and be fully committed to it. Living in the woods also enables them to bring up their children in a safe and nourishing environment, while learning important skills in sustainable living, being in harmony with nature, caretaking the land and its creatures. The part-time jobs that some members have involving work off-site (much of which is low paid) complements the work and activities carried out on-site. They reside in low impact, ecological dwellings and utilise renewable sources of energy while reducing their fossil fuel and vehicle use.

Their activities both on and off site contribute enormously to the social and economic well-being of the area. And they are able to do so while living with a much reduced ecological footprint than the average (as affirmed by an independent report) and having a positive effect on the local biodiversity (recently affirmed by an officer of the Devon Wildlife Trust).

Through their courses, open days, volunteer weeks and educational visits, more than a thousand people visit each year to learn about and participate in sustainable living, permaculture, and nature connection. This is making a vital educational contribution in these challenging times.

Residents have a significant positive effect on the local community through the many activities and groups they are involved within Moreton and environs, such as the Moreton Development Trust, the primary school, community projects and events.

In short, SCW is a success story and an asset to the local area. The project is meeting its Aims and is fulfilling DNPA policies as well as the National Planning Policy Framework. It is demonstrating much needed solutions to the huge environmental challenges we face. I urge the National Park to actively support this project by granting it with permanent planning permission.

Yours sincerely