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15th October 2019

Dear Member

Proposal to adopt new Articles of Association

I am writing to notify you that on 9th November following this year's AGM we will hold an extraordinary general meeting to propose a special resolution to adopt new Articles of Association of Surrey Wildlife Trust. This letter and the accompanying documents provide further information.

What are the Articles and why are they changing?

The Articles of Association are the constitutional document or charter of the charity. They set out:

- The objects or purposes of the charity,
- The powers the Trustees can use to fulfil those objects,
- The rules which govern how the charity operates.

It is good practice to review the Articles of Association periodically both in the light of developments in charity and legal governance and also more generally. The current articles were adopted in 2008, so it is time to update them. The proposed new articles have been prepared by Farrers (a leading firm of solicitors specialising in charity law). They are based on a standard set of articles that incorporate the Charity Commission model governance rules and have been tailored to our needs.

What are the key changes?

I enclose a copy of the proposed new Articles of Association together with a document entitled 'Notes on the Draft Articles' prepared by Farrers. You can also compare them to the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association on our website at

surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/about-us/governance. Please consider these documents carefully. I appreciate that it may seem unnecessary to send them out in paper form, but we needed to make it as easy as possible for all our members to access and review this important information.

What are the next steps?

In order to adopt the new Articles of Association, members must approve them by special resolution at a general meeting of the Trust. I enclose a notice convening such a general meeting, to be held at Denbies Vineyard on Saturday 9th November 2019, following the AGM (I also enclose a copy of the notice for this).

You may vote on the special resolution in person at the meeting. Alternatively, you can complete the enclosed form of proxy and send it to the Trust in the enclosed prepaid envelope or return it by email to



finance@surreywt.org.uk. For this to be valid we must receive it by midday on Friday 8th November. If you aren't sure whether you will be able to attend the general meeting please complete and return the form of proxy just in case. You can still attend and vote in person if you wish.

Election of Trustees

I am pleased to inform you that two new Trustees will be proposed for election at the AGM. They have been selected by the Trustees because of the relevant skills and experience they can bring to the Trust. They are:

- Peter Sutton
- Mark Turner

Both have indicated their willingness to serve as Trustees. You will be able to find more information about them on the governance pages of the Trust's website from 18th October 2019.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support for the Trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Wilkinson', written in a cursive style.

Chris Wilkinson, Chair of Trustees