

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Planning Committee

13 January 2010

**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager – Planning and Sustainable Communities

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### **S/1418/09/F - HASLINGFIELD**

**Erection of 9 affordable houses following demolition of 3 existing dwellings at Land comprising 12 Wisbey's Yard and 1 and 3 Fountain Lane, Haslingfield for Metropolitan Housing Trust  
Recommendation: Approval**

**Date for Determination: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

#### **Further Information received after publication of the agenda report.**

The **Ecology Officer** has visited the site with regards to the potential for Great Crested Newts to inhabit the pond on site. He notes the pond is man-made and appears sub-optimum for Great Crested Newts given its poor plant diversity and low invertebrate population. No Newts were found during the visit, and none have yet been recorded at a close-by pond. There is no objection to the loss of the pond, although the following informal is recommended. If Newts are found at a later date, then Natural England will be consulted on an appropriate way forward that does not compromise the legal protection afforded to Great Crested Newts.

Informative: The great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) receives full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. As such it is an offence to take, kill or injure specimens or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used for shelter or protection including resting or breeding places (whether occupied or not). Should great crested newts (or other protected species) be discovered during any phase of the work; in this case work should cease until specialist advice from a qualified ecologist has been sought. The developer is requested to advise all site contractors of this requirement. Further advice can be sought from [www.natural-england.org](http://www.natural-england.org)

No further comments have been received, and therefore the recommendation of the application has been altered to approval.

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