Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

RSPCA Rochdale & District Branch
A charity registered in England & Wales. Charity no. 232257

RSPCA Rochdale & District
Rochdale Animal Centre
1 Redcross Street
Rochdale
OL12 0NZ

To: Rochdale Borough Council, Planning Department

22nd January 2021

Following the initial bat survey carried out by JCA and the response to the Council by GMEU, the position of the RSPCA is that we recognise the critical importance of doing everything possible to avoid causing harm to the bats that are potentially roosting in the Visitor Centre.

As an animal welfare charity with specialist research facilities we worked with the government to assist in the preparation of the legislation which is designed to provide these wonderful creatures with effective legal protection.

We confirm that we will undertake the further surveys requested and our architects have confirmed instructions with the consultants JCA to undertake these at the earliest appropriate opportunity which we understand will be in May. The RSPCA confirms that we will agree an extension of time on the application to allow for the bat survey and appropriate consultation.

Once we receive the further reports we will undertake to carry out any subsequent recommendations and accept and comply fully with any conditions placed upon the granting of planning permission which are designed to reduce the impact of any works to the welfare of bats roosting in the premises. Further we would wish to say that we would take steps to create conditions which are safe, secure and appropriate to encourage bats to roost in the premises.

On this basis we would respectfully request the early validation of the planning application.

In giving this commitment we believe that it reflects the mission of the RSPCA and would be welcomed by the people of Rochdale.

Kind regards

David Canavan
For the RSPCA Rochdale & District