

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2020 12:06
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Woodland Trust comments in response to Local Plan - Additional housing options consultation

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Categories: Consultation response

Good Afternoon,

Please find below some brief comments from the Woodland Trust in response to the Additional Housing Options consultation. I have not responded through the survey as it is not appropriate for the Trust to take a position on specific options – rather we note the following:

It is crucial that the approach protects irreplaceable habitats and the integrity of ecological networks, while ensuring that all residents have good access to high quality natural green spaces.

With regards to intensification, we support the renewal first of brownfield sites, but it is crucial: a) to review the ecological value of sites first – as brownfield sites can have high ecological value; b) to ensure that all residents have good access to high quality natural green spaces; and c) to ensure that green infrastructure is embedded in all new schemes.

At a time of climate, nature and health crises – which are very much interrelated, Local Plans play a crucial role in place-shaping for a healthy and resilient future in the face of much change. We urge Stroud District Council to be truly ambitious in new policies and approaches to respond to these challenges in an integrated way.

A healthy natural environment plays a key role in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as redressing critical biodiversity declines and degrading ecosystems on which all life depends. The natural environment will also face stresses with climatic changes. A bigger, better, and more joined up natural environment will be stronger, healthier and more resilient to this change. An ambitious interpretation of the new requirement (through the Environment Bill) for Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be key. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to nature for wellbeing, and stark inequalities in access to natural green spaces, which we urge this Local Plan to redress.

We urge that the new Local Plan protects and enhances the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network and unlocks multiple benefits of green infrastructure.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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