

**Examination of Wyre Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036**

**Matter 4: Lea Castle Village (Policies 31, 31.1-31.2 and supporting text)**

**Hearing statement on behalf of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (Mr Steven Bloomfield) (ID: 231691)**

**in relation to:**

**Question 4.10 (i) What is the status of the Concept Plan in Appendix B of the Plan and how should its relationship with the vision in Policy 31.1 and development principles in Policy 31.2 be clarified? (ii) Should these policies be re-ordered and amended for clarity and effectiveness?**

**Question 4.12 (i) Overall, are the detailed policy requirements clear, consistent, justified and deliverable? (ii) Will they guide the creation of a village with high quality buildings and places that relates well to its surroundings and nearby settlements, promotes safe and healthy communities, and conserves and enhances the natural and historic environment?**

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1. In relation to part (i) of the question, we welcome those elements of the Concept Plan that reflect the Kidderminster North Green Infrastructure (GI) Concept Statement, which we helped to develop. These elements will be critical in delivering good GI on site and so we are pleased to support the policy requirements and map-based guidance that reflect them. Making clear reference to GI requirements on the concept plan in Appendix B is helpful and should help to provide guidance to prospective developers and stakeholders. However, it is important to note that the plan should be considered indicative and that there will be a need for the development blocks to also deliver GI elements. In connection with this, it is very helpful to see specific reference to the GI Concept Statement set out in part 20 of Policy 31.2. The Kidderminster North Green Infrastructure Concept Statement offers much more detail on GI requirements for the site and so interpreting the Concept Plan in Appendix B with this in mind will be important.
2. In relation to part (ii) of the question, we welcome the fact that Policy 31.2 adds greater detail to the broad principles set out in Policy 31.1. We do not have strong views on re-ordering or amending of the policies but it may be helpful to begin with the overarching GI concepts in Policy 31.1 and then move to more detailed area-by-area specifics in Policy 31.2 to aid clear understanding of the policy requirements.

**Question 4.12 (i) Overall, are the detailed policy requirements clear, consistent, justified and deliverable? (ii) Will they guide the creation of a village with high quality buildings and places that relates well to its surroundings and nearby settlements, promotes safe and healthy communities, and conserves and enhances the natural and historic environment?**

3. In relation to part (i) of the question, we consider that the GI requirements set out in the policy are fully justified. The underpinning evidence for inclusion of various GI corridors and associated features is set out in more detail in the Kidderminster North Green Infrastructure Concept Statement developed by the Worcestershire Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Steering Group. This forms an important part of the Green Infrastructure evidence base for the plan.
  
4. In relation to part (ii) of the question, we consider that underpinning the allocation of this site with GI features drawn from and guided by the Kidderminster North Green Infrastructure Concept Statement offers the most appropriate way to deliver development that seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment in and adjacent to this allocation. More detail on the priorities for conservation and enhancement, and recommendations for delivering development that seeks to deliver a positive GI framework for the site, can be found in the Concept Statement.

Steven Bloomfield – on behalf of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust  
December 2020