

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

**Matter 5: Kidderminster Eastern Extension (Policies 32, 32.1-32.4 and supporting text)**

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

**in relation to:**

**Question 5.8 (i) What is the status of the Development Framework Plan in Appendix B and how should its relationship with the vision in Policy 32.3 and principles of development in Policy 32.4 be clarified? (ii) Should these policies be re-ordered and amended for clarity and effectiveness?**

**Question 5.10 (i) Overall, are the detailed policy requirements clear, consistent, justified and deliverable? (ii) Will they guide the creation of a major urban extension with high quality buildings and places that relates well to its surroundings and the adjoining built-up area, promotes healthy and safe communities, and conserves and enhances the natural and historic environment?**

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**Question 5.8 (i) What is the status of the Development Framework Plan in Appendix B and how should its relationship with the vision in Policy 32.3 and principles of development in Policy 32.4 be clarified? (ii) Should these policies be re-ordered and amended for clarity and effectiveness?**

1. In relation to part (i) of the question, we welcome those elements of the Development Framework Plan that reflect the Kidderminster East Strategic Development Corridor Concept Plan, which we helped to develop. In the site vision set out in Policy 32.3 we welcome the proposed linear nature reserve, which offers a good fit with the Green Infrastructure (GI) principles for the site. Buffering of the Hoo Brook and its tributaries, protection and enhancement of existing hedgerows etc. and new biodiverse wetland habitats will all be important features in the new development and so it is helpful to show some of these in indicative large corridors across the allocation. Guidance provided in the Kidderminster East Strategic Development Corridor Concept Plan should underpin decisions in relation to the scale and layout of such GI as noted in several places in the 2 policies, and as required by part f. of Policy 32.4. We welcome these policy references and the council's approach to including meaningful GI policy in reasonable detail for this strategic allocation.
2. In relation to part (ii) of the question, we note the minor repetition regarding the GI concept plan in policies 32.3 and 32.4 but welcome the fact that policy 32.4 adds greater detail to the broad principles set out in 32.3. 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 32.3 and then move to more detailed area-by-area specifics in Policy 32.4 to aid clear understanding of the policy requirements.

**Question 5.10 (i) Overall, are the detailed policy requirements clear, consistent, justified and deliverable? (ii) Will they guide the creation of a major urban extension with high quality buildings and places that relates well to its surroundings and the adjoining built-up area, promotes healthy and safe 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 the inclusion of various GI corridors and associated features is set out in more detail in the Kidderminster East Strategic Development Corridor Concept Plan developed by the Worcestershire Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Steering Group. This forms 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 East Strategic Development Corridor Concept Plan 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 Plan.

Steven Bloomfield – on behalf of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust  
December 2020