



The countryside charity

Sussex

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Horsham District Local Plan 2019-36  
Public Consultation (Regulation 18)

Chapter 7: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

(Questions: Do you agree with the draft policies in this section?

If not, what changes would you suggest?)

### **CPRE Sussex's proposed Strategic Policy: Policy – Green Infrastructure**

CPRE Sussex considers, and recommends that because Green Infrastructure (GI) is multifunctional and is not concerned solely with biodiversity, and to provide greater clarity, it should be decoupled from Biodiversity, and that in place of the existing overarching strategic policy, Policy 31, there be two strategic policies, one specifically for Green Infrastructure and the other for Biodiversity and Ecology.

We propose that the wording of the GI policy, (an adaptation of the South Downs Park Authority's adopted 'Strategic Policy SD45: Green Infrastructure') be as follows

1. Development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they:
  - a) Maintain or enhance GI assets, GI links and the overall GI network; and
  - b) Provide new GI, or improvements to existing green assets and green linkages, which are integrated into the development design, that meets the needs of communities both within and beyond the site's boundaries.
2. GI proposals must contribute to multifunctional landscapes which:
  - a) Strengthen connectivity and resilience of ecological networks;
  - b) Incorporate GI measures that are appropriate to the type and context of the development proposal as part of an overall landscape design;
  - c) Maximise opportunities to mitigate, adapt and improve resilience to climate change;
  - d) Maximise opportunities for cycling and walking, including multi user routes and, where possible, facilitate circular routes; cycle paths should not be designed in ways that create barriers to the movement of wildlife or that lead to the fragmentation of habitats, and
  - e) Support health and wellbeing and improve opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the countryside, and of green spaces within built areas.
2. Where appropriate, the Authority will seek to secure via planning condition or legal agreement provision for the future management and/or maintenance of GI.

Dr R F Smith

For and on behalf of CPRE Sussex

27 March 2020