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FAO Stephen Kelly
Assistant Director of Planning
Haringey Council
Strategic Planning
6th Floor
River Park House
Wood Green
N22 8HQ

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY TO Idf@haringey.gov.uk

Dear Mr Kelly

Planning consultation: Draft Development Management Policies (DPD): Preferred Option

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 09 February 2015 which was received by Natural England on 09 February 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We have considered the contents of the document submitted to us and have the following comments to make:

Open spaces

We note the comment at page 46 that “open spaces (are) becoming more intensively used and (are) increasingly important to serve Haringey’s growing population in terms of leisure provision ..” and that the Lee Valley Regional Park is listed as one of the open spaces which can be used for this purpose.

We would emphasise, however, that parts of the Lee Valley Regional Park are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and as such are strictly protected sites under European legislation, classified for rare and vulnerable birds and for regularly occurring migratory species.

The following link on our website provides access to details of individual SSSIs - <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm>.

Haringey’s Green Grid

We agree with your proposition at page 47 that Haringey’s network of open spaces should be protected and enhanced wherever possible. We would however point out that we could not read the



map or index of the Green Grid properly, as it was not clearly reproduced and we would be grateful if you could send us a clearer copy of the map to the email address below.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states at paragraph 114 that:

“Local planning authorities should ... set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure”.

The NPPF also states at paragraph 117 that local authorities should plan for green infrastructure and:

“ ... promote mixed use developments and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban ... areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production)”.

Haringey is within an area that Natural England considers could benefit from enhanced green infrastructure (GI) provision. As such, Natural England would encourage the incorporation of GI into developments in this area.

GI can be designed to maximise the benefits needed for this area, for example it can be used to promote opportunities for recreation, improve links between communities and enhance flood-water management to protect surrounding homes and businesses. It can also be used to improve connectivity to other green spaces and to improve conservation and biodiversity.

The following link provides access to guidance for local planning authorities on Green Infrastructure: <http://www.publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033?category=49002>.

Green roofs

We are pleased to see reference to the provision of green and brown roofs and green walls where possible in developments at page 56.

One way of providing enhanced green infrastructure and biodiversity in an urban environment can be through the provision of green roofs.

Natural England is supportive of the inclusion of green roofs in all appropriate development. Research indicates that the benefits of green roofs include reducing run-off and thereby the risk of surface water flooding, reducing the requirement for heating and air-conditioning and providing habitat for wildlife.

We would advise your council that some living roofs, such as sedum matting, can have limited biodiversity value in terms of the range of species that grow on them and habitats they provide. Natural England would encourage you to consider the use of bespoke solutions based on the needs of the wildlife specific to the site and adjacent area. I would refer you to <http://livingroofs.org/> for a range of innovative solutions and <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/living-roofs.pdf> (London GLA 2008) regarding the fit with the London Plan policy.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Gillian Fensome on 07879 800855. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Fensome
Sustainable Development and Regulation
Thames Valley

