

CHETWYND

THE TOTON AND CHILWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Matter 12: Policy 28 Green Infrastructure Assets

Question 1. No specific comment

Question 2. We believe **the widths of Green Infrastructure Corridors must be clearly defined.** The word 'significant' is used in the Local Plan (Policy 3.2) and is too vague a term, leaving it open to wide interpretations. The risk is that Corridor widths will be compromised under pressure to approve planning applications.

Professor Sir John Lawton's report "Making Space for Nature" (2010) highlights the value and importance of improving connections for wildlife. Two key recommendations from the report state:

"Responsible authorities should take greater steps to reconnect people to nature by enhancing ecological networks within urban environments, including wildlife-friendly management of green spaces, and by embedding biodiversity considerations in the need to adapt to climate change." (page 76)

"Public bodies and other authorities responsible for canals, railways, roads, cycle ways and other linear features in the landscape, should ensure that they better achieve their potential to be wildlife corridors, thereby enhancing the connectivity of ecological networks, and improving opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife." (page 85)

We believe the Local Plan should support these recommendations by adding a specific policy that explicitly defines (and protects) Green Infrastructure Corridors in terms of overall size & widths. We believe an appropriate width for Green Corridors is 50 meters. This will assure viability for wildlife.

However, we acknowledge that some flexibility may be needed. So perhaps a definition that incorporates something along the lines of 'at least 80% of the corridor being created/preserved will be a minimum 40 meters wide' can be formulated.