

Stevenage Borough Council

**The Draft Impact of Development on
Biodiversity Supplementary Planning
Document (2020)**

Consultation Statement

30 November 2020 – 25 January 2021



Introduction

This document has been prepared to show how the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 were adhered to during the production and adoption of the Stevenage Borough Council Impact of Development on Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (2020).

The SPD will be a material consideration in planning decisions and the purpose of the SPD is to give further guidance and clarity regarding policies SP12: Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment of the adopted Stevenage Local Plan.

Town and Country Planning Regulations

The SPD has been produced in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The most relevant regulations relating to the process are as follows:

- Regulation 12: Regulation 12(a) requires the Council to produce a consultation statement before adoption of the SPD, this must set out who was consulted, a summary of the issues raised, and how these issues were incorporated in to the SPD.
- Regulation 12(b) requires the Council to publish the documents for a minimum 4 week consultation, specify the date when responses should be received and identify the address to which responses should be sent.
- Regulation 35: Regulation 12 states that when seeking representations on an SPD, documents must be available in accordance with Regulation 35. This requires the Council to make documents available by taking the following steps;
 - Make the document available at the principal office and other places within the area that the Council considers appropriate;
 - Publish the document on the Council's website

Details of consultation

Following approval at a meeting of the SBC Executive, consultation was undertaken on the Draft Impact of Development on Biodiversity SPD for a period of over eight weeks, from 30 November 2020 to 25 January 2021. Consultation was undertaken in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. Consultees who have previously signed up to the planning consultation list were contacted by email, or by post where no email address had been provided.

The consultation was also advertised on the Council's website home page and Planning Policy pages. It also appeared on the Stevenage Borough Council Twitter page and in a copy of the Chronicle which is delivered to every residence in Stevenage. A hard copy of the consultation document was available at the Council offices and in the Customer Service Centre.

Representations were submitted on the Council's planning consultation portal, Objective (<https://stevenage-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/>), or were sent via email to Planning.Policy@Stevenage.gov.uk.

Who was consulted?

A list of consultees is provided in Appendix 1.

What were the main issues raised during the consultation?

The main topics raised during the consultation were:

- *Clarity to reveal what 10% net gain in biodiversity would look like physically. Suggestions for additional visuals and graphics to illustrate this.*
- *Changes required bringing the Biodiversity Metric in line with DEFRA Metric Multipliers.*
- *General support for the additional nature and wildlife protection this SPD will help to facilitate.*
- *Consider Biodiversity Net Gain at the earliest possible stages of development.*
- *It may be sensible to wait until further guidance or formal legislation is passed to provide the clarity applicants and the LPA need in respect of requirements for proposals*
- *Remove maps based on data from MAGIC (Multi Agency Geographic Information on the Countryside) as these may prove misleading.*
- *Species considerations are not incorporated within the Metric. Similarly, the role of a biodiversity offset broker is introduced with no previous reference or implication.*
- *Clarifications sought over ownership and who is legally responsible for implementing Biodiversity Net Gain on sites.*
- *In respect of evaluation, appropriate scrutiny is required not only of the plan but also of the initial metric assumptions of the site affected which will determine requirements themselves.*
- *Field Assessment should include a wider range of grassland communities because different grasslands such as calcareous or acid grasslands.*

How has the Council responded to these issues and what changes has the Council made to the SPD document as a result?

The main concepts and principles of the Draft SPD have been maintained and brought forward into the adopted version of the SPD. However, a number of minor amendments have been made to take account of respondents' comments.

A complete schedule of consultation responses, the Council's response to the comments and any changes made to the SPD as a result are provided overleaf:

Name/Organisation	Comment ID	Paragraph	Comments:	SBC Response	SPD Amendment
Member of Public	DIDB1	3	Very important that we remove the bird netting in Stevenage town centre; many of the birds getting trapped and killed in it, including pigeons are protected and should not be subjected to such a cruel situation.	Noted.	No changes necessary.
Councillor	DIDB2	4.3	Whilst there's that really clear formula to explain what a contribution will be, there's nothing equivalent to show what a 10% net gain in biodiversity looks like... a little more detail about using the metric could be included, potentially even a quick screenshot as a visual aid to show non-experts.	Noted. Will contact HMWT to see if they are able to provide any graphic visualisations of this.	Amendments to be made if possible.
Member of Public	DIDB3	5.2	Consider making it mandatory for new houses built in Stevenage to have Swift bricks incorporated under the eaves. They do not need any maintenance as Swifts are very clean birds and do not foul their nests.	Noted.	No changes necessary.
Member of Public	DIDB4	4.3	Incorrect metric used. Information RE changes required to bring it in line with the DEFRA metric multipliers.	Noted.	Metric to be amended.
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	DIDB5	4.3	Incorrect metric used. Information RE changes required to bring it in line with the DEFRA metric multipliers.	Noted.	Metric to be amended.
Member of Public	DIDB6	2.8	In the Draft Biodiversity SPD 2.8, under policies in the NPPF, it states that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has an environmental objective. 174 states: To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should: promote.....the protection and recovery of priority species. Mr. C Bennett, CEO Wildlife Trusts, stated (Sept. 2020), The science is very clear. We desperately need to keep the nature we have got and we can't afford to lose any more. It therefore follows that all species, not just priority ones, need genuinely protecting.	Noted.	No changes necessary.
Member of Public	DIDB7	12	Alterations to table text.	Noted.	No changes necessary.

Member of Public	DIDB8	1	The Draft Biodiversity SPD as it is too weak to have any impact whatsoever on reversing the drastic decline in nature that we now have in this country. It does not reflect or address the situation, which is the result of development irreversibly destroying wildlife habitats, that we find ourselves in today that of environmental breakdown.	Noted.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB9	2.3	References in 2.3 to the need to deliver BNG are supported, although the NPPF guidance does not specifically state this is a formal planning requirement as implied.	Noted.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB10	4	In Section 4 the metric should be correctly referred to as The Biodiversity Metric 2.0, published by Natural England Dec 2019. However, The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 is due to be published in Spring 2021 along with a Small Sites Biodiversity Metric (based on metric 3.0). I advise, therefore, that the SPD is published after these metrics have been published to ensure compliance with the latest tools.	Noted.	No changes as yet but will monitor this as changes occur.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB11	4	BNG now also needs to be an integral component of site allocation at the Development Planning stage, given that it will potentially impact on site viability which is now a consideration of site allocation.	This point is not considered to be appropriate for this Local Plan cycle.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB12	4.3	The principles of how BNG is calculated are outlined in 4.3. References to the Ecological Network Map are provided, although this map may need future revision to make it more practical in terms of influencing BNG.	Noted. This does not need to be reflected in the SPD	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB13	4.5	Development thresholds for BNG are outlined in 4.5 but it may be sensible to wait until further guidance or formal legislation is passed to provide the clarity applicants and the LPA need in respect of requirements for proposals.	Noted.	No changes necessary.

Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB14	5.2	Under 5.2 Fig 5 and Fig 6 are from MAGIC (Multi Agency Geographic Information on the Countryside). They are confusing in that Habitat potential they include may conflict with that on the Ecological / network mapping. Furthermore, for example, an area of central Stevenage is shown as potential arable assemblage for farmland birds whilst the remainder is shown as potential Stone Curlew habitat from NBN data. This is clearly both inaccurate and misleading; there are also no references to these figures in the SPD. They should be removed unless they serve a referenced purpose as currently it is simply a wide range of disparate information, some of it misleading.	Noted.	Maps to be removed.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB15	7	Net gain refers to a net increase in biodiversity resource as a result of development. It can be represented wholly within the development site, partly within the site and elsewhere, or entirely elsewhere. This is not clear from the SPD.	Section 7 opens with a statement that offsets are required when onsite solutions are not sufficient. Later in the document it is made clear that offsets should preferentially be located in Stevenage. In addition, the metric carries with it a penalty for locating an offset outside the administrative boundary.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB16	7.2	In respect of delivery 7.2, the management period will be "in perpetuity" a term not used. This is accepted as a minimum of 30 years; it will be secured through a S106 agreement. These will be requirements of the net gain process by default and not open to discussion, and so any solution must demonstrate this can be achieved or can be paid for. This clarity is not reflected in the SPD.	Noted. We believe this is made clear in the SPD.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB17	7.2	Not convinced that the priority for offsets will be on land owned by local authorities, nature conservation organisations, or land managed by nature conservation organisations is an appropriate statement to make... This should be removed from the SPD which should represent an objective process.	LPA land or nature reserves offer a more secure site for long term BNG delivery. However, this section does not rule out other options. Ultimately a developer can source and provide their own offset (subject to the penalties in the metric) as long as they accord with the SPD. But if they cannot and want to give a sum to the LPA to deliver, it is practical that they look for the best long term solution. But this does not rule out offsets on private land if they are more appropriate or provide better value.	No changes necessary.

Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB18	8	Section 8 details the financial contributions required. Do not understand why this does not include any specific cost expectations (and therefore implications for development) as the Government has clearly outlined its expectations (£9-15k per biodiversity Unit) and a practical approach has already been taken on a number of BNG applications in Hertfordshire (£12k/BU). It is not clear within the main text of the SPD that the financial contribution will be subject to, or part of, the S106 agreement that will secure BNG.	The expected cost implication for the three main habitats is included later in the document Appendix 3 and is based on the Warwickshire financial cost calculator. This is much more precise than the general estimate figure suggested by government.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB19	8.1	Three funds are proposed in 8.1. These have not been proposed by Government but may be in due course, or confirmed once further guidance is published.	These funds are used by Warwickshire in their system and have been operating 8 years. They are therefore considered tested and justified. The Warwickshire system is a fully functioning and tested system	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB20	9	Section 9 Assessing measurable gain includes provision of bird and bat boxes. These are simple enhancements but important nonetheless if breeding / roosting sites are affected. If considered to be important contributors of net gain, they should be introduced and highlighted within the main text to reflect their contribution. Species considerations are not incorporated within the Metric. Similarly, the role of a biodiversity offset broker is introduced with no previous reference or implication.	Local Plans have separate policies for biodiversity features relating to species. This document can encourage good practise such as this but species measures do not relate directly to the metric	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB21	11	Appendix 2. In respect of the Conditions, who is the owner? Is this the landowner of the development site "which may be different to the developer "or the owner of the offset land? Or should it be the applicant proposing the development? This should be clarified. The sample Conditions imply that unless using a broker, the delivery of BNG will be implemented by the LPA. Who is legally responsible for the implementation of BNG? Whilst the Conditions can refer to NPPF in respect of expectations which should be delivered, it is not the statutory instrument which makes the principle of BNG a mandatory requirement. This is the Environment Bill and should be referenced as such. Furthermore, the implied role of the LPA needs clarification: is it the role of the LPA to directly deliver the net gain as implied?	This is template wording which shall be adapted dependant on the specifics of each scheme. It is derived from the Warwickshire system and Environment Bank literature and is therefore tested and suitable.	No changes necessary.

Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB22	12	Appendix 3 needs a title. It expands the calculation of financial contributions already outlined in Section 8. Does this mean that all payment associated with BNG costs will be made to the LPA? It is not clear how any of the funds relate to the Biodiversity Unit cost which is proposed to be a standard and fixed cost, whatever that BU is expected to provide. Neither is it clear how this relates to the proposed creation/restoration costs which are outlined. It is implied that HERC will be responsible for distributing all three funds associated with BNG. Thus far, HERC may not have been involved with any of the planning process to secure BNG. Support for their subsequent monitoring role is important, but implementation of funding to deliver BNG is not the responsibility of HERC. The average area requirements need further consideration.	Noted. Appendix 3 refers to a biodiversity financial agreement and this should be the title of the appendix. This refers to the developer paying the LPA to provide offset, as set out in the appendix.	Amendments to be made.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB23	13	Appendix 4 The Management Plan Guidance is broadly reasonable. It is exhaustive. If it is consistent with the provision of a Biodiversity Gain Plan as outlined within the Environment Bill, it should say so for clarification. In respect of evaluation, appropriate scrutiny is required not only of the plan but also of the initial metric assumptions of the site affected which will determine BU requirements themselves.	The management plan guidance relates to biodiversity offsets and not onsite BNG. That is why it is referred to as a biodiversity Offset Management Plan Guidance. If this process is not consistent with the Environment Bill (which is unlikely) the SPD can be adapted in the future.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB24	13.4	13.4 Field Assessment Table 2 should include a wider range of grassland communities because different grasslands such as calcareous or acid grasslands Table 3 should state this is based on the Technical Supplement generated in support of the Biodiversity Metric V2.	Noted. Calcareous grassland has been included in the table. Acid grassland could be added in another line.	Amendments to be made.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB25	14	Appendix 5 should be titled: The Natural England Biodiversity Metric V2, with supporting documents. Or preferably V3.	Noted. Change to: The Natural England Biodiversity Metric V2, with supporting documents.	Amendments to be made.

Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB26	15	No reference is made anywhere in the SPD to Appendix 6, which provides useful background information and guidance to inform habitat creation and restoration in respect of producing management plans. This should be addressed in the main text; otherwise there seems little point in including this Appendix.	Noted.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB27	16	Appendix 7 Policy etc. as above; reference to this policy list should be referenced within Section 2 policy context in the main document, given it expands on some of the policies already outlined.	It is referenced within the document.	No changes necessary.
Hertfordshire County Council Growth & Infrastructure Unit	DIDB28	1	The SPD makes no reference to the following: Use of Conservation Covenants, Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The proposed changes to the NERC Act Section 40 Biodiversity Duty as set out in the Environment Bill (Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Biodiversity Gain Plan (see para 29). These matters should be addressed as they are pertinent to the clarity of the SPD and its implementation, consistent with the Environment Bill.	These points are not pertinent at the moment but adaptations can be made to the SPD should it require it post Environment Bill. The point is this document is needed now. To delay it will result in a process void that is avoidable.	No changes necessary.
Member of the Public	DIDB29	4.3	This metric has been the centre of much opposition, the latest of which is in the current, February 2021, edition of the BBC Wildlife Magazine. The other major problem with the metric is the crudity of the ground assessment. The metric completely discounts the complexity of the hedgerow habitats.	The metric was already advocated by national policy guidance and soon to be made mandatory under the environment bill. It is essentially the most legitimate mechanism for measuring biodiversity net gain. Hedgerows are already protected as priority habitats via NERC and NPPF. We will look to protect each hedge impacted by development with a buffer of complimentary habitat.	No changes necessary.

Appendix 1 - Consultees

Specific Consultee Bodies and Duty to Cooperate Bodies consulted

- *The Coal Authority,*
- *The Environment Agency,*
- *Historic England,*
- *The Marine Management Organisation,*
- *Natural England,*
- *Network Rail,*
- *Highways England,*
- *East And North Herts NHS Trust*
- *East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group*
- *Communications operators/organisations (including; Mobile Operators Association, BT Cellnet*
- *Limited, Telefónica, O2 UK Limited, Telereal Trillium, T-Mobile, Virgin Media, Virgin Mobile,*
- *Vodafone Ltd.,)*
- *The Homes and Communities Agency*
- *North Hertfordshire District Council*
- *East Hertfordshire District Council*
- *Other Hertfordshire authorities (including; Borough of Broxbourne, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City And District Council, Three Rivers District Council, Watford Borough Council, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council)*
- *Hertfordshire County Council (including Growth & Infrastructure Unit, Public Health, Passenger Transport)*
- *Hertfordshire Highways*
- *Hertfordshire LEP*
- *Parish councils (including; Aston Parish Council, Codicote Parish Council, Datchworth Parish Council, Graveley Parish Council, Knebworth Parish Council, St Ippolyts Parish Council, Walkern Parish Council, Weston Parish Council, Woolmer Green Parish Council, Wymondley Parish Council)*
- *Hertfordshire Constabulary*
- *Anglian Water*
- *Thames Water*
- *Veolia Water Central (VWC)*
- *National Grid*

General consultation bodies/organisations

<i>5th Stevenage Air Scout Group</i>	<i>Broadwater Community Association</i>
<i>Aberdeen Asset Management</i>	<i>Broom Barns JMI</i>
<i>Active4Less</i>	<i>Brown And Lee</i>
<i>Adlington Planning Team</i>	<i>Brown And Lee Chartered Surveyors</i>
<i>Age Concern Stevenage</i>	<i>Buddhist Centre</i>
<i>Ahmadiyya Muslim Association</i>	<i>Building Research Establishment</i>
<i>Aldi Stores</i>	<i>Bus Users Group Stevenage</i>
<i>Aldwyck Housing Association</i>	<i>C.D.Bayles</i>
<i>Almond Hill Junior Mixed School</i>	<i>Campaign for Real Ale</i>
<i>Alzheimer's Society</i>	<i>Campaign For Real Ale Ltd</i>
<i>Anglian Water</i>	<i>Camps Hill Community Primary School</i>
<i>Aragon Land And Planning</i>	<i>Canyon Play Association</i>
<i>Archangel Michael And St Anthony Coptic Orthodox Church</i>	<i>Carers in Hertfordshire</i>
<i>Arriva</i>	<i>Catesby Property Group</i>
<i>Arriva The Shires And Essex Buses</i>	<i>CBRE Ltd.</i>
<i>Ashtree Primary School</i>	<i>Central Bedfordshire UA</i>
<i>Asian Women Group</i>	<i>Centrebus</i>
<i>Association of North Thames Amenity Societies</i>	<i>Chair North Herts Ramblers Group</i>
<i>Aston Parish Council</i>	<i>Chambers Coaches Stevenage Ltd</i>
<i>Aston Village Society</i>	<i>Chells Community Association</i>
<i>Aviva Investors</i>	<i>Chells Manor Community Association</i>
<i>BAA Safeguarding Team</i>	<i>Chells Scout Group</i>
<i>Barclay School</i>	<i>Chelton Radomes</i>
<i>Barker Parry Town Planning</i>	<i>Christadelphian Community</i>
<i>Barnwell School</i>	<i>Churches Together</i>
<i>BEAMS Ltd</i>	<i>Churches Together in Stevenage</i>
<i>Bedwell Community Association</i>	<i>Circle Anglia</i>
<i>Bedwell Primary And Nursery School</i>	<i>Citizens Advice Bureau</i>
<i>Bell Cornwell LLP</i>	<i>Clague Ashford</i>
<i>Bellway (Northern Home Counties)</i>	<i>Codicote Parish Council</i>
<i>Bellway Homes</i>	<i>Colinade Associates Ltd</i>
<i>Bellway Homes Miller Homes</i>	<i>Colliers International</i>
<i>Bellway Homes, Miller Homes & Wheatley Plc</i>	<i>Commercial Estates Group</i>
<i>Bidwells</i>	<i>Connexions Stevenage</i>
<i>Bloor Homes</i>	<i>Cortex</i>
<i>Bloor Homes South Midlands</i>	<i>Costco Wholesale UK Ltd</i>
<i>Borough of Broxbourne</i>	<i>Countryside Management Service</i>
<i>Bragbury End Residents Group</i>	<i>Countryside Properties plc, Stevenage Rugby Club and the Homes and Communities Agency (Cambridge)</i>
<i>Bridge Builders Christian Trust</i>	<i>CPRE Hertfordshire</i>
<i>British Horse Society</i>	<i>Crossroads Care (Hertfordshire North)</i>

<i>Croudace Strategic Ltd</i>	<i>Finishing Publications Ltd</i>
<i>CTC The National Cycling Charity</i>	<i>First Plan</i>
<i>Cycling UK Stevenage</i>	<i>Fitness First Plc</i>
<i>Dacorum Borough Council</i>	<i>Friends of Forster Country</i>
<i>Datchworth Parish Council</i>	<i>Friends of the Earth (Luton)</i>
<i>Davies And Co</i>	<i>Friends Religious Society</i>
<i>Defence Infrastructure Organisation</i>	<i>Friends, Families and Travellers and Traveller Law Reform Project Community Base</i>
<i>Deloitte</i>	<i>Fusion</i>
<i>Department For Business, Innovation and Skills</i>	<i>Gabriel Securities Ltd</i>
<i>Department For Culture Media And Sport</i>	<i>Genesis Housing Group</i>
<i>Department For Environment Food And Rural Affairs</i>	<i>GHM Consultancy Group Ltd (Logic Homes)</i>
<i>Department For Transport Rail Group</i>	<i>Giles Junior School</i>
<i>Design Council</i>	<i>Giles School</i>
<i>Dixons Dispatch Ltd</i>	<i>Glanville</i>
<i>Douglas Drive Senior Citizens Association</i>	<i>Glasgow City Council</i>
<i>DPDS Consulting Group</i>	<i>GlaxoSmithKline</i>
<i>EADS Astrium</i>	<i>Government Equalities Office</i>
<i>East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group</i>	<i>Graveley Against SNAP Proposals (GASP)</i>
<i>East and North Herts NHS Trust</i>	<i>Graveley Parish Council</i>
<i>East Coast</i>	<i>Graveley School</i>
<i>East Hertfordshire District Council</i>	<i>Great Ashby Community Council</i>
<i>East Herts District Council</i>	<i>Great Ashby Community Group</i>
<i>East Herts Footpath Society</i>	<i>Great Ashby Community Resource Centre</i>
<i>East of England Ambulance Service</i>	<i>Greene King Plc</i>
<i>East Of England Local Government Association (formerly EERA)</i>	<i>Greenside School</i>
<i>Eastlake Stevenage Limited</i>	<i>Gregory Gray Associates</i>
<i>Ecovril Ltd</i>	<i>Gujarati Hindu Association</i>
<i>Endurance estates</i>	<i>Hanover Housing Association</i>
<i>Environment Agency</i>	<i>HAPAS</i>
<i>Epping Forest District Council</i>	<i>Heaton Planning Ltd</i>
<i>Essex County Council</i>	<i>Hermes Real Estate Investment Ltd</i>
<i>Executive</i>	<i>Hertford Road Community Association</i>
<i>F&C REIT Asset Management</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Action on Disability</i>
<i>Fairlands Primary School And Nursery</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders</i>
<i>Fairlands Valley Sailing Centre</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Association Of Parish And Town Councils</i>
<i>Fairview Road Residents Association</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils / Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils</i>
<i>Featherstone Wood Primary School</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Association Of Young People</i>
<i>Fields in Trust</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre</i>

<i>Hertfordshire Care Trust</i>	<i>Iceni Projects Ltd</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Chamber Of Commerce And Industry</i>	<i>Independent Custody Visitors Scheme</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Constabulary</i>	<i>Intercounty Properties</i>
<i>Hertfordshire County Council</i>	<i>J Young Investments Ltd.</i>
<i>Hertfordshire County Council (Archaeology)</i>	<i>JB Planning Associates</i>
<i>Hertfordshire County Council (Estates)</i>	<i>Jehovah's Witnesses</i>
<i>Hertfordshire County Council (Highways)</i>	<i>John Henry Newman RC School</i>
<i>Hertfordshire County Council Public Health</i>	<i>Jones Day</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Fire And Rescue Service</i>	<i>Jones Lang LaSalle</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Gardens Trust</i>	<i>Kirkwells</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service</i>	<i>Knebworth Estates</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Highways</i>	<i>Knebworth House Education and Preservation Trust</i>
<i>Hertfordshire LEP</i>	<i>Knebworth Parish Council</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Police</i>	<i>Lambert Smith Hampton</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Police Authority</i>	<i>Land Registry Head Office</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Police Eastern Area</i>	<i>Lanes New Homes</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Property (HCC)</i>	<i>Langley Parish Meeting</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Society for the Blind</i>	<i>Larwood School</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Stop Smoking Service</i>	<i>Lepus Consulting</i>
<i>Hertfordshire University</i>	<i>Letchmore Infants And Nursery School</i>
<i>Hertfordshire Visual Arts Forum</i>	<i>Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation</i>
<i>Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust</i>	<i>Leys Primary And Nursery School</i>
<i>Herts Against the Badger Cull</i>	<i>Lincolns Tyre Service Ltd.</i>
<i>Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust</i>	<i>Living Streets</i>
<i>Herts Gay Community</i>	<i>Lodge Farm Primary School</i>
<i>Hertsmere Borough Council</i>	<i>London and Cambridge Properties Ltd</i>
<i>Hightown Praetorian Churches Housing Association</i>	<i>London Borough of Barnet</i>
<i>Highways England</i>	<i>London Borough of Enfield</i>
<i>Hill Residential Limited</i>	<i>London Borough of Harrow</i>
<i>HilliersHRW Solicitors LLP</i>	<i>London Gypsies and Travellers Unit</i>
<i>Historic England</i>	<i>Longmeadow Primary School</i>
<i>Hitchin Town Action Group</i>	<i>Lonsdale School</i>
<i>Holiday Inn Express</i>	<i>Luton Borough Council</i>
<i>Holy Trinity Church</i>	<i>Mantle</i>
<i>Home Builders Federation</i>	<i>Marine Management Organisation</i>
<i>Home Group</i>	<i>Marriotts Gymnastics Club</i>
<i>Homes And Communities Agency</i>	<i>Marriotts School</i>
<i>Howard Cottage Housing Association</i>	<i>Martin Ingram Opticians</i>
<i>Howard Property Group</i>	<i>Martins Wood Primary School</i>
<i>HSBC Trust Company (UK) Limited</i>	<i>Mayor of London</i>
<i>Hubert C Leach Ltd</i>	<i>MBDA UK Ltd</i>
<i>Hythe Ltd</i>	<i>Miller Strategic Land</i>

<i>Mind in Herts</i>	<i>Pin Green Community Centre</i>
<i>MKG Motor Group</i>	<i>Pin Green Residents Association</i>
<i>Moss Bury Primary School</i>	<i>Pin Green Residents Group</i>
<i>Moult Walker Chartered Surveyors</i>	<i>Planning Issues Ltd</i>
<i>MS Society Mid Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Planning Potential Ltd</i>
<i>NaCSBA</i>	<i>Planware Ltd</i>
<i>National Express</i>	<i>Planware Ltd.</i>
<i>National Housing Federation</i>	<i>POhWER</i>
<i>Natural England</i>	<i>Princes Trust</i>
<i>Network Rail</i>	<i>Putterills Of Hertfordshire</i>
<i>NFGLG</i>	<i>Rapleys LLP</i>
<i>NHS East and North Hertfordshire CCG</i>	<i>REACT</i>
<i>North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Green Party</i>	<i>Redrow Homes (Eastern) Ltd</i>
<i>North Hertfordshire College</i>	<i>Redrow Homes Eastern Division</i>
<i>North Hertfordshire District Council</i>	<i>Regional Land Holdings Ltd.</i>
<i>North Hertfordshire Friends Of The Earth</i>	<i>Relate North Hertfordshire And Stevenage</i>
<i>North Hertfordshire People First</i>	<i>Renshaw UK Limited</i>
<i>North Herts & Stevenage Green Party</i>	<i>rg+p Ltd</i>
<i>North Herts and Stevenage Community Learning Disability Team</i>	<i>Richborough Estates</i>
<i>North Herts Homes</i>	<i>Ridgmond Park Training Centre</i>
<i>North Herts People First</i>	<i>River Beane Restoration Association</i>
<i>North Stevenage Consortium</i>	<i>Road Haulage Association</i>
<i>Odyssey Group Holdings</i>	<i>Roebuck and Marymead Residents Association</i>
<i>Office for Rail Regulation</i>	<i>Roebuck Nursery And Primary School</i>
<i>Old Stevenage Community Association</i>	<i>Round Diamond Primary School</i>
<i>On Behalf Of St. Peter's Church</i>	<i>RPF Developments</i>
<i>Origin Housing Group</i>	<i>RPS Planning and Development Ltd</i>
<i>Oval Community Centre</i>	<i>RSPB</i>
<i>PACE</i>	<i>Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd</i>
<i>Paradigm Housing Group</i>	<i>Savils</i>
<i>Passenger Transport Unit, Hertfordshire County Council</i>	<i>Saving North Herts Green Belt</i>
<i>Patient Liaison Group</i>	<i>Secretary of State for Communities</i>
<i>Peacock And Smith</i>	<i>Seebohm Executors</i>
<i>Peartree Spring Junior School</i>	<i>Shephalbury Sports Academy</i>
<i>Pennyroyal Ltd.</i>	<i>Shephall Community Association</i>
<i>Pentangle Design</i>	<i>Shephall Residents Association</i>
<i>Persimmon Homes</i>	<i>Showmen's Guild Of Great Britain</i>
<i>PHD Associates</i>	<i>Simmons And Sons</i>
<i>Physically Hanidcapped And Able Bodied Club</i>	<i>South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>Picture Ltd</i>	<i>Sport England</i>
<i>Pigeon Investment Management Ltd</i>	<i>Sport Stevenage</i>
<i>Pigeon Land Ltd</i>	<i>Springfield House Community Association</i>

<i>St Albans City And District Council</i>	<i>Thames Water Property</i>
<i>St Ippolyts Parish Council</i>	<i>The Baha'I Community of Stevenage</i>
<i>St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School</i>	<i>The Campaign for Real Ale</i>
<i>St Nicholas Community Centre</i>	<i>The Coal Authority</i>
<i>St Nicholas School</i>	<i>The Greens & Great Wymondley Residents Association</i>
<i>St Vincent De Paul RC Primary School</i>	<i>The Guinness Trust</i>
<i>St. Nicholas and Martins Wood Residents Association</i>	<i>The Guinness Partnership</i>
<i>Stanhope Plc</i>	<i>The Gypsy Council</i>
<i>STARCOURT CONSTRUCTION LTD</i>	<i>The Hitchin Forum</i>
<i>Stevenage And North Hertfordshire Indian Cultural Society</i>	<i>The Living Room</i>
<i>Stevenage and North Herts Women's Resource Centre</i>	<i>The National Trust</i>
<i>Stevenage Borough Council</i>	<i>The Nobel School</i>
<i>Stevenage Borough Council Transportation Development</i>	<i>The Salvation Army</i>
<i>Stevenage Business Initiative</i>	<i>The Theatres Trust</i>
<i>Stevenage Caribbean and African Association</i>	<i>The Woodland Trust</i>
<i>Stevenage Caribbean And African Association (SCARAFa)</i>	<i>Theatres Trust</i>
<i>Stevenage Cricket Club</i>	<i>Thomas Alleyne School</i>
<i>Stevenage CVS</i>	<i>T-Mobile</i>
<i>Stevenage Depression Alliance</i>	<i>TRACKS (Autism)</i>
<i>Stevenage Haven</i>	<i>Transport for London</i>
<i>Stevenage Irish Network</i>	<i>Trotts Hill Primary And Nursery School</i>
<i>Stevenage League Of Hospital Friends</i>	<i>Troy Planning</i>
<i>Stevenage Mosque</i>	<i>Turley</i>
<i>Stevenage Polish Association</i>	<i>Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd</i>
<i>Stevenage Quakers</i>	<i>USF Nominees Ltd.</i>
<i>Stevenage Regeneration Ltd.</i>	<i>Veale Associates</i>
<i>Stevenage Sikh Cultural Association</i>	<i>Veolia Water Central (VWC)</i>
<i>Stevenage Town Rugby Club</i>	<i>VEOLIA WATER CENTRAL LIMITED</i>
<i>Stevenage Women's Refuge</i>	<i>Vincent And Gorbing Planning Associates</i>
<i>Stevenage World Forum For Ethnic Minorities</i>	<i>Virgin Media</i>
<i>Stevenage Youth Council</i>	<i>Visit East Anglia</i>
<i>Stewart Ross Associates</i>	<i>Vodafone Ltd</i>
<i>Strutt and Parker LLP</i>	<i>Waitrose Ltd</i>
<i>Symonds Green Community Association</i>	<i>Walkern Parish Council</i>
<i>Taylor Wimpey</i>	<i>Watford Borough Council</i>
<i>Taylor Wimpey / Persimmon</i>	<i>Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council</i>
<i>Telefónica O2 UK Limited</i>	<i>Welwyn Hatfield Council</i>
<i>Telereal Trillium</i>	<i>West Stevenage Consortium</i>
<i>Terence O'Rourke Ltd</i>	<i>Weston Parish Council</i>
<i>Thames Water</i>	<i>Wheatley Homes</i>

<i>Wheatley Homes Ltd</i>	<i>Woolmer Green Parish Council</i>
<i>Willmott Dixon Housing</i>	<i>WPNPF</i>
<i>Wm Morrisons Supermarket Plc</i>	<i>Wyndley Parish Council</i>
<i>Women's Link</i>	<i>Wyvale Garden Centres Ltd</i>
<i>Woodland Trust</i>	<i>Young Pride in Herts</i>
<i>Woolenwich Infant And Nursery School</i>	<i>Youth Council</i>

Approximately 950 individuals on the Council consultation register were also consulted.

Appendix 2 – Consultation Publicity



[View all news](#)

Stevenage Borough Council launches Biodiversity Consultation

Posted on 30 Nov 2020

Share:     

The promotion of biodiversity and nature has always been a priority of the Council and recently we updated our Biodiversity Action Plan to show how we will maintain biodiversity conservation and improvement.

We also want to make sure that developers meet their requirements to conserve and enhance biodiversity in our town through their proposed schemes.

To this end, we are consulting on a new planning document which sets out how developers should incorporate biodiversity into their proposed schemes or alternatively provide financial contributions to the Council to implement biodiversity improvements on their behalf

It has been prepared in partnership with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and is the first of its kind in Hertfordshire. The Consultation runs from 30 November 2020 to 25 January 2021

Members of the public may have their say on the Council's planning consultation portal at <https://stevenage-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/> or by emailing Planning.Policy@Stevenage.gov.uk

John Gardner, Executive Member for the Environment and Regeneration, said: "Stevenage Borough Council has for a number of years been working in partnership with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to improve the biodiversity of our town and welcomed the Government's 2018 Environment 25 year Plan calling for a net gain policy of biodiversity in all new developments. Biodiversity is one of the best indicators of a balanced and sustainable community, also helping to address the challenges of climate change. This draft SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) is offered for public consultation and support to help developers meet the objectives of the "10% Net Gain" biodiversity policy for the benefit of future generations."

In addition, with a significant level of growth and development planned in the coming years, the council wants to ensure that developers provide mitigation against the impacts of their proposed schemes.

This will involve developers providing, or contributing funds towards, infrastructure and public services within the town, which could include the construction of roads/cycleways, or the provision of land for additional schools or health facilities.

Other mitigation will also include the use of good design to provide sports facilities, open spaces, community facilities and opportunities for residents to use sustainable transport as part of our attempt to combat climate change.

We are consulting on a new planning document which sets out how developers will be expected to contribute to Stevenage's infrastructure and services when implementing planning permissions in the future.

This is in addition to the Council's adoption of a Community Infrastructure Levy earlier this year which aims to fund infrastructure more widely across the borough.

Consultation runs from 30 November 2020 to 25 January 2021. Have your say on the [Council's planning consultation portal](#) or email your thoughts to Planning.Policy@Stevenage.gov.uk

Cllr John Gardner, added: "We are pleased to offer this draft SPD for public consultation and support, to both clarify and increase public transparency of the valued financial contributions developers are required to make towards the essential infrastructure required for all developments. A key feature within the document is a requirement for Developers to ensure a portion of the construction jobs and apprenticeships associated with their development are available to local residents for the benefit of Stevenage."



Stevenage Council  @StevenageBC · Jan 21 ...

We have updated our Biodiversity Action Plan to show how we will maintain conservation by working alongside our partners and launched a new consultation in tandem with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. See it here -

stevenage-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/



Chronicle

Stevenage Borough Council's quarterly residents' magazine

Winter 2020

Biodiversity Consultation launched Plan to protect wildlife as part of proposed developments

The promotion of biodiversity and nature has always been a priority of the Council and recently we updated our Biodiversity Action Plan to show how we will maintain and improve biodiversity conservation.

We also want to make sure that developers meet their requirements to conserve and enhance biodiversity in our town through their proposed schemes.

To this end, we are consulting on a new planning document which sets out how developers should incorporate biodiversity into their proposed schemes or alternatively provide financial contributions to the Council to implement biodiversity improvements on their behalf.



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