

Date: 24th April 2013
Our ref: 81529



By e-mail: psp@solihull.gov.uk

Natural England
Consultation Service
Hornbeam House
Electra Way
Crewe Business Park
CREWE
CW1 6GJ

T: 0300 060 4276

Dear Ms Jones

Community Infrastructure Levy: Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule Consultation

Thank you for consulting us on the above which was received by Natural England on 15th March 2013.

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.

Natural England is not a service provider, nor do we have detailed knowledge of infrastructure requirements of the area concerned. However, we note that the National Planning Policy Framework Para 114 states "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." We view CIL as playing an important role in delivering such a strategic approach.

As such we advise that the council gives careful consideration to how it intends to meet this aspect of the NPPF, and the role of the CIL in this. In the absence of a CIL approach to enhancing the natural environment, we would be concerned that the only enhancements to the natural environment would be ad hoc, and not deliver a strategic approach, and that as such the local plan may not be consistent with the NPPF.

Potential infrastructure requirements may include:

- Access to natural greenspace.
- Allotment provision.
- Infrastructure identified in the local Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Infrastructure identified by any Local Nature Partnerships and or BAP projects.
- Infrastructure identified by any AONB management plans.
- Infrastructure identified by any Green infrastructure strategies.
- Other community aspirations or other green infrastructure projects (e.g. street tree planting).

Natural England
Foundry House
3 Millsands
Riverside Exchange
Sheffield S3 8NH

www.naturalengland.org.uk

- Infrastructure identified to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Any infrastructure requirements needed to ensure that the Local Plan is Habitats Regulation Assessment compliant

We hope that you find this information useful. For any correspondence or queries relating to this consultation only, please contact Kate Wheeler using the details given below. For all other correspondence, including in relation to forward planning consultations, please contact the address above or email consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

If I can provide any further advice relating to this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me. For all other correspondence, please contact the address above.

Yours sincerely

Kate Wheeler
Lead Adviser
Land Use Operations

Kate.wheeler@naturalengland.org.uk