

Healthy and Sustainable Environment

- Development on Green Belt land is in contradiction with preserving biodiversity and preservation of the natural environment and by planning law should only be considered in exceptional circumstances, when all other options have been exhausted. If it is proven that exceptional circumstances will require developments in Green Belt land they should be developed as follows (this would also apply to Brownfield sites):
- Can we have a requirement rather than a suggestion for high level of energy efficiency in all new houses built. Any new houses should be zero carbon homes.
- Each housing development area requires suitable space for community - e.g. community building, children's outside play areas. Also other community services as doctor's surgery, shops, schools and opportunities for local jobs should be included. Proper broadband to facilitate home working.
- Opportunity for small scale industry to reduce traffic and dependency on London for employment
- Each housing development should have a space set aside for a community food growing project in order to allow residents without gardens to grow their own food e.g. keep fit, eat well and save money.
- Each housing development should have trees and the council should ensure that the developers plant trees such as apples, pears, cherry and other fruit or bearing trees. Local community groups will be happy to take maintenance on as part of their involvement in their local land.
- Instead of lining roads with verges that are unattractive and unusable, the council should insist on developers planting edible plants and wildflowers good for pollinating insects
- Minimum intrusion of traffic on housing areas (e.g. through inclusion of pedestrian and cycle only routes)
- Cycle paths should be created as a necessary part of development - paths that can lead to green space and to other amenities in the area
- Secure cycle storage should be provided for each dwelling – appropriate to number of dwellers
- Electric re-charging points for vehicles
- Make developments permeable to non-motorised users e.g. pedestrians, cycles, children, wheelchair users and those with disabilities
- There has to be good transport links to other amenities including stations and rail and bus links.
- There needs to be good public transport links including outside of office hours
- IN order to fulfil the council's obligations on carbon reductions, the council should insist that developers consider options such as solar lit cycle pathways – see Holland example.

- Houses should all have renewable energy fits such as solar panels, energy efficient boilers and high levels of insulation e.g. at least one metre thick – see Germany example
- Dwellings should be situated in order to maximise their solar efficiency e.g. roofs facing south
- The housing developments should include buildings with green roofs
- Developers should have to provide means for community energy production in each new housing development in order to meet carbon reduction targets and in order to give householders a stake in their energy production and in order to reduce bills

Minimal hard surfaces in new developments, and any hard surfaces to be permeable to water.

SUDS rather than run off water going into sewers.

We should be creating an environment which will sustain wildlife and an assessment as to how successful this is should be built in.

Forest gardens should be incorporated in all new developments so as to provide an area that encourages biodiversity and is also productive and pleasant to be in.

The areas adjacent to the Broad Areas (ie what remains of existing green belt) should be planted to provide continuous wildlife corridors like that aspired to by Watling Chase.

Trees should be an integral part of all new developments.

Fences/walls are barriers to wildlife such as hedgehogs and so should be avoided in favour of hedges – flowering hedges preferably.

If a roof is suitable for solar panels it should be fitted with them. If not, then a green roof should be fitted.

Ponds should be incorporated as these are essential for wildlife.

Communal growing spaces should be incorporated as should areas for playing football etc.