

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2022 10:29
To: Jonathan Greenwood
Subject: FW: TIPTREE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 16

Good morning Jonathan

Please see email from Chris following the letter sent in August regarding Local Green Space.

Louise

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2022 08:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: TIPTREE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 16

Dear Louise

Thank you for sharing details of the Reg16 consultation and the Parish Councils thoughts on Birch Wood. Before responding directly I would be grateful if the PC/Local plan committee can please clarify what evidence they have used to make this potential designation and how this fits within the NPPF criteria.

Regards

Chris

Response

30/09/22

Dear Chris, (CC Louise)

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Parish Council's thoughts on Birch Wood.

Colchester BC advised us to strengthen our environmental policies in the Regulation 16 version of the Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan (TNP).

The designation of Birch Wood was primarily proposed because of its value to Tiptree residents as expressed in the Neighbourhood Plan Community Questionnaire. Section 5 Q8 asked 'Which green spaces around Tiptree are important to you and why'. Of the 256 comments received, 75 referred to Birch Wood (9%).

NPPF (2021) paragraph 175 says '*Plans should... take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure*'.

In line with this, the TNP has tried to adopt a strategic approach to protecting valued wildlife sites and valuable green areas whilst seeking to accommodate further population growth. To this end Local Green Spaces are proposed to be designated in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 101 & 102:

101: The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and compliment investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other

essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

102: The Local Green Spaces designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a. In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.*
- b. Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c. Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

The public also expressed a strong desire to protect our valuable wildlife areas (768/1066 respondents (72%) expressed this as a 'High Priority').

NPPF (2021) paragraph 174a *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes (and) sites of biodiversity (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)'*. In this respect the Colchester Local Wildlife Sites (2015) is an evidence base document for the Local Plan and identifies Birch Wood as a Local Wildlife Site (Co21). Birch Wood is an ancient woodland site comprising two species of Oak, Hornbeam and Sweet Chestnut as well as a number of other species. Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan (TNP) policy TIP11 affords protection to Local Wildlife Sites as does the proposed Local Green Space designation in Policy TIP13.

Finally paragraph 179 *'To protect and enhance biodiversity.... Plans should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them: and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.'* This is very much part of the strategic approach adopted by the TNP.

I hope this helps but please feel free to come back to me for any further discussion.

With kind regards

Jonathan Greenwood
Chair, TPC
Chair, TNP Steering Group