Question 11.1

The draft South East Plan specifies a list of strategic actions that we should include in the LDF and other plans and strategies to avoid a net loss of biodiversity and actively pursue a net gain. These could form the basis for a strategic policy in the LDF Core Strategy

Provide the highest level of protection for nationally and internationally designated sites

Avoid damage to locally important wildlife and geological sites wherever possible

Ensure that unavoidable damage to wildlife interest is minimised through mitigation, that any damage is compensated for, and that such measures are monitored

Make sure areas of wildlife importance are accessible and well promoted, identifying areas of opportunity for biodiversity improvement and setting local targets to contribute to regional biodiversity targets and quality of life

Influence and apply agri-environment schemes, forestry, flood defence and other land management practices to deliver biodiversity targets

Maintain and establish accessible green networks and open green space in urban areas.

Do you support this overall approach?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 100
Individuals: Total 64
Local Groups: Total 11
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 9
Other (including anonymous): Total 13

Response percentages: Agree – 94% Disagree – 3% No Opinion – 3%

Question 11.2

If you don't support the overall approach listed at 11.1 , what would you wish to change/add?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 32
Individuals: Total 16
Castle (4), Conquest (1), Old Hastings (2), St Helens (1), West St Leonards (1), Wishing Tree (1), Other (6).

Local Groups: Total 7
Hastings & Rother LA21, Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group, Hastings & St. Leonards Allotment Federation, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum, Lower Torfield Allotment Association, Old Hastings Preservation Society, Ore Valley Forum.

Developers: Total 1
Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners for Bourne Leisure ltd.

Statutory agencies: Total 4
Crowhurst Parish Council, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, High Weald AONB Unit

Other (including anonymous): Total 4
Anonymous (2), The Hastings Greenway Project, The Mother Agnes Trust.

ref 8
Ward
Response ref 11.2/1
Individual/name of organisation High Weald AONB Unit
Summary of comments Should include ref to High Weald AONB management plan 2004 – Statutory local authority plan.

ref 14
Ward
Response ref 11.2/2
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments We've spent too much time on newts etc. They soon recover and relocate.

ref 20
Ward
Response ref 11.2/3
Individual/name of organisation Lower Torfield Allotment Association
Summary of comments I want to say that there should be no building on existing allotment sites. Disused allotment sites should be brought back into use.
New allotment sites should be provided where none exists.

ref 82
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.2/4
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Not all wildlife sites should be made more accessible. Public access should be strictly controlled. Litter, noise etc is already becoming a problem in some areas.

ref 74
Ward
Response ref 11.2/5
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & St. Leonards Allotment Federation
Summary of comments The need to protect and improve allotment sites should be specifically included as a separate issue because they are protected in law.

ref 134
Ward St Helens
Response ref 11.2/6
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Increase protection of locally important wildlife sites using maximum council powers as the nationally & internationally designated sites have been built on protection with designation. People who destroy wildlife/trees etc should be brought before the law as strongly as possible as the feeling is often 'I'll destroy it anyway – the council/law won't bother to pursue me!'

ref 77
Ward
Response ref 11.2/7
Individual/name of organisation Ore Valley Forum
Summary of comments Avoid damage to locally important wildlife. Why are we building a road through a SSSI when there were alternative routes? Wildlife should be including in our communities so damage to wildlife interest should not be allowed. Chapter 11 should be linked to chapter 12 as greenspace is an important part of environmental and sustainability issues.

ref 75
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.2/8
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Allotments should be given specific identity and priority. All allotments should be preserved.

ref 106
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.2/9
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments I think we are hypocrites. We show squeamishness about fish but don't take into account that wildlife can be cruel. However, wild creatures do find a way to repopulate if their habitat is destroyed. People sometimes shout for their own particular interest without taking everything into consideration

ref 93
Ward
Response ref 11.2/10
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The accessibility of wildlife sites of importance should correlate to (illegible word) sensitivity. As well as land management practices – planning influence on practices on sea & shore should be considered – e.g. support sustainable fishing methods (where this is in the planning remit)

ref 91
Ward West St Leonards
Response ref 11.2/11
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments A built environment/heritage [illegible word] is needed as well as natural environmental protection. A strategy for the town's built environment is urgently needed (see answers to question 10.3)

ref 116
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.2/12
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Referring back to the housing scenarios of chapter 6 perhaps all council run property developments (social housing) that encroaches on green/rural spaces should be designed around biodegradable materials e.g. log cabins. Thereby creating minimum impact on green natural spaces for future generations. Very large & desirable homes have been created in this way in sensitive green wooded areas ref: channel 4 grand designs

ref 114
Ward
Response ref 11.2/13
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother LA21
Summary of comments Any damage to wildlife interest should be compensated for as kind not by monetary payments.

ref 109
Ward
Response ref 11.2/14
Individual/name of organisation Crowhurst Parish Council
Summary of comments We reiterate earlier comments on the importance of Pebsham Countryside Park and decisions on green space, i.e. Upper Wilting

ref 101
Ward
Response ref 11.2/15
Individual/name of organisation Old Hastings Preservation Society
Summary of comments What about conversation of the built environment?

ref 80
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.2/16
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Links to education and culture to address this need

ref 107
Ward
Response ref 11.2/17
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Add protection of allotment land which is a community productive open space.

ref 121
Ward
Response ref 11.2/18
Individual/name of organisation The Hastings Greenway Project
Summary of comments English Nature stress the value of very local green spaces within local urban communities. These areas can increase local biodiversity and area easily accessible. Urban renaissance is not defined or discussed in any detail. The work of CABE & ODPM laid great stress on this topic. Both have produced guidelines to indicate scope & depth including:
the importance of the public realm , the importance of contextual design, new demands & expectations of regeneration plans from the community.

ref 123
Ward
Response ref 11.2/19
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments I would beef up the second bullet point otherwise the whole thing is a development charter.

ref 108
Ward
Response ref 11.2/20
Individual/name of organisation Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Summary of comments As much green space as possible.

ref 48
Ward
Response ref 11.2/21
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments But prioritise clearly that to be retained. It is not possible to achieve all.

ref 122
Ward
Response ref 11.2/22
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group
Summary of comments Yes but an accurate register of all open space & characteristics is needed to set a baseline. The recent open space is a start but has its problems – 11.6

ref 58
Ward
Response ref 11.2/23
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The development of the Countryside Park seems to conflict with this

ref 30
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.2/24
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It's ok in principle but the various public bodies are usually the worst at maintaining open spaces. We therefore need a much better assessment than at present of how useful open and amenity spaces are.

ref 37
Ward
Response ref 11.2/25
Individual/name of organisation Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners for Bourne Leisure ltd.
Summary of comments With regard to protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value, it is important to balance the need to protect the environment with economic policies promoting tourism development, where such development would be acceptable if it does not have a significant and harmful impact on the high quality environment and where mitigation measures for dealing with such impact can be provided.

ref 66
Ward Wishing Tree
Response ref 11.2/26
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It is a question of striking the right balance. At the end of the day it is people that are more important than wildlife

ref 68
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.2/27
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments These “protection policies” must not be undermined, devalued or compromised by the encroachment of development schemes or (yet to be) designated development areas

ref 147
Ward
Response ref 11.2/28
Individual/name of organisation The Mother Agnes Trust
Summary of comments All these actions /objectives need to be subject to the overriding co-operation with, and support of, landowners and developers working in partnership, or linked to the development of the sites to secure wider planning objectives.

ref 149
Ward
Response ref 11.2/29
Individual/name of organisation Environment Agency
Summary of comments An additional point with regard to this issue is the pursuit of biodiversity enhancements through development, which can provide a significant contribution to this target as laid out in PPS9 and the Draft South East plan.

ref 142
Ward
Response ref 11.2/30
Individual/name of organisation Forestry Commission
Summary of comments In particular the Borough Council should ensure recognition and protection is given to Ancient Woodland through appropriate LDF Policies. South East England has 40% of England's Ancient Woodlands, which are features of irreplaceable heritage and landscape value.

Since the Local Plan was adopted PPS9 has strengthened its protection of ancient woodland. It states that "They should not grant planning permission for any development that would result in its loss or deterioration unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location outweigh the loss of woodland habitat"**.** Policy NRM5 of the South East Plan currently reads "Protecting ancient woodland from damaging development and land uses. Ensuring the protection of ancient woodland to the same standard as SSSIs would help with this. You may be interested to know that Epsom and Ewell council have included such a policy in their Core Strategy Submission Draft. Hastings.

Nationally PPS 9 also requires Local Authorities to 'identify areas of Ancient Woodland in their areas that do not have statutory protection'. Wealden District Council have developed a revised Ancient Woodland Inventory for their district. This has been of great use to the planners in this district, identifying a further 1956 ha of ancient woodland in the district, and allowing them a further source of support and expertise in dealing with cases involving ancient woodland through the team who revised the inventory. This work in Wealden District has been recognised in 'Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Good Practice Guide', a national publication from the Department of Communities and Local Government, which accompanies PPS9. This could be easily done in Hastings Borough, alongside, perhaps Rother District. For further details contact Patrick McKernan – patrick.mckernan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

We attach a GIS map of the ancient woodland areas around

However the approach focuses particularly on sites, yet we wish to stress the need to ensure that connectivity between sites within the landscape is retained. This can be partly done through agri-environment and forestry schemes, but also requires care over development control. We support the development of accessible green networks (Green Infrastructures) as noted in 10.1.

The draft South East Plan has a specific policy on woodlands (NRM 5 – wording in Annex 1) which in turn reflects 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees' the Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework (www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk). Local authorities should take this into account when preparing related policies in the LDF. The Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework has 4 main themes (trunk and branches of the logo below), which also reflect the outcomes which planners and local authorities are aiming to achieve.

Planners should note the importance of trees and woodlands in the landscape, character and biodiversity of the South East – and hence its attractiveness as a place to invest. Valuation studies have shown that the woodlands of the region are worth well over £1 billion per year – inasmuch that values can be attributed to factors such as biodiversity, access and landscape enhancement.

ref 94
Ward
Response ref 11.2/31
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Protection of locally designated sites should be presented as a separate issue, (see comment under paragraphs 11.5-11.6). Every effort should be made to protect such sites otherwise they will be slowly chipped away over the years. Local sites may be very important to those who live around them, & local priorities should be taken seriously. Moreover, biodiversity gains are unlikely to be achieved if sites of local importance are destroyed or fragmented.

ref 94
Ward
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments I broadly support the options expressed in 11.12, but altered to reflect more explicitly the responsibility of the Borough & a positive aspiration to protect local sites wherever possible, rather than the more negative avoiding damage. In addition to the options should recognise that biodiversity gains could be achieved through considering how structure (man-made planting) everywhere might be used to increase biodiversity, as well as identifying areas for improvement.

ref 148
Ward
Response ref 11.2/32
Individual/name of organisation Transport 2000
Summary of comments The concept of 'minimising unavoidable damage to wildlife interest through mitigation and compensation, with monitoring' is worrying. 'Mitigation' means 'lessening of harmful effect', in other words, 'making less worse'. (OED – 'making something bad less severe') After decades of loss of key habitats through development of one kind or another, it is time to reverse this loss. Ultimately we depend upon natural systems for our quality of life, and life itself, and cannot have policies to support their demise. Often 'compensation' cannot work; 'ancient woodland' for instance is irreplaceable.

Of course nationally and internationally designated sites are important, but a local nature reserve could be the only easily and sustainable accessible 'natural asset' for a local community and have a great importance regardless of the level of designation. The inference from the phrasing of this paragraph suggests that sites other than the highest level of designation are expendable. This is not so.

Question 11.3

Open Spaces:

The policy approaches set out below show how the LDF can support the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. Your views on the general policy direction are invited.

Open Spaces Policy direction A:

The progressive enhancement of existing provision rather than the creation of more provision - so that priority is given to sites within or adjacent to the most deprived neighbourhoods. The development process could be one means of funding this enhancement through the pro-active use of planning agreements. In particular this could be used to support the proposals for the Ore Valley Millennium Community, the Central St Leonards Master Plan, play provision and the open space network. (However where major new development is proposed in areas with no access to open space, we'll seek to secure provision in line with the demand likely to be generated by the development).

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 83
Individuals: Total 53
Local Groups: Total 10
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 5
Other (including anonymous): Total 12

Response percentages: Agree – 74% Disagree – 16% No Opinion– 10%

Question 11.4

Open spaces policy direction A:

Please tell us any comments you have on the suggested policy direction of the progressive enhancement of existing provision rather than the creation of more provision.

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 35
Individuals: Total 18, Baird (1), Braybrooke (2), Castle (2), Central St Leonards (1), Conquest (1), Gensing (2), Old Hastings (3), Ore (1), Silverhill (1), Tressell (3), Other (1)

Local Groups: Total 9, Hastings & Rother LA21, Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum, Hastings Democratic Alliance, Hastings Old Town Residents Association, Lower Torfield Allotment Association, Old Hastings Preservation Society, Ore Valley Forum, Speckled Wood Group

Developers: Total 1, Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc

Statutory agencies: Total 2, English Partnerships, Forestry Commission

Other (including anonymous):
Total 5, Anonymous (2), Planning Potential, Sport England, The Hastings Greenway Project.

ref 9
Ward Baird
Response ref 11.4/1
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments People need somewhere quiet to sit near where they live without yobs on motorbikes riding round for hours on end. Something needs to be done to stop this nuisance.

ref 11
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.4/2
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments By listing specific areas, those not mentioned who believe their area is in need of aid, will simply wonder what or why such areas always seem to be given vast resources continually.

ref 15
Ward Gensing
Response ref 11.4/3
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments We ought to seek more provision while we still can. The Borough's "Land Bank" policy in the '30s was then much criticized but we're jolly grateful for it now. As the SE fills up, Hastings could have a viable future as part of the "lungs" of the Metropolis. But for this we need land.

ref 32
Ward
Response ref 11.4/4
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Summary of comments No mention is made of improving/maintaining small "pockets" like Butlers Gap and Swan Gardens – not accessible to wheelchairs for instance

Ref 20
Ward
Response ref 11.4/5
Individual/name of organisation Lower Torfield Allotment Association
Summary of comments I want to say that there should be no building on existing allotment sites. Disused allotment sites should be brought back into use.
New allotment sites should be provided where none exists.

ref 19
Ward
Response ref 11.4/6
Individual/name of organisation Speckled Wood Group
Summary of comments We cannot agree that new provision should not be created as a matter of policy. If the regeneration of Hastings is to be successful then the increase of green space will be needed for the amenity of all.

ref 77
Ward
Response ref 11.4/7
Individual/name of organisation Ore Valley Forum
Summary of comments There are open spaces in dense housing that have not been considered as a provision e.g. speckled wood. We can see that developer funding can be of use as long as the community gets to influence the green space format and they are allowed to be involved in maintenance if they want.

ref 138
Ward Gensing
Response ref 11.4/8
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Particular vigilance is needed in built up areas not to break wildlife green corridors even if they are not accessible to the public in the short term anyway, some might later come within the ambit of Local Nature Reserves.

ref 132
Ward Ore
Response ref 11.4/9
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The proposals for Ore Valley development seem to “fly in the face” if this policy. We should stand up to central government on this.

ref 75
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.4/10
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments What would the role of allotments be?

ref 130
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.4/11
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments This taken our eyes off the Greenfield under threat. Question: Is there no way to make the railway in Alexandra Park an attraction?

ref 38
Ward
Response ref 11.4/12
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments I would think smaller play areas, though more of them, would be best for children’s play, less distance from homes etc

ref 96
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.4/13
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Add Speckled Wood to the open spaces plus other areas in Ore valley, Ore

ref 116
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.4/14
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments I don’t think is a very serious problem in Hastings & St Leonards. Available in Central St Leonards, the large houses have gardens or public grass and tree lined squares. The smaller properties closer to the commercial centre have easy access to the beach. Alexandra Park is better than most parks in the UK and access to open countryside is easier than in most towns in the UK.

ref 114
Ward
Response ref 11.4/15
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother LA21
Summary of comments There are real and growing concerns that parks and opens paces are on one hand being over sanitised funded by grants and other areas are being left as dumping areas and vandals play areas due to lack of funds we need to strike a balance.

ref 101
Ward
Response ref 11.4/16
Individual/name of organisation Old Hastings Preservation Society
Summary of comments Smaller areas those wrongly classified in the P&OS Strategy are of value.

ref 111
Ward
Response ref 11.4/17
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Hastings is beautifully provided with green spaces, enhance and nurture for all to enjoy.

ref 137
Ward
Response ref 11.4/18
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Democratic Alliance
Summary of comments The Ore Valley development will reduce open space available to residents. Open spaces should be increased, not reduced.

ref 76
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.4/19
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It is presently proposed to build on the Speckled Wood site at top of Ore Valley (not Brownfield – old woodland) how will that enhance Ore Valley communities?

ref 121
Ward
Response ref 11.4/20
Individual/name of organisation The Hastings Greenway Project
Summary of comments Hastings relies heavily on its legacy public realm (regency or Victorian parks & gardens) and the seafront. We need complimentary new feature that are innovate and contemporary (like the greenway – an enhanced public realm based on a linear park concept). Green spaces offering children play are often deficient in urban areas. Our greenway program aims to address this challenge.

ref 123
Ward
Response ref 11.4/21
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments No development on new sites should happen without adequate green space.

ref 108
Ward
Response ref 11.4/22
Individual/name of organisation Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Summary of comments Unless the population increase then more open space would be needed. And providing that private garden areas i.e. school opening their spaces to the public out of school times and that pedestrian routes to open space are good and accessible i.e. Tilekiln in Hollington

ref 122
Ward
Response ref 11.4/23
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group
Summary of comments Creation of new open space is as vital as enhancement of existing provision. Increasing the built fabric of the tone must be balanced by public open space. There may also be a case to be made for redevelopment on some areas of open space but not without a full assessment of the options/benefits (or disadvantages) 11.10

ref 54
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.4/24
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments A priority site next to Farley Bank, Broomgrove & Halton – the fields behind Broomgrove Road is being looked at for more housing – wouldn't this little bit of green, a midst a concrete jungle be better used as a green useful space e.g. park, field, allotments, or a combination of all of them. There's a beautiful view and it's very peaceful – how about maintaining it?

ref 50
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.4/25
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Encourage linking of green spaces where possible.

ref 30
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.4/26
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The definition of "existing provision" is unclear. There should be a policy to reduce spaces of marginal value because they are a drain on public resources and may be suitable for development. There is for example a lot of waste open space on former council housing estates

ref 63
Ward Silverhill
Response ref 11.4/27
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Keep within researched criteria which control the volume of new build. Invest in Greenways.

ref 161
Ward
Response ref 11.4/28
Individual/name of organisation Sport England
Summary of comments Sport England believe that new developments should provide facilities to meet community needs arising from that development. Stresses the need to provide for a range of demands for sport and recreation provision that will be generated from new development over and above open space. Refers to Sport England's Planning Contributions Kitbag – an online resource for local authorities of tools for measuring sporting need and good practice examples.
Sport England would wish to see robust policies for securing contributions for open space, sport and recreation in the Core Strategy. They would also wish to be consulted on any revision to the Developer Contributions DPD.

ref 65
Ward
Response ref 11.4/29
Individual/name of organisation English Partnerships
Summary of comments Promote use of open spaces in the Ore Valley Park area

ref 53
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.4/30
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments No mention of deprived Castle Ward [illegible word] green areas. Beach no substitute, many residents no easy access to green areas or beach.

ref 68
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.4/31
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Enhancement of existing areas and the creation of more provision in areas where there is little or no provision to start with e.g. Clive Vale & Old Town, Town Centre

ref 71
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.4/32
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The Beach and Seafront needs to be protected as a 'green space'

ref 153
Ward
Response ref 11.4/33
Individual/name of organisation Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc
Summary of comments Our client considers that any developer contribution requirement must be in line with Government guidance set out within Circular 05/2005. Contributions must have regard to the key tests including that of relevance.

ref 142
Ward
Response ref 11.4/34
Individual/name of organisation Forestry Commission
Summary of comments We support this approach to provision of open spaces. In regards to assessing the level of open space required by major new developments we suggest that the you consider adopting English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGST) and the Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard (See: http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/153_1.pdf and http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/publications/publicationsmore/spaceforpeople.pdf). Recent research (McKernan, 2006) shows that Hastings has 0.75% of households meeting all the ANGST standards, with 99% of households meeting one of the ANGST standards.

ref 154
Ward
Response ref 11.4/35
Individual/name of organisation Planning Potential
The creation of public spaces is an important consideration in respect of all new development of a certain size and scale

Question 11.5

Open spaces Policy direction B:
The identification of accessible Borough–wide spaces and facilities with safe pedestrian and cycle links. These spaces could be identified in the Local Development Framework along with policies to protect, manage and enhance them, and to improve accessibility within and to them. The following spaces have been identified as having borough-wide significance:

Greenspaces: Alexandra Park, BOS Field, Church Wood, Gensing Gardens, Hastings Cemetery, Hastings Country Park, Old Roar Ghyll, Ponds Wood, St Leonards Gardens, St Helens Wood, Warrior Square, West Hill, White Rock Gardens, Summerfields Wood, a site in the Ore Valley Millennium Community

Other Spaces: The pedestrians-only streets in the town centre and the seafront

Sport and Recreation facilities: Bexhill Recreation Ground (football), Horntye Park, White Rock Gardens (bowling greens), William Parker Sports College, Sandhurst Recreation Ground (cricket), Tilekiln Recreation Ground (football & cricket)

Please note we are seeking your views on the concept as a whole, not on the individual sites as these have already been subject to consultation as part of the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 90
Individuals: Total 59
Local Groups: Total 8
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 8
Other (including anonymous): Total 12

Response percentages: Agree – 89% Disagree – 2% No Opinion – 9%

Question 11.6

Open spaces Policy direction B:
Please tell us any comments you have on the suggested policy direction of the identification of accessible Borough–wide spaces and facilities with safe pedestrian and cycle links.

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 33
Individuals: Total 18, Baird (1), Braybrooke (2), Castle (4), Central St Leonards (1), Conquest (1), Gensing (1), Old Hastings (1), St Helens (1), Tressell (3), Wishing Tree (1), Other (2).

Local Groups: Total 11, Hastings & Rother LA21, Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group, Hastings & St. Leonards Allotment Federation, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum, Hastings Environment Network, Hastings Old Town Residents Association, Lower Torfield Allotment Association, Old Hastings Preservation Society, Rother Amenities Services, Speckled Wood Group, Transport 2000.

Developers: Total 0.

Statutory agencies: Total 0.

Other (including anonymous): Total 4, Anonymous (3), The Hastings Greenway Project.

Ref 14
Ward
Response ref 11.6/1
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Develop countryside park

Ref 15
Ward Gensing
Response ref 11.6/2
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Yes, as far as it goes

Ref 28
Ward
Response ref 11.6/3
Individual/name of organisation Rother Amenities Services
I strongly support this policy approach of: European like (illegible) project 'Salsa@ 1999-2000.

Ref 17
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.6/4
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments We need to control dog usage in many of these areas if they are to truly be accessible.

Ref 18
Ward Baird
Response ref 11.6/5
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments We must keep our parks, Country parks and green spaces!

Ref 32
Ward
Response ref 11.6/6
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Summary of comments The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is probably the worst document published by HBC in recent years. It is fundamentally flawed and cannot be rescued by amendment. e.g. it barely mentions the beach – the most important open space we have

Ref 20
Ward
Response ref 11.6/7
Individual/name of organisation Lower Torfield Allotment Association
Summary of comments I want to say that there should be no building on existing allotment sites. Disused allotment sites should be brought back into use.
New allotment sites should be provided where none exists.

Ref 19
Ward
Response ref 11.6/8
Individual/name of organisation Speckled Wood Group
Summary of comments We feel that the greenway should be retained as a central policy for the regeneration of Hastings. We feel that a stronger commitment needs to be given to greenspaces, cycle paths etc.

Ref 82
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.6/9
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Better protection is needed for the “green lung” in the Ore Valley. No road extensions into Speckled Wood.

Ref 74
Ward
Response ref 11.6/10
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & St.Leonards Allotment Federation
Summary of comments Allotments (in general) should be included in the list of open space of Borough wide importance.

Ref 134
Ward St Helens
Response ref 11.6/11
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments What about tennis?

Ref 130
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.6/12
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Encourage all (illegible word) growth in allotment culture.

Ref 128
Ward
Response ref 11.6/13
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Field in front of William Parker good place for car parking. It would stop the danger in Parkstone Road, which is very congested, and for the sports field in front of it. Red line Parkstone Road no parking. School kids would be much safer without cars each side of road.

Ref 106
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.6/14
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It's not easy to find open spaces for sport and play. Nobody wants the noise and the coming and going near them. Once something is fully established they usually put up with it.

Ref 96
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.6/15
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Add speckled wood to open spaces plus other areas in Ore valley, ore, not enough open spaces or recreational facilities in Ore, greenway and footpaths not addressed – no footpath map for area.

Ref 85
Ward
Response ref 11.6/16
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Public art should involve consultation with artists at advisory level.
The boat at Hastings rail station is an example of poor art and doesn't compliment a modern station complex.
Involve BME feedback in local identity plans.

Ref 114
Ward
Response ref 11.6/17
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother LA21
Summary of comments If only spaces with safe pedestrian and cycle links are identified the list (11.5b) will be very short

Ref 101
Ward
Response ref 11.6/18
Individual/name of organisation Old Hastings Preservation Society
Summary of comments & boating lake area of stade

Ref 90
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.6/19
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments I have not read the draft Parks & Open Spaces Strategy

Ref 105
Ward
Response ref 11.6/20
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Environment Network
Summary of comments Pedestrian and cycle links should be throughout the town and also to main employment sites.

Ref 76
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.6/21
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments A site in Ore Valley, Millennium Communities - but existing plans will destroy several existing green spaces in Ore Valley. This is quite contrary to good practice in continental Europe, where green fingers or corridors are seen to be of prime importance to the economic and social community.

Ref 121
Ward
Response ref 11.6/22
Individual/name of organisation The Hastings Greenway Project
Summary of comments Our greenway project explores a linkage concept aiming to create a linked local Greenpeace network. As a linear park concept the greenway aims to support the demand for a more responsive public realm, that supports the community needs for recreation amenity and lifestyle issues like health fitness & well being. One idea is to think of the greenway concept as a greener version of the town centres successful pedestrian program i.e. where possible traffic free but in a more attractive and innovative setting and reaching out to key venues across the Borough.

Ref 123
Ward
Response ref 11.6/23
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments More use of verges, footpaths etc in urban area to green-up

Ref 108
Ward
Response ref 11.6/24
Individual/name of organisation Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Summary of comments Where are the rest of the school. As long as all sites are as accessible as possible. How are you going to link these independently off the existing road system.

Ref 122
Ward
Response ref 11.6/25
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group
Summary of comments The audit has made a good start but doesn't go far enough: some open space (usually private) may not be currently accessible but with a bit of imagination could be significant areas of open space (speckled wood) have been omitted from the audit. A selective audit is of little value of green space to the town (whether currently accessible or in public ownership or not)

Ref 54
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.6/26
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments But I'm not sure that cycling is very going to take off here, its so hilly

Ref 50
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.6/27
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Encourage Greenways to link green spaces

Ref 30
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.6/28
Summary of comments Individual
What about the sea front? Nothing on allotments! Release non-statutory for "green" development?

Ref 66
Ward Wishing Tree
Response ref 11.6/29
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Strongly support the enhancement of sport and recreational facilities

Ref 68
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.6/30
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments No mention of allotments 93% increase in uptake, this year alone. Existing sites need statutory protection, there needs the creation of more sites and the restoration of sites that fallen into disuse

Ref 71
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.6/31
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Why isn't the beach a 'green space'?

Ref 94
Ward
Response ref 11.6/32
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Broadly agree with the general thrust of 11.6(a), (b), and (c) but allotments should be explicitly recognised as open spaces of borough-wide importance which have the potential to contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Ref 148
Ward
Response ref 11.6/33
Individual/name of organisation Transport 2000
Summary of comments The conclusions of the 2005 spaces audit seem to point to the adoption of 'Home Zones' and '20mph zones' as key to giving streets back to people. We suggest widespread adoption of these measures. One result would be an increase in opportunities for childrens' play. Another result would also almost certainly be a strong growth in walking and cycling for which removal of speeding/anti-social traffic is a key determinant.

We agree with the general point that opportunities for 'green spaces' and 'wildlife corridors' is a good one, except where these are mis-used to accompany a clearly unsustainable development.

Question 11.7

Open spaces Policy direction c:

Working with local communities to foster the enhancement of local green spaces and residential environments, initially in the regeneration areas. We currently work with a number of community groups which have been established to manage Local Nature Reserves.

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 90
Individuals: Total 55
Local Groups: Total 12
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 8
Other (including anonymous): Total 12

Response percentages: Agree – 94% Disagree – 0% No Opinion – 6%

Question 11.8

Open spaces Policy direction c:
Please tell us any comments you have on the suggested policy direction of working with local communities to foster the enhancement of local greenspaces and residential environments, initially in the regeneration areas

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 27
Individuals: Total 18, Baird (1), Braybrooke (2), Castle (5), Central St Leonards (1), Conquest (1), Gensing (1), Maze Hill (1), Old Hastings (1), Ore (1), St Helens (1), Other (3).

Local Groups: Total 6, Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum, Hastings Old Town Residents Association, Lower Torfied Allotment Association, Ore Valley Forum, Shore Sounds Community Choir.

Developers: Total 0.

Statutory agencies: Total 2
Environment Agency, Forestry Commission.

Other (including anonymous): Total 1
The Hastings Greenway Project.

ref 6
Ward
Response ref 11.8/1
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Schools too, I'm sure would love to be involved.

ref 9
Ward Baird
Response ref 11.8/2
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments More volunteers are needed to manage local nature reserves and youngsters need to respect the sites people work hard on in their spare time.

ref 15
Ward Gensing
Response ref 11.8/3
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments These tend to be small and not well known. The challenge is to enhance public awareness of these without destroying that which we seek to protect through abusive over utilization.

ref 17
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.8/4
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments You should also work with communities e.g. Better Braybrooke to help support open spaces e.g. "The Pocket".

ref 32
Ward
Response ref 11.8/5
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Summary of comments Many Old Town people have tried to become involved in helping the Country Park. They are usually met with silence. Such a policy is wonderful but HBC fail to deliver.

ref 20
Ward
Response ref 11.8/6
Individual/name of organisation Lower Torfied Allotment Association
Summary of comments I want to say that there should be no building on existing allotment sites. Disused allotment sites should be brought back into use. New allotment sites should be provided where none exists. (Who writes this stuff?)

ref 82
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.8/7
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Any guidelines and laws which protect wildlife sites should be tightened up and more strictly enforced whether it's TPOs or general conservation

ref 134
Ward St. Helens
Response ref 11.8/8
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Engaging local people of all ages in looking after/studying their green spaces can be very therapeutic to individuals & in fostering community spirit.

ref 87
Ward
Response ref 11.8/9
Individual/name of organisation Shore Sounds Community Choir
Summary of comments As a non car user I am dependant on getting around either by walking cycling or using public transport. 11.5 b. as a member of HUB I would like to see greater encouragement and support of cycling as an alternative form of transport for both environmental, social and health reasons

ref 90
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.8/10
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Should you add in somewhere something about encouraging, supporting, maintaining allotments

ref 77
Ward
Response ref 11.8/9
Individual/name of organisation Ore Valley Forum
Summary of comments Help progress local greenspaces up the protection scale, encourage composting and have community composting, recognise the importance of gardens (public and private) in environmental sustainability and CO2 take-up. Important wildlife habitats and rainwater soak up points. Stop gardens having 3 houses built in them. Design developments with recycling as an integral part e.g. plastic, glass, compost, water, and paper.

Local ranger groups to support, and supported by HBC rangers. Help upgrade Ore SNCI to a Nature Reserve. One point of contact to report problems e.g. Anti social behaviour, lights, maintenance etc. Help communities to maintain local areas – help draw up action plans with the community and allow them to carry out some of the work with HBC support for larger agreed tasks.

ref 132
Ward Ore
Response ref 11.8/10
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Hastings Country Park has “managed” itself very well for thousands of years. It does not need to be managed with high fences etc. It is one of the few natural places left in the area. Soon it will be no longer be natural, but tailored by man. Not a good advertisement for the town.

ref 75
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.8/11
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The Council should also give more priority to helping allotments holders individually and collectively (through their groups). Allotmenteers should be given more practical and financial help. No allotments should be given over to development – the opposite should happen (people should be encouraged to become allotmenteers)

ref 36
Ward Maze Hill
Response ref 11.8/12
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Often, areas identified for development are those small pockets of green space that have no protection. We should try to keep as many of these as possible to avoiding parts of Hastings becoming completely concreted over

ref 106
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.8/13
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Great stuff!

ref 88
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.8/14
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Excellent in theory.
In practice, over last 5 years, I have found it difficult to work with HBC in the enhancement of local greenspaces and environments. How is the LDF going to change this? There appears to be neither the will nor the money to enhance the local environment.

ref 121
Ward
Response ref 11.8/15
Individual/name of organisation The Hastings Greenway Project
Summary of comments We have run several greenway workshops for local neighbourhoods and key community forums like castle ward forum, St Leonards and Ore Valley, all expressed a wish for a local greenway as regenerational infrastructure.

ref 45
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.8/16
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The Upper Ore valley (Speckled Wood) is a perfect example of a green space that should be utilised as such, rather than being built on.

ref 123
Ward
Response ref 11.8/17
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Develop further by supporting and setting up community projects work with the councils own parks expert. Foster competition and tack up townscape gardens.

ref 108
Ward
Response ref 11.8/18
Individual/name of organisation Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Summary of comments As long as people are able to enjoy these open spaces safely and at all times.

ref 122
Ward
Response ref 11.8/19
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group
Summary of comments The comments in 11.6 apply here. Local communities relate to local space (often quite small) as well as to the major (borough-wide) spaces, but the audit has failed to pick up on many of these.

ref 30
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.8/20
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments How are some of these [community groups] monitored e.g. Badger Protection Society?

ref 69
Ward
Response ref 11.8/21
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments We need to make communities proud of their green spaces and have an understanding about them through education and involvement at all levels

ref 68
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.8/22
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Outdoor community space is essential for social cohesion. This policy should be applied town-wide and not restricted to “regeneration areas”

ref 71
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.8/23
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The seafront has to be recognised as a green space

ref 149
Ward
Response ref 11.8/24
Individual/name of organisation Environment Agency
Summary of comments We note that pedestrian and cycle links can also contribute to biodiversity as green corridors – safe areas for wildlife to travel between green spaces as well as people.

ref 142
Ward
Response ref 11.8/25
Individual/name of organisation Forestry Commission
Summary of comments We support the involvement of local communities in the management of their local greenspace. This helps develop a sense of ownership and understanding of the natural environment that will ensure these areas are protected into the future.

Question 11.9

Children's Play Provision:

The Local Development Framework needs to support the new approach to play provision set out in the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. This is based on:

Designing local green spaces in such a way as to maximise their play value for children of different ages with opportunities to hide, climb, run around, see nature at work, handle sticks and stones and get dirty and wet

Having a relatively small number of large equipped play spaces at key locations around the Borough that are accessible to all

Requiring developers to design housing environments in which children have space to play informally and safely and where they have priority over vehicles, and where such spaces contribute to the provision of open space. These spaces to be developed in accordance with quality standards for play provision adopted by the Council

Planning traffic calming schemes with the objective of making streets child friendly (Play Streets) rather than simply slowing down traffic, and where possible promote 'Home Zones'.

Do you support this new approach to children's play provision?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 93
Individuals: Total 61
Local Groups: Total 7
Developers: Total 4
Statutory Agencies: Total 7
Other (including anonymous): Total 14

Response percentages: Agree – 86% Disagree – 5% No Opinion – 9%

Question 11.10

Children's Play Provision:
Please tell us any comments you have on this new approach to children's play provision.

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 34
Individuals: Total 23
Braybrooke (2), Castle (5), Central St Leonards (2), Conquest (2), Gensing (1), Old Hastings (3), Ore (1), St Helens (2), Tressell (1), Wishing Tree (1), Other (3).

Local Groups: Total 5
Hastings & Rother LA21, Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum, Hastings Democratic Alliance, Hastings Old Town Residents Association.

Developers: Total 0.

Statutory agencies: Total 0.

Other (including anonymous): Total 6
1066 Housing Association, Anonymous (4), The Mother Agnes Trust.

ref 7
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.10/1
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Re traffic calming schemes - But no more of these stupid schemes – speed bumps

ref 13
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.10/2
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments We have a lot of areas of 'play value' for children already. We don't need them designed, we need them to be safe.
Promoting children in the street is intrusive to other neighbours. Streets are not play areas and more emphasis should be on making the areas we have already safe places to play

ref 15
Ward Gensing
Response ref 11.10/3
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments However (1) such areas must be perceived as SAFE. This is not the case (2) There is a huge mountain of potential prejudice to be climbed. Whose fault was it that the Tilebarn pond was filled in? (3) What can be done about dead shopping trolleys, abandoned litter, and abusive youngsters in our "wider" areas?

ref 17
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.10/4
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The first bullet point is the silliest thing in this document. Are you going to design a Swamp for young children play in and make stones and sticks available in all play areas? I think not!! Other points are OK.

ref 32
Ward
Response ref 11.10/5
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Summary of comments Opposite Underwater World is space for a rough play area suitable for 5-12 year olds. By the Boating Lake there could be a playground for very young children. The Volleyball proposal could serve the whole town to attract tourists. None of these need be expensive but it is most unlikely they will happen with current prevailing attitude.

ref 134
Ward St Helens
Response ref 11.10/6
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Don't forgot skateboarding

ref 130
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.10/7
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments However the traffic calming measures are not necessary.
When developers 'provide' play areas ensure they actually open (unlike one between museum and Holmesdale Gardens).

ref 132
Ward Ore
Response ref 11.10/8
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Where will be the places for children to "hide, climb, run, see nature at work, get dirty and wet". We appear to being [illegible word] the few we have left

ref 128
Ward
Response ref 11.10/9
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments More mini bike area to stop children riding around the streets. Possibly County Park Pebsham steep slope on the mounting built up at the tip.

ref 38
Ward
Response ref 11.10/10
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments See comment on 11.4

ref 117
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.10/11
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Play parks are under used because they are so sparsely equipped. Provision for pre-schoolers and carers are almost non-existent

ref 106
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.10/12
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It's difficult. I know that housing estates do not always appreciate the children playing in an area away from the house. Children like to play in the road when they are in an area without fast moving or frequent traffic – Broomgrove is an example

ref 88
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.10/13
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Agree in principle, children should not have to play in the streets. All sites should be developed with play areas. I would prefer to see small play areas scattered around a development making them more accessible.

ref 92
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.10/14
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Not too small number of key locations please

ref 93
Ward
Response ref 11.10/15
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Consultation on what play facilities are required should inform design.

ref 85
Ward
Response ref 11.10/16
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments More Home Zones, supervised areas for children to play safely.

ref 114
Ward
Response ref 11.10/17
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother LA21
Summary of comments Reducing the no of play areas required mainly due to vandalism and cost of maintenance and replacing them with a few large well equipped play spaces. Large well equipped play spaces are welcome, but given the deplorable lack of public transport tend to be used as a special treat for most rather than regular visitors. Designing local green spaces to maximise informal play. Large perimeter fencing around play areas – concerns over safety – controversial issue.

ref 111
Ward
Response ref 11.10/18
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments But I don't agree with playspaces etc. being given precedence over other members of the town. It is important to find a balance. What about the provision of play streets. Schemes in London operate like this in various neighbourhoods. At a certain time a residential street will be closed to allow children to play safely.

ref 137
Ward
Response ref 11.10/19
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Democratic Alliance
Summary of comments Yes and no. For example it was a terrible idea to put a multi sport facility on the West Hill which entailed destroying one of the Borough's most valued landscapes.
But the playground in Alexandra park is excellent. So there should be a presumption in favour of these four items but each case should be looked at with sensitivity and common sense.

ref 108
Ward
Response ref 11.10/20
Individual/name of organisation Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Summary of comments As long as these designs include play for adults and senior citizens who also need down time to rest and recuperate. When designing safe play areas in residential areas location is key. So that sites are not hidden out of site leading to social and criminal issues.

ref 122
Ward
Response ref 11.10/21
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group
Summary of comments Consider redevelopment of poorly located/regularly vandalised/sub-standards existing provision & using section 106 to provide better facilities. Continental Europe has much better standard of provision than is common in the UK & could provide some design pointers.

ref 104
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.10/22
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Excellent ideas – new approaches to play provision need to be implemented in order to stop our money being wasted on useless play spaces such as at Alexandra park – not what parents want – no play value – such a waste of money.

ref 54
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.10/23
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Good to provide areas suitable for all ages, but secure areas for under 5s, as I feel these are really important to as general play grounds are pretty dangerous for little ones esp. if groups of older children are hanging around.

ref 113
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.10/24
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The children & young people of Old Town are very poorly served by play space and facilities. The beach front could be used for them.
Children should be consulted on the type of playground they want.
The playground on Westhill is always busy.
The playground at the back of the Westhill youth club is always empty. It is dull, and not over looked – poorly planned. People should be able to walk to play grounds from their homes – especially young mothers with pushchairs. Teenagers need a defined space/shelter basket ball nets, somewhere to kick a ball and make a noise – hang out, and be welcome there.

ref 30
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.10/25
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Maintenance has always been the problem together with initially low specification. You need a policy on existing small play spaces that have been abandoned/vandalised; should they be re-developed?

ref 61
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.10/26
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Regarding point 4 – this sounds good, but sometimes the priority should be just to get the traffic to slow down (e.g. Milward Road)

ref 66
Ward Wishing Tree
Response ref 11.10/27
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Roads are for traffic to pass and re-pass. Roads are potentially dangerous to anyone playing in the road/street. Children should play in gardens, child play areas or playing fields.

ref 53
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.10/28
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Need ingenious solutions!

ref 68
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.10/29
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments All existing play spaces should be reviewed urgently. Many are badly sited and equipped. Many are not used/underused – but presumably carry a maintenance cost.

Re “Having a relatively small number of large equipped play spaces” – this is not necessarily the right approach for younger children where they (and their parents) feel more comfortable in smaller, local play spaces

ref 72
Ward St Helens
Response ref 11.10/30
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments See comments at chapter 5

ref 147
Ward
Response ref 11.10/31
Individual/name of organisation The Mother Agnes Trust
Summary of comments The details and practicalities of management of play spaces is of key importance, and needs to be fully considered in working up any policy.

ref 157
Ward
Response ref 11.10/32
Individual/name of organisation 1066 Housing Association
Summary of comments The play strategy is fully supported by 1066, we have taken part in the development of the strategy.

ref 112
Ward
Response ref 11.10/33
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments I suspect that many parents are these days more worried about paedophiles rather than traffic, and fear to let children out of sight. If this is what's happening, through independent play as outlined is really vital, it may be well also to provide play spaces that are supervised or comfortable for parents who wish to stay nearby – a café, a sheltered and sociable space could be considered.

ref 94
Ward
Response ref 11.10/34
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Children's play provision (11.18) should aspire to make use of natural greenspace as well as purpose built play areas.

Question 11.11

Sense of place and local identity:
We already have a set of development control policies relating to the design and appearance of new development. Should we be more proactive in requiring new buildings and spaces to be innovative and complementary to local urban form and building styles and more accessible to everyone? Should we require public art and lighting schemes to be provided as part of major new development?

Do you agree that we should prepare an urban design guide for the whole town?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 78
Individuals: Total 61
Local Groups: Total 7
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 2
Other (including anonymous): Total 5

Response percentages: Agree – 59% Disagree – 23% No Opinion – 18%

Question 11.12

Sense of place and local identity:
We already have a set of development control policies relating to the design and appearance of new development. Should we be more proactive in requiring new buildings and spaces to be innovative and complementary to local urban form and building styles and more accessible to everyone? Should we require public art and lighting schemes to be provided as part of major new development?

Do you agree we should prepare urban design guides for those parts of the town where new development is most likely to impact on features of local identity?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 75

Individuals: Total 52
Local Groups: Total 8
Developers: Total 2
Statutory Agencies: Total 5
Other (including anonymous): Total 8

Response percentages: Agree – 88% Disagree – 5% No Opinion – 7%

Question 11.13

Sense of place and local identity:
We already have a set of development control policies relating to the design and appearance of new development. Should we be more proactive in requiring new buildings and spaces to be innovative and complementary to local urban form and building styles and more accessible to everyone? Should we require public art and lighting schemes to be provided as part of major new development?

Do you agree we should prepare site specific design briefs for major development sites?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 77
Individuals: Total 53
Local Groups: Total 8
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 5
Other (including anonymous): Total 8

Response percentages: Agree – 80% Disagree – 8% No Opinion – 12%

Question 11.14

Sense of place and local identity:
We already have a set of development control policies relating to the design and appearance of new development. Should we be more proactive in requiring new buildings and spaces to be innovative and complementary to local urban form and building styles and more accessible to everyone? Should we require public art and lighting schemes to be provided as part of major new development?

Do you agree we should continue as at present and use our planning resources to address other priorities such as affordable housing or economic development?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 77
Individuals: Total 52
Local Groups: Total 9
Developers: Total 3
Statutory Agencies: Total 4
Other (including anonymous): Total 9

Response percentages: Agree – 35% Disagree – 40% No Opinion – 25%

Question 11.15

Sense of place and local identity:
We already have a set of development control policies relating to the design and appearance of new development. Should we be more proactive in requiring new buildings and spaces to be innovative and complementary to local urban form and building styles and more accessible to everyone? Should we require public art and lighting schemes to be provided as part of major new development?

Do you agree we should have a policy that encourages developers to invest in public art in the development and surrounding area?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 86
Individuals: Total 58
Local Groups: Total 9
Developers: Total 4
Statutory Agencies: Total 3
Other (including anonymous): Total 12

Response percentages: Agree – 68% Disagree – 24% No Opinion – 8%

Question 11.16

Sense of place and local identity:
We already have a set of development control policies relating to the design and appearance of new development. Should we be more proactive in requiring new buildings and spaces to be innovative and complementary to local urban form and building styles and more accessible to everyone? Should we require public art and lighting schemes to be provided as part of major new development?

Do you have any other comments?

Responses to this question: Total number of responses: 48
Individuals: Total 28
Braybrooke (3), Castle (5), Central St Leonards (2), Conquest (1), Gensing (1), Maze Hill (1), Old Hastings (5), Ore (1), St Helens (1), Tressell (1), West St Leonards (1), Other (6).

Local Groups: Total 9
Castle Court Residents Association, Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group, Hastings and Rother Disability Forum, Hastings Democratic Alliance, Hastings Environment Network, Hastings Old Town Residents Association, Old Hastings Preservation Society, Ore Valley Forum, Speckled Wood Group.

Developers: Total 1
The Planning Bureau (for McCarthy and Stone)

Statutory agencies: Total 3
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), East Sussex County Council, English Partnerships

Other (including anonymous): Total 7
1066 Housing Association, Anonymous (3), HBC Conservation team, The Hastings Greenway Project, The Theatres Trust

Ref 3
Ward
Response ref 11.16/1
Individual/name of organisation The Planning Bureau (for McCarthy and Stone)
Summary of comments Large sections of design can result in buildings looking too similar and a lack of distinctiveness.

Ref 15
Ward Gensing
Response ref 11.16/2
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.11: it's a bit late now, but UDGs for specific areas would be a great start, especially if backed by more rigorous defence of Conservation Areas

Ref 15
Ward
Response ref 11.16/3
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.14: But this didn't work!

Ref 15
Ward
Response ref 11.16/4
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.15: This is dead dodgy. What you call "Planning Gain" looks to us like Corporate Bribery. Most developers could be persuaded to "tart up" their immediate environment – indeed there's a firm locally that specialises in this – but often it's obscure who will keep things up to scratch after the first five years, or if the developer moves on. And it's not just public art that gets forgotten. The Crumbles/Sovereign development at Eastbourne was an ecological howler (see Geographical Journal) carried through because the developer made certain "arrangements" for flood control. And then walked away, leaving EBC to sign a blank cheque. Oh, but it does look pretty though!

Ref 17
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.16/5
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments New Designs shouldn't need to be complementary – if the Louvre extension – we should encourage future design not just go for pastiche!

Ref 32
Ward
Response ref 11.16/6
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Summary of comments Underused playgrounds – what analysis has been done of the reasons? e.g. the nearest new multi-purpose play facility for the Old Town is at Torfield School. What parents are willing to take or send their children up Croft Road, which has a pavement only 24 inches wide, is a crime hot spot and is very badly lit? On the map the distance looks short – but it is totally not acceptable

Ref 33
Ward
Response ref 11.16/7
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Need for open spaces in new developments – like piazzas – small squares. Think about what works in successful towns, especially abroad and what attracts people to visit these towns and spend money

Ref 35
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.16/8
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Off Victoria Avenue, near Ore Village this part of Upper Ore Valley should not be developed but afforded protection as an area of outstanding natural beauty. These open spaces are what makes Hastings unique to other Towns. I agree that healthy eating should be encouraged by protecting all allotments throughout the Town. I do not agree with farmers markets.

Ref 19
Ward
Response ref 11.16/9
Individual/name of organisation Speckled Wood Group
Summary of comments Design codes can be good or bad. We would want to see a draft before we could make a judgement.

Ref 79
Ward
Response ref 11.16/10
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.15 should be extended to include contribution to community recreation/cultural resources as well as public art (in relation to a policy requiring developers to invest)

Ref 134
Ward St Helens
Response ref 11.16/11
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.15 + lighting – All new buildings should meet the highest possible standards of insulation/energy efficiency.

Ref 77
Ward
Response ref 11.16/12
Individual/name of organisation Ore Valley Forum
Summary of comments HBC needs to involve residents to draw up aspirations for their area – a form of coding (Millennium Communities style) could be used for the whole town. We should look towards our heritage for local identity and sense of place. This should even out social and rented property across the town with different tenures and different house types. Assist residents to adopt streets to enhance their local environment. Use local artists for public art as well as outside. Art should be multi-functional, kids' play, lighting, information and learning, health and activity, security.

Ref 130
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.16/13
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Stop demolishing local, old & historic buildings & adding crappy new ones.
The plastic plated façade opposite the PO so tacky and out of place, only cut through looks right. Non traditional buildings - could the old station not have been kept as a gallery or museum next to the new one? The new one is 70% excellent but undermined by the 'bridge block' (illegible word) on the west end – an eyesore.

Ref 132
Ward Ore
Response ref 11.16/14
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments All areas should have access to free use of community halls & adult education

Ref 129
Ward
Response ref 11.16/15
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.11 – In best, (illegible word) if resources area short then 11.12 is (illegible word) best as so on

Ref 36
Ward Maze Hill
Response ref 11.16/16
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments There is a risk of Hastings losing its identity unless we require new buildings to be distinctive and/or match other local buildings. It would be too easy to allow bland 1970s style glass office blocks to dominate the town.

Ref 125
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.16/17
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Hastings can give itself a strong public profile through building public art in to all regeneration projects (e.g. as in front of Marina building). It should also encourage sites for temporary public arts (e.g. on lampposts/banners/flags)

Ref 128
Ward
Response ref 11.16/18
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments Hastings football ground should be domed in all weather ground and every club in Hastings to have a club house under the dome each club play at the time when allotted. The football pitch next to it and the post office club put in the dome pitch. The making this ground a car park and coach park to get these cars and coaches off the road thus no danger for people. Possible lottery funding.

Ref 91
Ward West. St Leonards
Response ref 11.16/19
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE with the need for this design guide and principles to protect the built environment and fit in new development to enhance and not destroy it. Hastings should become a natural beacon for high quality built environment and the practice and processes for delivering it. All the ingredients are there – all we need now is the effort and commitment to achieve it. The character of the Town is its biggest asset – and it is at risk?

Ref 106
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.16/20
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.11-11.12: You can't please everyone. There is much grumbling about the media centre being out of place. The Observer building will be another. The Cinema in Queens Road spoils the beautiful old building it is created in. Will this happen to the library?
11.15: How much encouragement would they need – what would be in it for them, I suppose

Ref 116
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.16/21
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments A few high quality buildings would be better than an abundance of cheaper, poorer quality buildings. Architectural landmarks will put the town on the map. Emphasis should be on quality build and longevity, like the castle, a permanent feature to identify the town from all others. Much more emphasis should also be put on refurbishing existing buildings and structures that contribute to the town's history and identity even if this is at more expensive option. Clock memorial in TC. Destroying façade of observer building and replacing with holiday inn is a bad idea. Not impressed with media centre, elegant church next door, please no panelled steel frames, manmade material cladding, bland concrete. Are we sure about the durability of Seahouse at end of George St, it appears to be built of soft wood!

Ref 97
Ward
Response ref 11.16/22
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Subject to land at Upper Wilting not being pursued for housing development.

Ref 101
Ward
Response ref 11.16/23
Individual/name of organisation Old Hastings Preservation Society
Summary of comments What about the value of history & heritage & conservation of the built environment & landscape features without which the sense of place cannot be maintained. Historic interpretation important.

Ref 90
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.16/24
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Local people should be involved and guidance should be open – not prescriptive, leading to innovative design

Ref 111
Ward
Response ref 11.16/25
Individual/name of organisation Anonymous
Summary of comments What does this all mean? You seem to be giving with one hand and taking with another. It sounds as though the Council just wants to hand over all responsibility for planning to Seaspace.

Ref 80
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.16/26
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments As (in question 5.6), you will need to do a thorough analysis of the cultural identities of the town/place and build on these. Everything should flow from that insight

Ref 105
Ward
Response ref 11.16/27
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Environment Network
Summary of comments Ensure all new building meets high environmental standards and high quality design.

Ref 137
Ward
Response ref 11.16/28
Individual/name of organisation Hastings Democratic Alliance
Summary of comments The idea of supporting public art is appealing, but examples realised in recent years have been disastrous. The council shows little sign of having the expertise or taste to introduce developer's investment in public art.
The worst possible outcome – the employment of artists from outside the area to produce indifferent work at considerable expense appears all too probable.

Ref 41
Ward
Response ref 11.16/29
Individual/name of organisation Castle Court Residents Association
Summary of comments This section should be right up front with the local economy, not an add on. 11.11 and 11.12: urban design guides – depends on who is doing this and the quality of the brief – tend to disagree in case we end up with something second rate.
11.14: Quality and image of public realm in the town centre and seafront is the single most important factor in improving prosperity.

Ref 121
Ward
Response ref 11.16/30
Individual/name of organisation The Hastings Greenway Project
Summary of comments Sense of place & local identity also means protecting & enhancing existing assets to special views vista skylines etc. Areas of urban woodland exploiting changes of level and topography – retaining walls (sandstone) add to local character etc – matching local materials much of Hastings is defined by woodland and trees (Hollington & the Old Town) perhaps we need to work out a landscape structure to help define various parts of the town. Creating a landscape structure would help absorb new housing – acting as a visual foil and an element for visual control. Hollington is a good example here. Paragraph 11.16b of Shaping Hastings says: "the following spaces have been identified as having significance". How is significance defined and in what way are they significant?

Ref 123
Ward
Response ref 11.16/31
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments The course of planning is the existence of failed plans. A reborn Hastings will come from ignoring many plans dating from the 60s or even before. Councillors & voters need to create the vision – it is up to developers and officers to make it happen. Developers and officers create a vision without a vision, they to make the vision work not make the vision. People in Hastings will take part in vision making once the process wrested from planners.

Ref 108
Ward
Response ref 11.16/32
Individual/name of organisation Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Summary of comments As long as it's all accessible not just the developments but also the process that leads to planning permission. And that NIMPs do not have more power to slow down change.

Ref 52
Ward Castle
Response ref 11.16/33
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Adoption of the seafront strategy and large scale office development serves to reduce sense of place and local identity. The seafront should be developed for leisure and residential use only.

Ref 122
Ward
Response ref 11.16/34
Individual/name of organisation Hastings & Rother Urban Design Group
Summary of comments 11.13: What constitutes major? This start along the track of subjectivity, shouldn't all sites be subject to design briefs linked to area design guides?
11.14: Unfortunately to have any impact we need to do it all. If current resources are inadequate ways must be found to increase the resources. This may not be exclusively in-house & would make use of community knowledge & local professional skills. Some imagination needs to be applied to evolving a process that is inclusive & comprehensive at the front-end to avoid the expense & delay which arises from confrontation & objection to what is seen as a behind closed doors done deal

Ref 54
Ward Tressell
Response ref 11.16/35
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Having arty things around is really nice but only a small proportion of the time, effort and importantly money should be spent on it, as other issues are more important e.g. safety

Ref 50
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.16/36
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.13: design briefs for all development sites. In urban design terms this is essential to procure an integrated environment.

Ref 40
Ward
Response ref 11.16/37
Individual/name of organisation Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment CABE)
Summary of comments General issues to be considered:
Local Development Framework's offer an opportunity to secure high quality development, of the right type, in the right place, at the right time.
1. robust design policies should be included in all Local Development Framework documents and the Community Strategy
2. Officers and members should champion good design
3. Treat design as a cross-cutting issue – consider how other policy areas relate to urban design, open space management, architectural quality, roads and highways, social infrastructure and the public realm.
4. design should reflect understanding of local context, character and aspirations
5. Include 'hooks' within policies to enable the development and use of design tools such as design guides and briefs, and design codes.
6. Refers to CABE guidance documents

Ref 124
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.16/38
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Recognition of our cultural heritage and sense of place/local identity would be greatly enhanced with a major new visitor and information centre on the Stade which Hastings heritage (e.g.1066, fishing, TV etc.) Baird TV Centre

Ref 60
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.16/39
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Lighting schemes are likely to be discouraged in the view of the Stern Report just published on energy

Ref 30
Ward Conquest
Response ref 11.16/40
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Loads, but not enough space here! Design is so poor for two main reasons:
(1) Clients do not produce proper briefs and agree them with the planning authority before making applications. The LA could easily say what it expects to see in a brief.
(2) Planners, the Planning Board and the public need to see how the design was arrived at. To this a proper site analysis, conceptual design and design development must be in evidence. (I assume here that we have people who know how to design and people capable of assessing that design) Developers/applicants should have access to some good examples or templates to see how good design follows good process.

Ref 39
Ward
Response ref 11.16/41
Individual/name of organisation The Theatres Trust
Summary of comments Core strategy policies should highlight the importance of good design for the built environment. New design should be sympathetic to the surrounding architecture. Recommend developers toolkit 'Heritage Works' published by English Heritage

Ref 158
Ward
Response ref 11.16/42
Individual/name of organisation East Sussex County Council
Summary of comments Hastings Borough Council needs to be proactive in creating good quality design briefs that provide for integrated, spatial design that give priority to connectivity, social inclusion, high quality public space and sustainability. Design quality should be integrated into the procurement and delivery process of regeneration projects with emphasis on the benefits of quality as well as the delivery of quantity.

Ref 65
Ward
Response ref 11.16/43
Individual/name of organisation English Partnerships
Summary of comments Design guidance important. Site specific design guides/briefs may be best. Town wide guidance could work through area if wide

Ref 53
Ward Braybrooke
Response ref 11.16/44
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Why is this only No 11 in the document?
11.11 Long overdue, essential, the future of our town depends on getting this right!

Ref 68
Ward Old Hastings
Response ref 11.16/45
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Attractive, complementary lighting and street furniture is essential. Light pollution is a growing problem.

Ref 71
Ward Central St Leonards
Response ref 11.16/46
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments We have yet to see a building of any national significance either built or proposed – why not?

Ref 157
Ward
Response ref 11.16/47
Individual/name of organisation 1066 Housing Association
Summary of comments 11.12 – I believe this strategy has been used by places like York to maintain the aesthetic of the town and encourage tourism, it is not a blanket approach across the city.

Ref 159
Ward
Response ref 11.16/48
Individual/name of organisation HBC Conservation team
Summary of comments No specific reference is made to our 947 listed buildings, 6 scheduled monuments or the extensive areas of the Borough identified as archaeologically sensitive areas. While conservation areas are briefly referred to, the very special historic urban spatial character and settlement pattern of the Borough which has caused almost 20% of the Borough's land area (including two extensive and unique townscapes which are national heritage assets) to be designated as CAs seems to have been generally ignored. All of these recognised and designated

heritage assets are hugely important to the physical environment, economic well-being, intellectual and educational resourcefulness, and psychological sense of demographic identity and reassurance, of those living in or associated with the town. These assets are continually under threat of erosion and adverse change from the passage of time, uncaring ownership, short term development expediency, and the ephemeral nature of social fashion and politics. Long term recognition and conservation of the historic urban environment needs to have a clear and explicit central slot in the strategic planning and direction of the Borough, so that these issues can be more successfully addressed in the future.

Similarly, whilst a nod is given to urban design quality early in the document, the strand of thought seems to peter out, and the subject does not appear at all in the "Vision" chapter. The way that we commission and design our new or adapted buildings (humble or grand) should be a key priority. The delivery of a whole raft of public policy, from street level to global concerns, is at least partly dependant on the provision of more ergonomic, more efficient, safer, more adaptable, greener, better designed new buildings – waste recycling, water management, energy efficiency, renewable energy, personal health and safety, social inclusion, e-access, and many other current and future issues require a response in terms of building and spatial design. The way we design or re-model our civic and other accessible spaces and routes (town centres, squares, promenade, parks and gardens, playgrounds, car parks, streets, footpaths, cycleways, train and bus stations, etc) seriously affect the lives of the whole local community on a continuing daily basis, as well as having a huge economic and image impact for the Borough as a whole. This must surely feature in the Core Strategy

Ref 159
Ward
Response ref 11.16/49
Individual/name of organisation HBC Conservation team
Summary of comments We consider that the strategic objectives 15 and 16, identified in the "Vision" chapter (Ch.4), should be developed into issues and options, which are fully covered as part of Chapter 11 of this document. We would suggest that two new sections are required, in Chapter 11, titled as follows:
- Built Heritage Conservation
- Urban Design Excellence

We would be happy to meet with you, in the future, to discuss suitable text for incorporation into the revised "Core Strategy – Preferred Options" document.
As part of this additional content, we would recommend the inclusion of all the items set out in questions 11.11-11.15 of the general response form, which we would regard as complementary good practice measures and not as options.

Ref 150
Ward
Response ref 11.16/50
Individual/name of organisation RPS Planning on Behalf of Fairview New Homes Ltd
Summary of comments FNH acknowledge that new dev should seek the highest standard of design possible, however FNH would recommend that any policy that comes forward ensures that the wording if such policy provides clarity in terms of the definition of 'high standard of design' PPS1 states that planning authorities should prepare robust policies on design and the PPS identifies good standards of design with regards to issues such as access and the built environment.

Ref 94
Ward
Response ref 11.16/51
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments 11.19 should recognise the built environment can accommodate biodiversity if well planned and guidance on urban design should reflect this. This could range from encouraging 'green roofs' and walls suitable for climbing plants to encouraging hedges as boundaries rather than walls or fences and landscape planting which provides structures to attract insects & animals.

Ref 152
Ward West St Leonards
Response ref 11.15/52
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It is to be noted that the Pilot field is not listed.

Additional comments

ref 110
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments Adopt a rolling TPO review with on line database to ensure all trees and woodland of note is protected & redundant protection removed

All land that is used to meet the open space targets of Hastings has a requirement to have funding and maintenance and is maintained

Develop policies and strategies (and enforce them) that will restrict and reduce the proliferation of mobile homes & chalets within green areas of Hastings

ref 94
Individual/name of organisation Individual
Summary of comments It is disappointing to find that in places natural environment issues tend to be treated more as a constraint on development than as an asset to be treasured. The Borough's habitats and wildlife, just as much as its urban forms, make a substantial contribution to local distinctiveness and our sense of place and local identity. Yet there is like recognition in Shaping Hastings that local people value the wildlife on their doorstep or that one of the reasons that people value open space is its wildlife.

Paragraphs 11.5-11.6 - Conserving and enhancing the Borough's wildlife sites, at all levels of designation, should be treated as a responsibility which the Borough aspires to be proud of fulfilling, not as spaces which are grudgingly to be give protection.

Paragraphs 11.7-11.10 - Achieving biodiversity gains does not necessarily mean protecting more land. Wildlife, planning to provide structure which enables ecological processes within existing open spaces and new developments could do much to promote biodiversity gains. Shaping Hastings could do much more to grasp the opportunity to integrate biodiversity issues into all aspects of spatial planning, especially open space strategy and urban design.

Paragraph 11.1 supports this paragraph but the words 'to be treasured' should be added after 'key asset'.

Paragraphs 11.2 – 11.3 - I support these issues

Paragraph 11.4 should recognise that mitigation approached must be based on sound evidence that they will work.

Paragraphs 11.5-11.6 should recognise that SACs & SSSIs have to be protected under legislation. Protecting them and managing them effectively should be presented as a responsibility which the Borough Council is proud to take on. It should be recognised that designation as an LNR confers extra protection.

Paragraph 11.7 doesn't really say anything. Of course biodiversity needs to be addressed but this is effectively stated in 11.3. A key issue is how it is addressed: biodiversity issues need to be integrated into all aspects of open space planning.

Paragraph 11.15 should include biodiversity conservation in the first sentence, as part of making the best use of open spaces.