



**Horsham
District
Council**

Representation Form

Billingshurst Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - Regulation 16

Billingshurst Neighbourhood Development Plan

In light of recent announcements regarding COVID-19, Horsham District Council to reviewed its protocols regarding the consultation process for neighbourhood plans, a number of which were published for public consultation shortly before the government imposed the nationwide lockdown.

In order to continue to progress neighbourhood plans, we have made a decision to continue with the consultation process with measures we feel are in accordance to the government guidelines.

Billingshurst Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNP). The Plan sets out a vision for the future of the parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally. In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended), the BNP and associated documents will go out to consultation:

Wednesday 17 June to Wednesday 12 August 2020 for 8 weeks inviting representations on the draft submission plan, basic conditions statement, consultation statement and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening opinion. Supporting Background Papers are for information purposes only.

Copies of the BNP Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents are available to view on the Horsham District Council's website:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planningpolicy/planning-policy/currentconsultations>

Documents will not be made available in deposit locations due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. If local residents have difficulty in engaging online, we have provided a telephone number and email address below. Members of the public are encouraged to leave their details for an officer to contact them back if they need further information.

Email: neighbourhood.planning@horsham.gov.uk – SAS@southdowns.gov.uk

Telephone: 01403 215398

All comments must be received by Midnight on Wednesday 12 August 2020

There are a number of ways to make your comments:

1. Please use the above web address above to make your representation online ; or
2. Complete this form and email it to: neighbourhood.planning@horsham.gov.uk ; or
3. Print this form and post it to: Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Horsham Council, Parkside, Chart Way, North Street, Horsham, RH12 1RL

All comments will be publicly available, and identifiable by name and (where applicable) organisation. Please note that any other personal information provided will be processed by Horsham District Council in line the Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulations. Horsham District Council will process your details in relation to this preparation of this document only. For further information please see the Council's privacy policy: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/privacy-policy>

How to use this form

Please complete Part A in full, in order for your representation to be taken into account at the Neighbourhood Plan examination.

Please complete Part B overleaf, identifying which paragraph your comment relates to by completing the appropriate box.

PART A	Your Details
Full Name	██████████
Address	Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, GRANTHAM Lincs
Postcode	NG31 6LL
Telephone	██████████
Email	██
Organisation (if applicable)	Woodland Trust
Position (if applicable)	Regional External Affairs Officer
Date	12 August 2020

PART B

To which part in the plan does your representation relate?

Paragraph Number:		Policy Reference:	BILL 2, BILL 4, BILL 5 and BILL 16
-------------------	--	-------------------	------------------------------------

Do you support, oppose, or wish to comment on this plan? (Please tick one answer)

Support

Support with Modifications

Object

Comment

Please give details of your reasons for support/opposition, or make other comments here:

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, and wants to see a UK that is rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife. We aim to achieve this by restoring and improving woodland biodiversity and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woods and trees. We own over 1,275 sites across the UK covering over 23,580 hectares and have around 500,000 members and supporters. The Trust is recognised as a national authority on woods and trees and a protector of the benefits and values that they deliver for society.

Our comments below complement the more detailed response already made on the Draft Horsham District Local Plan 2019-2036.

Policy BILL 2

The Woodland Trust welcomes policy section 2 xi. *“Preserve and sensitively incorporate existing natural features such as trees and hedgerows within the site, with the aim of delivering a net environmental benefit for local people and wildlife.”* We suggest this could be strengthened with a requirement to replace any trees lost on a greater than 1:1 basis and complemented with support for additional tree planting, including use of native species, in line with the plan's Objective 5 *“Ensure that development is sensitively designed to be attractive, to minimise flood risk, mitigate climate change, promote biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.”*

Significant increases in tree canopy cover have been identified by the UK Committee on Climate Change as a vital part of the climate emergency response and will require all major public bodies to play their part in identifying sites and supporting conservation of existing mature trees as well as new tree planting. The Woodland Trust supports an increase in UK woodland cover from its current 13% of land area to 19% by 2050 to tackle this country's biodiversity and climate crises. As part of that, the Trust recommends a target of ensuring all development land includes a minimum 30% tree canopy cover.

Policy BILL 4

We welcome the policy promoting natural play areas in para A ii, including accessible woodland.

The Trust has developed a Woodland Access Standard to complement Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standard. This recommends that:

- That no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size.
- That there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.

Policy BILL 5

We support policy encouraging the provision of natural woodland burial sites. This land use has potential to provide multiple benefits, in line with the plan's Objective 5, as well as meeting the need for future burial space.

Policy BILL 16

We support policy to extend the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in a way that maximises their environmental benefits.

We would encourage adding wording in support of the use of natural flood management, including suitable tree planting. In addition to flood protection, natural flood management provides multiple biodiversity enhancements and natural capital benefits. A positive example is the Sussex Flow Initiative in the river Ouse catchment.

What improvements or modifications would you suggest?

POLICY BILL 2

- Add new wording to para xi *“Preserve and sensitively incorporate existing natural features such as trees and hedgerows within the site, and require the replacement of any trees where removal is unavoidable, with the aim of delivering a net environmental benefit for local people and wildlife.”*
- Add new para xii *“Seek to increase tree cover by planting new trees from native species as an integral part of development sites.”*

POLICY BILL 4

- Add wording to A ii *“New residential development should demonstrate how it has actively provided for natural play through the design of public green spaces and accessible woodland”.*

POLICY BILL 16

- Add wording to B *“including as part of natural flood management systems.”*

If you have additional representations, feel free to include additional pages. Please make sure any additional pages are clearly labelled/ addressed or attached.

Do you wish to be notified of the local planning authority’s decision under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 in relation to the Billingshurst Neighbourhood Development plan?

Please tick here if you wish to be to be notified: