

## Comment

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**Event Name** Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

**Comment by** [REDACTED]

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**Q1. To which document do your comments relate?** Wickersley NDP Submission Version April 2021

**Q2. Do you wish to?** Make Observations

**Q3. Please provide your comments below making clear which part of the document you are referring to (specifying relevant paragraphs, tables, figures, boxes or appendices).**

Thank you for consulting with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust on the Wickersley draft Neighbourhood Plan - we have the following comments.

- 1 We welcome the production of a draft Neighbourhood Plan and congratulate the Parish Council on their draft.
- 2 We recommend the Wickersley Parish Council are given the opportunity to view the South Yorkshire Natural Capital Report Maps that have just been produced (RMBC were a partner in the project so have a copy) and consider how they could take account of the natural capital assets and opportunities presented in the maps and report in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3 We welcome the recognition of the protection and enhancement of green spaces in the vision. 'Green Spaces' and 'Natural Environment' were two of the top five issues that consultees thought the plan should address. In addition, green spaces were the 3rd most popular response when respondent were asked what their favourite thing is about Wickersley.

**Q4. Suggested modifications. If you consider that amendments should be made then it will be helpful if you could put forward any suggested wording changes.**

However Green spaces and the natural environment is missing from Key Objectives' (2.2)

Chapter 3.0 Policy H3- these are welcome but are not very specific. We recommend making these tighter. e.g. for A) and B) suggesting saying a minimum BREEAM rating of Excellent (*or choose another rating you are comfortable with*)

1 C) suggest adding 'for all new development'

2 D) suggest adding 'for all new development'

In Chapter 4.0 We support the inclusion of all four key objectives including 'provide connections and linkages between new and existing green spaces' and how this follows through into Policy GS1A) and B). We support GS1 and the supporting text. We would like to see Figure 9 further developed to show some opportunities for the desired ecological connections - this could draw on the information supplied in the new SY Natural Capital maps mentioned earlier.

We recommend that the opportunity is taken to consider bringing the natural environment into Policy Area GS2 as well. It is mentioned in the policy statement but not in the supporting text, Policy GS1c) 'Achieve biodiversity net gain'. We recommend that this is strengthened to 'Achieve and demonstrate biodiversity net gain of *at least* 10% in line with the forthcoming Environment Act.'

If the Parish Council were minded to do so we would recommend going even further and asking for more than 10% - as 10% will be the statutory minimum requirement (with the Env Act) but Local Plans and policies can ask for more.

Chapter 8.0 Data and Methodology 'amount of green space' - we recommend altering to 'area and quality of green space'

Please feel free to contact us for further advice.

**Q5. Do you wish to be notified of the Council's decision under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 whether to accept the Examiners' recommendation? (please tick)**

Yes, please notify me of the Council's decision