

Joint Examination of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2013-32 (WHLP) and the East Herts District Plan 2011-33 (EHDP)

Birchall Garden Suburb (BGS)/East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1)

**Statement by Dr Jonathan Fisher (Freelance Environmental economist)
& Dr Barrie Goldsmith (Ecologist and SUSTRANS Ranger)**

On behalf of the Central Hertfordshire Green Corridor Group:

This statement provides evidence on the following matter raised by the Inspectors:

Matter 10 – Waste

It accompanies our statements on the following other matters

Matter 1: Green Belt

Matter 2: Green Corridor

Matter 3: Ecology

Matter 5: Other Environmental Considerations

Matter 6: Sustainable location and movement

Matter 11: Implementation

Matter 10 – Waste

We welcome and support the Inspector's raising this key Matter and their important specific issues 45 – 53. We support the comments on these issues and significant concerns raised by the Statements by the Welwyn Garden City Society, and Gascoyne Cecil Estates (GCE) (in particular the Wardell report). We do not reiterate these concerns here but just raise one specific point regarding the Inspectors' important issues 49 & 50 which the Local Plans currently fail to address.

Issues

49) Is the site capable of being considered as non-contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in the short term?

50) If not, what further remediation measures are likely to be necessary and when will they be fully implemented?

The answer to issue 49 is No. WHBC have failed in their duty under Part IIA of this Act to inspect their areas with a view to identifying contaminated land in accordance with Defra Guidance issued in 2012¹.

Moreover, WHBC and EHDC compound this statutory failure by WHBC including in their Local Plans the proposed housing development and allocation at BGC about which there are significant outstanding concerns and issues which the Councils and developer have failed to assess and address.

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223705/pb13735cont-land-guidance.pdf