

## INVITATION TO COMMENT

Thank you for your continuing interest in the proposed allocation of land for development at Birchall Garden Suburb [site SDS2 and WGC5 in the submitted Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan]. You will be aware that a new examination hearing schedule is planned for the afternoon of Monday 16 December to discuss all of the outstanding issues remaining on the northern part of the site.

The Inspector has asked that the general location of the Green Corridor across Birchall Garden Suburb (BGS) is one of the topics to be discussed, including specific consideration of the appropriateness of the land immediately to the north of the A414 as the location for the main element of the Green Corridor, but supplemented by linkages between the areas of high importance for nature to the north across the reclaimed refuse tip (the Inspector's letter of 9 October 2019, EX161).

In that regard, the council is carrying out a short, focussed consultation. Please find attached a paper prepared by Land Use Consultants Limited (LUC) for the Borough Council. The report sets out three options for the general location of the Green Corridor across BGS and the reasoning behind the council's preferred option. One of the options considered is the land immediately to the north of the A414. Another option is that shown illustratively on Figure 12 in the Submission version of the local plan.

The Inspector has asked that a table be prepared, in time for the hearing session, that identifies specific points of agreement and disagreement between the respective parties. This will enable us to have a more focussed and informed discussion on 16 December.

I would, therefore, be grateful if you could please provide me, **by 17.00 on Monday 9 December**, with your comments on the paper and specifically:

- Whether you agree with the council's stated objectives for this part of the Green Corridor and, if not, why not
- Whether you feel that there are other, sufficiently distinct, options that the examination should consider
- Which of the three options, if any, you prefer and the reasons why
- Your concerns about the appropriateness of the other options
- If you are promoting an alternate option, why you feel that your option is to be preferred when assessed against the stated objectives for the Green Corridor

In order to assist me in constructing the table that the Inspector has requested, I would be grateful if you could please provide your response in bullet-point format. This will enable swift analysis and tabulation of all of the responses received, given that there is only one week between the closing date for comments and the hearing session. The discussion on the day will provide an opportunity for you to expand upon your thinking.

I look forward to hearing from you. Yours sincerely,

Richard Javes BA (Hons) MRTPI, Principal Planning Policy Officer

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council