

**Comments on Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination document EX227:  
WHBC Note on Birchall Garden Suburb December 2020**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Peter Oakenfull**

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Local Plan Examination document EX227.

I am very surprised by the new Birchall Garden Suburb proposed design layout that has been submitted within EX227. Having been part of the Local Plan examination over the past 3 years, and witnessed the full discussion at the hearings on the councils own proposed Green Corridor document, how we end up with such a wildlife unfriendly proposal in this document is extraordinary.

The new proposal commits to corridor of one hundred metres which is totally inadequate in allowing free movement of the protected wildlife of the Commons LNR and will impact on their ability to persist into the future. It will not adequately facilitate continued free movement of common and protected species within the existing green corridor, or sustain present levels of biodiversity there in.

I would respectfully ask if you would once again consider my letter within the documents library that I wrote in January 2020 showing academic research and published papers to support this.

This new proposal also shows a circular 'bus route' that breaks the corridor in two places. It is either a green corridor or segmented urban green space, it cannot be both. The objective must be to facilitate a functioning wildlife corridor linking the Commons LNR to the former landfill area of Cole Green and as proposed it negates any wildlife value.

EX227 also now proposes a primary school on the removed southern area of land directly adjacent to the Eastern Arm of Hatfield Hyde Brook removing all green corridor potential and any net gain for wildlife. This proposal can only increase traffic movement through the circular road network in the northern area making even greater impact on wildlife.

EX227 is not sympathetic to sustaining even present levels of biodiversity through the existing green corridor or securing the long term future of wildlife presently found within The Commons Local Nature Reserve.

This proposal prescribes negative impact on local biodiversity and in my opinion should be withdrawn in favour of more sustainable sites put forward for inclusion into the Local Plan.

Peter Oakenfull ACIEEM

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