

## ***Natural Environment Theme Report: NDP2 Advisory Group Meeting, 14/10/24***

- First meeting of the Natural Environment Theme Group took place on 2 October.
- We discussed the current NDP, including the need for the new Plan to include policies that are clear, understandable and achievable.
- We discussed five of the eleven Natural Environment theme topics.<sup>1</sup> It is highly likely that we will seek to develop policies in all eleven areas and possibly other areas.
- We are particularly mindful of the impact of flooding on the town in recent years and the importance of policy development on this issue.
- Engagement with the local community on issues including protection of Local Green Spaces and Important Views will be key. We are already engaging with specific stakeholders, including the High School and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.
- We are undertaking evidence collection, including Stratford District Council Climate Emergency work, the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and local flooding documents.
- There is overlap with other theme areas, particularly the Housing theme. We will need to stay connected to developments in other areas to ensure there isn't any discontinuity in the final document.
- Our next meeting (23 October) will focus on the remaining theme policy issues.<sup>2</sup>
- We intend to have an interim report on the Natural Environment theme by the end of December 2024.

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Natural Environment lead

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<sup>1</sup> Protection of specific sites through designations such as 'Local Green Space'; Areas of Separation; Wildlife Corridors; Biodiversity; and Important Views

<sup>2</sup> Trees and hedges; Conservation area/Heritage assets; Safeguarding of important buildings and structures; Protection of cycle ways/paths; Flooding; and Energy efficiency/renewable energy.