

## **MAIN MATTER 14: The District's Natural Environment (Policies LPP 67- LPP 81)**

**Q.** *In relation to Policy LPP 70 - Protection, Enhancement, Management and Monitoring of Biodiversity:*

*– Does the policy take an appropriate approach to biodiversity net gain?*

**AND**

**Q.** *In relation to Policy LPP 73 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Resources, Minimising Pollution and Safeguarding from Hazards:*

*– Does the policy take appropriate account of the potential for mitigation?*

**A.** With respect to LPP 18 Land East of Great Notley and associated area BLAN 114, in this area, and *in particular the North-West area of BLAN 114* there is an abundance of wildlife, fauna and flora, notably - mammals, birds, amphibians / reptiles, insects, trees, shrubs, wild flowers, and fungi. This area is home to an abundance of wildlife due to the good covering and mix of established trees, shrubs, wild flowers, and fungi – all of which provide necessary habitats and food sources. Therefore, I believe developing this particular area or even simply 'grassing it over' in order to consider it a green / recreational space would be detrimental to the local biodiversity and would actually cause local biodiversity losses to a great extent.

I strongly feel that this wildlife-rich area would benefit from being safeguarded and preserved as a Local Wildlife Site (LoWS) in the first instance, or as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which would mitigate and compensate for biodiversity losses caused by further development. It would also enhance the area by making the most of the natural resources already in existence, which are the plant / wildlife species which clearly already thrive in this area.

Suitable green areas, such as a green corridor or buffer running parallel to the back (East side) of the houses already situated along the East side of London Road could link with such a natural zone, meaning not only a positive outcome for biodiversity net gain for the local wildlife (as it could become a wildlife corridor), but it would also mitigate existing residents' concerns over a large development right on their doorstep. It would also provide a positive outcome for the mental health and wellbeing of many of the local people of all ages as it would provide a safe, natural and semi-shaded outdoor space for relaxing, walking, cycling, and exercising.

***I have attached two maps within this document to show the area to which I specifically refer (see Fig. 3 & 4).***

Fig. 3





Fig. 4

