

Crowhurst Review – Initial Questions

The following questions may be more relevant for the LPA or Parish Council in each instance, but I am copying both of you in, and would be happy to receive comments on all questions from either organisation.

1. Please confirm the timetable for the new Local Plan has not changed from that set out in the Local Development Scheme (adoption 2026 - 2027), and also the projected date of the Reg19 consultation on it.

2. Policy CE3 Biodiversity in the CNDP Review is requiring a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 20%. This is double what the NPPF is requiring, and I cannot see evidence supporting this local increased requirement. As I understand the LPA policy situation, there is reference in the Climate Strategy to an aim of 20% BNG, but the strategy states it will happen only in the new Local Plan is allowed to make this policy. So far I cannot see a reference to this specific increased requirement in the emerging new Local Plan. Can you please explain the background to this 20% requirement, and the evidence and policy you see as supporting it.

3. Policy CE5 Blue Infrastructure criteria 1 is not clear to me at present. Does it refer to the sensitive flood zones 2 and 3 only? The requirement to monitor pollution does not state what should happen if pollution is found to occur, and appears to me to be straying into a monitoring role that is the remit of other authorities and not a land-use issue. Comments welcome, and you may wish to consider the reference to 'pollution' in criteria 7 of Policy CB1. At present it is too vague to be useful, and it is understood that County Council guidance needs to be complied with.

4. Policy CH2 Land South of Firewood Rise: The (very useful) schedule of changes to the Review Plan states that the map drawn up by the Landscape Architects has been amended - but I can't see any amendments to this map?

5. Appendix 3 of the CNDP Review makes reference to the Biodiversity British Standard 42020. I believe this should now be updated to BS8683, but I would appreciate being advised on this.