

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2024

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MR P PHILIPS

'In view of the statutory requirement that any significant new development must demonstrate biodiversity net gain, the Council's own Environmental Policy committing it to protect and enhance the environment and biodiversity in all of its activities and its statement that the construction development of farmland will be avoided wherever possible, how can the inclusion of West Whitwick Valley as a site to be considered for large scale development be reconciled with these requirements on its members and officers?'

REPOSENSE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

'The Local Plan has to seek to reconcile the need for new development with the need to protect and, where possible, enhance the environment. To meet future development needs it is inevitable that this will require the development of agricultural land.

A key role of the Local Plan is to identify areas which in principle are considered suitable for development.

The exact details of how the requirements to achieve biodiversity net gain will be met is one for the site promoter or potential developer to consider, but there is no evidence at this time to suggest that such a net gain cannot be achieved.'