

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

To leader of TRDC  
Cllr Sarah Nelmes  
Cc all Councillors



**Annual Council 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021- Item 10(6) regarding the Local Plan – amended recommendations from the P&R Committee**

We note that papers for Council this week include a proposed resolution to work with Local Residents associations, Parish Councils and others to press the government for a reduction in the target for the number of homes to be built in Three Rivers.

This letter is an invitation for you to work with us to protect and enhance the Green Belt and the Colne Valley Regional Park and helping us achieve our 6 objectives. (See appendix)

The pandemic has highlighted how valued the countryside is and how access to beautiful landscapes is part of our collective healing process. The Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) makes up a significant part of your authority and provides numerous recreational opportunities for your residents. It also aims to protect and improve the countryside whether it be precious landscapes or important agricultural land. We are mindful of the continued threat to the CVRP from developments such as HS2 and Motorway Service Areas and seek mitigation where possible to overcome the harm to the Regional Park.

We note that none of your Council documents mention the CVRP – including the Climate Change Strategy, the Sustainability Appraisal or the Local Plan. This is at odds with other local Councils within the Regional Park who use the designation for planning policy and have been successful in defending the Regional Park on appeal from large scale infrastructure developments.

We have previously sent an outline of a bespoke CVRP policy in the local plan and a policy on development near rivers to officers – see appendix 2 of the Colne & Crane Green Infrastructure Strategy <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CC-GI-Strategy-Full-report-no-area-detail-low-res-1.pdf>

We are disappointed to discover that your emerging Local Plan proposes substantial development within the CVRP and the Green Belt, including on all four sides of Maple Cross. This appears to be at odds with your aims to protect biodiversity, high quality landscape and not expose residents to high levels of air pollution from the M25. It will also threaten the viability of farming in this area.

We welcome the opportunity to open up a dialogue and look forward to working with the Council to improve the Colne Valley for the benefit of local residents.

Yours etc



Lord Randall  
President

**Colne Valley Park Trust**  
Charity Registration Number: 1181303  
**Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company**  
A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. Company No. 08131867

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,  
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG  
[www.colnevalleypark.org.uk](http://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk)

**APPENDIX: About the Colne Valley Regional Park** <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/>

Established in 1965 the Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) is the first large taste of countryside to the west of London and comprises 43 square miles of the London Green Belt, stretching from Rickmansworth in the north to Staines in the south. Eight local authorities are responsible for its planning.

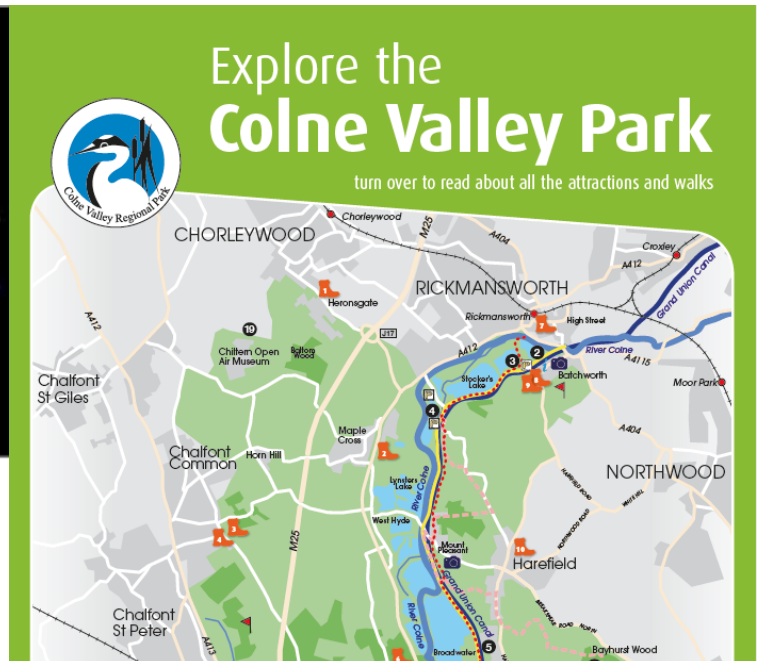
Our purpose is to promote the enhancement of the area as a natural resource for the community, wildlife, farming and the environment, taking forward what the Green Belt is about. The successful management and improvement of this area requires a strategic approach and careful planning.

The Park is championed by the Colne Valley Park Trust, which exists to protect and enhance the Regional Park through six objectives:

- 1) To **maintain and enhance** the landscape, historic environment and waterscape of the park in terms of their scenic and conservation value, and their overall amenity.
- 2) To **safeguard the countryside** of the Park from inappropriate development. Where development is permissible it will encourage the highest possible standards of design.
- 3) To **conserve and enhance biodiversity** within the Park through the protection and management of its species, habitats and geological features.
- 4) To provide **opportunities for countryside recreation** and ensure that facilities are accessible to all.
- 5) To achieve a **vibrant and sustainable rural economy**, including farming and forestry, underpinning the value of the countryside.
- 6) To encourage **community participation** including volunteering and environmental education. To promote the health and social well-being benefits that access to high quality green space brings.



Images showing general location of the Colne Valley Regional Park (above) and the northern part of it (on the right)



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