

## Questions at Landscape Partnership Forum 29/09/22

Q: Chloe Crompton, ColneCAN to Tony Booker: What is your most memorable moment of the Angling Project?

A: The installation of the kingfisher boxes on Sabey's Pond – it was hard work using rotavators in all seasons even the snow. We're now starting to see the plans coming together and what happens as a result. Eg water voles appearing due to habitat enhancement.

Q: Rose Lewis, Soil Association to Debbie Valman: How was the group of partners assembled initially?

A: Stewart Pomeroy replied that there are many organizations in the Colne Valley Regional Park, who have a passion for it. We are keeping ongoing discussions and relationships Debbie confirmed that we are very happy to keep working with the Soil Association to explore joint funding opportunities for Woodoaks Farm

Q: Simon Jones, Friends of Stockers Lake to Jerry Unsworth: Referring to Jerry's comments about joined up thinking on Planning Issues – are there connections with other organisations around London looking at Green Belt generic issues?

A: The London Green Belt Council recently published a report looking at the development picture around London in which they draw worrying conclusions. Jerry's concern is that there is no body taking a strategic view. Which he thinks is a gap. We will discuss a coordinated view over the next 9 months. Each local authority should not just be looking at their own patch but looking over their border. It is a complex challenge to which there is no simple answer. This is leading to incremental degradation. Councils are under pressure to accommodate development so take too 'silo'-ed a view. There are tens of hectares of land to be developed and no strategic compensation. The countryside access should be strategically improved to compensate. We could learn lessons from the Lea Valley and other areas of the country.

Q: Dexter Smith, Slough Council

It's a fact of life that we're under huge development pressure. It's important that bodies like the Colne Valley Park think about projects, even without funding, so a local authority can then pull them off the shelf, for example for section 106 funding.

A: from Debbie Valman: Refer to the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Anyone can add to it, it has a smorgasborg of ideas.

Jerry Unsworth: Planners take a silo-ed view. Projects must be embedded in council's plans and seen as something that has weight in the planning dialogue, this is why the next 9 months are so important. He was inspired tonight and wants some joined up vision for how to traverse the Green Belt. It needs sensitive planning and a view of the big picture.

Q: Harvey Dunlop, Willowbank Association: Has any compensation come to the Colne Valley from HS2?

A: Stewart Pomeroy: There has been no direct compensation to the Colne Valley Park as an organisation. But due to petitioning from CVRP, Local Authorities, Wildlife Trusts etc, when HS2 was in parliament, there was a mitigation budget of £3 million. Some of this has been spent on bat habitat enhancement, some used as matched funding to the Lottery Landscape Project and there is more to be spent. It is a small amount proportionally compared to the devastation HS2 is causing to the Colne Valley Regional Park.

Q: Elaine King, Chilterns Conservation Board:

She suggested ideas for bringing in money:

Associated projects on HS2 – there is a pot of funding, but it is very indirect.

Comment on schedule 17s attempting to mitigate design.

Trying to bring in money and strategies – we have the environment act.

Lottery funded projects can roll out more work that's similar.

Biodiversity net gain

Green finance – using private funding.

Working in partnership is valuable, it takes time to bring in money which could be spent doing the actual work.