

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

To: Joseph Bashford  
Sustainable Development Manager  
Surface Access Strategy, Heathrow Airport



By email: [joseph.bashford@heathrow.com](mailto:joseph.bashford@heathrow.com)  
c.c. Stewart Pomeroy, Rob Gray, Mark Frost (by email)

24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Joseph,

**Consultation Response on the draft Heathrow LCWIP from the Colne Valley Regional Park**

It was good to catch up briefly yesterday and our apologies if you have had some difficulty contacting the Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) office. Unfortunately, the Park operates on very stretched resources and has to focus on its core activities.

However, I have been able to compare notes with Stewart Pomeroy, Managing Agent for the CVRP, and we offer the following comments on your draft document:

1. The CVRP is very supportive of improvements to walking and cycling routes in the wider airport area as they are presently extremely poor and improving provision for these modes will reduce motor traffic and give people choices for healthier and more economic travel.
2. As well as the framework proposed in your draft document, we also need to see much improved walking and cycling routes within and across the CVRP area close to the airport. The joint connectivity statement and mapping done in January 2020 (in the context of the 3rd runway proposals) remains very useful to illustrate improvements needed on the west side of the airport. This document is separately attached to the email.
3. The 2019 Colne and Crane Green Infrastructure Strategy also addressed, at a more strategic level, improvements needed to active travel in the wider 'green' area around the airport. This can be found at:  
<https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/green-infrastructure-strategy-for-the-colne-and-crane-valleys/>.
4. The Joint Connectivity Statement/ Mapping and 2019 Strategy should be referenced as source documents.
5. We understand the focus on work-based trips to/from the airport but ask HAL and partners to consider and plan for the wider (Green Belt/ CVRP/ natural environment) context of the airport. Doing this will create a more integrated and comprehensive network, incorporating routes to/ from the airport that traverse the green areas around the airport. The 'hub and spoke' approach is too limited

**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

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Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG  
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and there is a need to consider connectivity to the 'spokes'. One example is the Colne Valley Trail connecting to the A4 spoke.

6. Incorporating 'green' routes as well as road routes would give people more choice - it may be that people choose a road route one way and a 'green' route the other way. Or a green route in the spring and summer and a road route during other seasons. In this way people walking or cycling between where they live and the airport can have the opportunity to experience the natural environment, with all its well documented physical and mental health benefits.
7. Regarding section 3.5 'route selection tools', 5 criteria are listed but this is missing something vital – that there should be a 6th criterion around attractiveness/desirability for people to use, embracing green space and off-road routes. The existing 'comfort' criteria only consider physical comfort e.g., surfacing but does not consider other factors that make a route attractive and desirable to use.

I hope these comments re helpful as you work on the final LCWIP.

Yours sincerely

*Jerry*

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*For and on behalf of the Colne Valley Regional Park*

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## **Annex 1**

### **About The Colne Valley Regional Park**

1. The Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) is the first large taste of countryside to the west of London; an area for people, wildlife and many uses, including farming and angling. The Park, founded in 1965, stretches from Rickmansworth in the north to Staines and the Thames in the south, Uxbridge and Heathrow in the east, and to Slough in the west.
2. It is championed by the Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company (CVPCIC), soon to become a Trust.
3. The CIC/ Trust's locus is to protect and enhance the Regional Park through six objectives, namely:
  - I. 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.
  - II. To safeguard the countryside of the Park from inappropriate development. Where development is permissible it will encourage the highest possible standards of design.
  - III. To conserve and enhance biodiversity within the Park through the protection and management of its species, habitats and geological features
  - IV. To provide opportunities for countryside recreation and ensure that facilities are accessible to all.
  - V. To achieve a vibrant and sustainable rural economy, including farming and forestry, underpinning the value of the countryside.
  - VI. 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.

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