

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

Sadiq Khan MP
Mayor of London
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE

28th March 2025

Dear Mr Khan



Re: Lets create the best green corridor around any city in Europe

The countryside on the edge of London is crucially important for people and wildlife. The Colne Valley Regional Park, covering 110km² on the edge of London and four counties, is nationally important for wildlife and regionally important for people.

However, recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) threaten the Colne Valley Regional Park and other areas like it, but we believe these threats also present us with the opportunity to create one of the best-managed and best-connected green corridors around any city in Europe. For more information see:

<https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/lets-create-the-best-green-corridor/>

We welcome the Government's statements in its recent planning reform working paper *Development and Nature Recovery* about creating a 'win-win' for both development and nature.

However, this admirable aim is yet to be underpinned with the right ingredients needed to create deliverable policy. In fact, the changes to the NPPF made just before Christmas, significantly weaken the protections for the Colne Valley Regional Park and fail to put in place sufficient tools to achieve the beneficial results the government calls for.

Specific policy changes that can deliver this can be seen in:

- Paragraph 8 (a-f) of our response to the Environmental Audit Committee:
<https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Environmental-Audit-Committee-Call-for-evidence-Dec24.pdf>
- Paragraphs 6-7 of our response to the government's planning reform working paper: *Development and Nature recovery* :https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Feb25-CVRP-Response-Planning-Reform-Working-Paper_FINAL.pdf

Much of this is self-explanatory, but do let me know if you require any further information or need me to expand on any of our thinking on the subject.

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

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We would be grateful if you would be prepared to:

- advocate to your colleagues in government for these urgent minor adaptations to national planning policy,
- explore opportunities for positive policies in the London Plan for the countryside around London, Regional Parks, Rivers and associated wetland habitats.

We invite you and your team to visit the Colne Valley Regional Park to see the huge opportunities it presents to improve the quality of life for Londoners.

Over the last few years, the situation has become steadily worse in this particularly fragile area of Green Belt and the mechanisms for effective improvement of what remains not yet in place. In our view, the bald truth is that if no action is taken by the Government and local authorities, the Regional Park will not have a future.

I'm afraid we really are in the Last Chance Saloon.

Yours sincerely

S.Pomeroy

Stewart Pomeroy,
Colne Valley Managing Agent

CC Mete Coban MBE, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy
 Bassam Mahfouz, Ealing and Hillingdon
 Zack Polanski, Chair of the Environment Committee
 Andrew Boff, Chair of the Planning and Regeneration Committee

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