

## Danny Beales Speech and Questions

He has visited the Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) many times since becoming an MP, with boat owners, FOE Hillingdon, water quality testing, with residents in Yiewsley and to visit the CVRP team. It is a hidden gem. He grew up in South Ruislip but hadn't appreciated it before. We need to shout about, celebrate and encourage people to discover the Colne Valley Regional Park.

Today he will talk about nature, areas of challenge and how we can work together.

The government are keen to turn around nature for example in the case of the increasing pollution of our waterways, in Harefield the water quality is so poor that it smells.

The Mayor of London is cleaning up waterways and Danny Beales has met with the water lead at the LGA recently.

The nature restoration fund has been launched. Cleaning up air: there is a shift away from fossil fuels and increasing renewables. GB Energy got royal assent today.

The elephant in the room is the future of the Green Belt. Yes, we need more housing, but this should not be at the expense of the natural environment. One in twenty-three children in London are homeless, there is a housing need. All brownfield sites should be developed first, the grey belt next. What that means is that sites currently designated as green belt, that have been previously developed should be explored first, for example a scrap metal yard designated as green belt, car parks, industrial uses, these could be released. It is clear that we need to protect the green belt and need a coordinated approach to then invest in green space.

Heathrow expansion is back on the agenda. The government invited them to bring forward a plan. His position is that he is sceptical, expansion is incompatible with climate change. Local labour MPs agree that expansion must match the four key tests. Unless these are met, they will not support expansion.

Heathrow expansion will have a significant impact on rivers/nature. He values the work we do. He knows the CVRP Trust is not well funded. He mentioned the Lea Valley levy. The CVRP is in a very different position. As one of our MPs, he is here to support and champion. There are reasons to be hopeful. He is incredibly proud of the groups in the local constituency, the CVRP is in the local area and it is crucial to support.

## Questions

Q1 Malcolm Beecher, Spelthorne Borough Council.

What will the government do about land banking?

Q2 Richard Barnes, London Wildlife Trust.

It is disappointing that the chalk streams amendment to the National Planning Policy Framework(NPPF) was voted down yesterday. Could you support the Chalk Streams private members bill and the early day motion?

Q3 Julie Cook Ivers Parish Council

'Green belt last resort as development' – this is not in the guidance, what could you do to make that importable?

A1 There are unbuilt permissions. He agrees that developers are sitting on land. Hillingdon council (LBH) hasn't started building any houses this year. Government will make it easier to purchase sites to unlock possibility. Housing associations are in a difficult position to develop sites – they are looking at a way of helping. The building safety regulator is slowing down due to the cap.

A2 Bill committee members think they should be protected under the London Plan and the LBH local plan. They thought the change proposed was too binding and ignored other interests. The private

members bill will probably not be discussed as the assisted dying bill will take up all the time. Any thoughts on how to influence chalk streams for LBH please talk to him.

A3 The secretary of state has been clear. Brownfield first Grey belt then green belt, must prioritise affordable housing. Also LGA. If you have perspectives about the NPPF he is always happy to hear them.

Q4 Stewart Pomeroy. In SP's presentation earlier he said let's pool resources to create the best green corridor in Europe and referred to similar issues in the late C19th at Hampstead Heath. What can government do to help us meet that aspiration?

A4 Section 106: clearly we are all concerned about the future of the green belt. There's been piecemeal development of existing CVRP. The status quo isn't helpful. A strategic plan is needed. Local authorities working together. Detailed plan. SPD to map area. What are sites to conserve what are opportunities to develop. He would be happy to bring together to facilitate the making of that plan.