

Environmental Vision for Discussion prepared by Dave Street from Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Any new development within the Lydney settlement Boundary must adhere to government guidelines with regard to compliance with ecological & bio-diversity recommendations.

The local flora & fauna must be researched & protected & where possible enhanced.

Informal open areas are important both for wildlife and the wellbeing of the local population. Whilst children's play areas and formal recreation grounds are usually incorporated in plans, little attention is given to natural open spaces. Well-designed developments should utilise natural landscape features such as water courses, trees & hedgerows to provide a good sized area for those wishing to enjoy the local environment. Consideration must be given to the natural lie of the land to maintain good views. Such features not only benefit the local community but they also make the homes more attractive to potential purchasers.

Public Rights of Way and recognised local paths should not be routed along estate road pavements or tarmac alleyways and should as near as possible maintain their original route. [\[Ref Defra's Rights of Way circular 1/09\]](#) They should be incorporated into wide landscaped areas such as linear hay meadows which would encourage wild life as they would create corridors.

Such areas also have the benefit over formal recreation areas that on-going maintenance is easier, only requiring occasional mowing. Where space allows consideration could be given to small scale grazing of such areas.

As well as protecting & promoting wildlife such features will contribute to the wellbeing of residents especially the elderly who are less inclined to the recreation ground environment. Many current estates suffer from the problem of the residents who are dog owners not having easy access to open spaces.

TPOs must be enforced and new orders considered on all current open areas within sight of public roads & Rights of Way.

Preference should be given to developments in adjoining areas to further the benefits of a continuous wildlife corridor. In most cases this would also fall in line with the existing routes of PROWs. Such a policy also promotes the idea of sustainability in that the infrastructure for shops & transport is localised. Developments outside the recognised town envelope are less likely to easily fit into the idea of sustainability.

[Ensure development is not permitted outside the town settlement area.]

Consideration should be given to consolidating the town of Lydney with the harbour area by encouraging development of the brown field industrial estate & docks. Expansion towards the forest is not desirable in terms of loss of wildlife habitat & tourist opportunities. Gateway to the Forest should not mean expansion of development in that direction.

Consideration should be given to a Lydney green belt to ensure that the town remains the centre of the development area. This will of course also provide the much needed easily accessible 'green space' for future generations to enjoy.

We must also consider that although not a protected AONB area, we are part of the general view from the Cotswold AONB. This gives us an

added responsibility to protect the green areas outside of the main settlement.

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