

Communities and Place OSC - Portfolio Presentations

Clr Colin Horncastle

Looking After Our Environment

6 months and beyond

Headlines – Cllr Horncastle

...next 6 months & beyond

1. Social Housing Regulation Bill
2. Biodiversity Net Gain
3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy
4. Design & maintenance of places
5. New approach to S106 schemes
6. Waste Management & Recycling

Examples - Rob Murfin

Biodiversity: UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries

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The UK may be known for its green field data shows that it is actually one of the biodiversity is in the worst state.



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

WHAT IS IT?
Biodiversity net gain is the term used to describe the process of increasing the overall biodiversity value of a development site. The 'net gain' in particular means that the development site enhances the biodiversity value, rather than decreasing it. Biodiversity net gain can be achieved both onsite and offsite depending on a case by case basis.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
Biodiversity net gain has come into law to help preserve and protect key habitats going forward. By making BNG mandatory by law, the government can take vital steps to ensure habitats and environments are protected and nurtured for years to come.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?
The Environment Act dictates that almost all new developments must increase the biodiversity value of the site by 10% and landowners need to know how to do this.

NET GAIN!

LOGO BY DESIGN, CONTACT US, A RING ON 01865 893 346.

PRINCIPLES OF B
Biodiversity net gain s
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Four basic types of activity...

- Preventing actions that could irreparably damage environment
- Doing things in a way that mitigates harm/improves environment
- Identifying locally based projects to enhance the environment
- Policy & strategy review, improving service performance and delivering major capital programmes & projects

Challenge:

All issues should demonstrate how we considered synergies

1. Social Housing Regulation Bill

- Improving energy efficiency of social homes
- Improving energy efficiency has important role in helping to reduce damp and mould in homes.
- Help tenants keep bills down, keep homes warmer and tackle climate change.

Improving home & neighbourhood environments

Energy efficiency

Achieving Energy Performance Certification (EPC) band C by 2030 may be made a requirement for all social landlords.

Green spaces

Connections between green spaces and human wellbeing. Larger and better green spaces contribute to better air quality, more biodiversity, better summer cooling, flood attenuation and increased carbon sequestration.

Adaptation to climate change

Responding and being resilient to climate change is in the Decent Homes review. Factors will include increasing overheating risk.

Explore role of PV roof tiles and another new products for retrofit and new build

Ecological crisis point?

- Northumberland enviably rich in wildlife by English standards, but important habitats continue to decline in extent and quality and species continue to be lost.
- Biodiversity Intactness Index adopted by UN Convention on Biological Diversity = England has 7th lowest biodiversity intactness index of all 240 major countries. UK has poorest score of all G7 countries.
- UK 'State of Nature' 2019 lists "abundance indicator" for 214 priority species; fell by 60% between 1979 - 2016, and 22% between 2011 - 2016.
- 'Plant Atlas 2020' published March 2023, confirmed that since 1950s known range of 53% of native plant species has declined, with the decline being greatest among species associated with lowland farmland, wetlands and waterbodies.

2. Biodiversity Net Gain

- **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is biggest ecological change in a generation**
- From November affects all significant planning applications
- Requires developers to demonstrate schemes will lead to **replacement with +10% net gain.**
- All habitat created or enhanced is managed for a period of at least 30 years.

- Does not use words like “should”

instead we can approve “***if, and only if***” *we are satisfied it delivers +10%*

Northumberland implications

- 1,000-1,200 applications & sites effected **per year**
- Delay, cost, and uncertainty of land availability for habitat creation
- Defra's vagueness about commitment to BNG duties being '*fully funded*' will mean,

ACTIONS

- Initial information on our website, and this will be added to
- Developing Supplementary Guidance - what is required from applicants to help them prepare proposals
(Work held up by Government delays in making the Regulations and publishing the statutory guidance)
- We have ran sessions for Agents Forum and NALC
- Staff formal and local training has taken place
- Member Training will be provided

3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

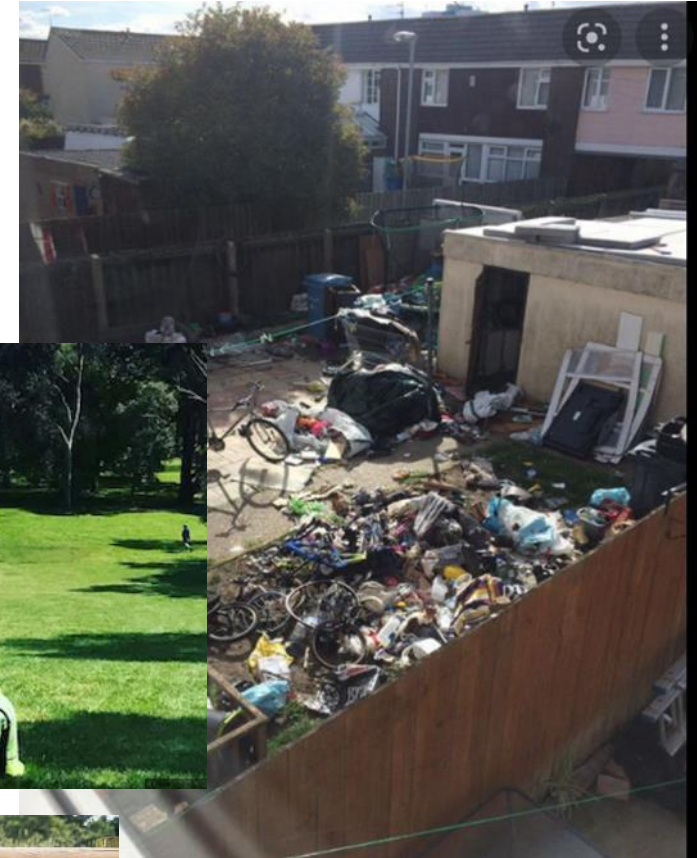
- NCC lead development of statutory North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- NCC to be accountable body for Borderlands Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme
- Explore implications of ecological emergency to further strengthen the Council's commitment to rural stewardship & demonstrate significant role of nature recovery in mitigating climate emergency
- Develop response to ecological emergency using new obligations under Environment Act 2021;
 - development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy;
 - strengthened duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity with a requirement to publish action plans and progress reports;
 - Linked to introduction biodiversity net gain via planning system.

LNRS ... suggest issues for OSC

- **Must** work with partners when preparing strategy
- **Clear**, single vision for nature recovery with solutions
- Build and strengthen **local partnerships**
- **Involve** those who own & manage the land

- **Transparency** – show how contributions have been considered
- **Inclusivity** – enable everyone with an interest to be involved
- **Clear communication** – avoid using jargon

4. Design & maintenance of places



[Business](#) [Havering Council](#) [News](#)

Man fined for messy garden.





Headlines for 2023-34

- Full audit of Green/Open Space underway – so new Local Plan, investment and “S106” can be used locally
- Explore potential for pilot of new grounds maintenance regimes to support nature recovery.
- Local design guides to be developed with PCs/TCs input
- New enforcement strategy adopted, benefits of revised Environmental Enforcement Board to be explored
- Development of Street Scene Strategy to make our streets and open spaces cleaner, greener and safer.
- Review of Tree and Woodland Strategy and Tree Management Policy
- Major capital programmes:- QEII Commemoration Schemes & Parks Improvement Schemes

5. A totally new approach to S106 “asks” on way

Local environmental improvements can include

- Provision/maintenance of flood prevention schemes
- Sport and recreation provision
- Open space + maintenance
- Community facilities & services;
- Measures to facilitate improvement in health/well-being
- Environmental improvement schemes
- Landscape improvement
- Restoration
- Mitigation of impact on designated habitats



Current consultation on replacement “tariff” based system

6. Waste Management & Recycling

Headlines for 2023-34

- **Hirst Project** – Improved containerisation of waste through provision of communal bin areas to remove the use of plastic sacks for collection of household waste.
- **Review of pilot schemes for kerbside glass recycling and food waste recycling** to inform design of new recycling new services in response to the Government Waste Strategy Review and Environment Act 2021.
- **Phased roll-out of new recycling services** - development of detailed business cases and service delivery proposals for roll-out of new kerbside recycling services for glass, mixed plastic packaging (pots, tubs and trays), cartons and food waste (subject to confirmation of funding arrangements by Government)
- **Review of HWRC service** in response to changes in the regulations and guidance regarding charges for DIY waste at Household Waste Recovery Centres

7. Coast and River Protection

Policy & Strategy

- Review of 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy'
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for new developments, new legislative approach expected 2024

Major capital programmes and projects:-

- Lynemouth Bay Waste Recovery Scheme
- Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme
- Next Generation Flood Resilience Project

. Questions

