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**Haringey Parks and Greenspaces strategy consultation November 2022***Draft response from Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth*

We support the vision, aims and proposed actions of the strategy and the associated detailed policies and action plans, and we especially welcome the emphases on climate action, biodiversity and inclusion. We also note the evidence of the health benefits of spending time in green (and blue) spaces.
But in some areas we would like to see Council doing more.

We support the aim of having **more open green spaces** in East of the borough. So we need to start by saving what we’ve got, protecting existing open spaces so they can be enhanced – with tree planting and more. For example, Dairy Fields on White Hart Lane and Acacia Avenue., both in N17, should be protected and conservation plans developed. The council should secure Fields in Trust protected status for more sites to protect them long-term.

**Rivers and water environment.** We support the Hornsey Wetlands Action Group proposal to return the filter beds to aquatic habitat. They used to support large numbers of invertebrates which in turn provided food for Daubenton’s Bats and House Martins (the latter a much-declining species). The Council should abandon proposals to develop this site and instead work with Thames Water and HWAG to enhance biodiversity.
We welcome the appointment of a Moselle Champion and hope this will enable more of this river to be deculverted and restored to habitat value. The Plan should also include more ponds and wetlands in parks.

**The Paddock**. The Council has been talking about Local Nature Reserve status for The Paddock for years. We understand that a Conservation Action Plan has now been prepared and so we would like LNR declaration to be made as soon as possible, and certainly as soon as the proposed major works are complete.

**Bruce Grove woodland** (The Cloud Garden). We note that this will remain a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). We support this and ask the Council to be more proactive in getting the site protected in reality and managed for nature. (see the Bruce Grove Cloud Garden proposal)

**Pinkham Way**. We welcome the recognition of its biodiversity value and argue that it should be uplifted to a Metropolitan level SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) and a plan drawn up to manage the site for nature. The threat of development withdrawn by removing employment land status in the new Haringey Plan.
We welcome the proposed **ten new SINCs** including the Armadale Green strip on the Ferry Lane estate.
We welcome the target to **create new open green space** but we think that 250m2 per year is a very small target for creating new open green space, equivalent to one parklet. We think Haringey can and should do better!
We welcome the ambitious plans to **increase tree canopy** cover in the east of the borough. The Council and partners need to consider the likelihood of future heat and drought in choosing the right species. It will also be important to involve community group, businesses and residents in well organised watering schemes to protect newly planted trees from drying out.

**Tree removal**. This should be a last resort, and where necessary to remove trees the trunks and larger boughs should be left on the nearest park or open space so that the carbon continue to be sequestered for a long time and a habitat for beetles, fungi and lichen etc is provided.

**Gardens** are also important habitat. The BAP should encourage residents with gardens to create ponds, plant for wildlife, install bug hotels, and bird boxes. We should also find ways to encourage and help people to take up and remove paving and decking, and through-ways between gardens to make our streets more hedgehog friendly. The council should also discourage the use of plastic grass. The priority for such efforts should be in areas where gardens can provide a be real corridor between larger green spaces. We note the Bee Streets programme in Waltham Forest as one model, which also helps reduce herbicide use.

**Lighting** – the council should ensure that street lights and other LED external lights are not harmful to wildlife by specifying/requiring the right types, and retrofitting filters to existing ones with priority to wildlife-sensitive areas eg alongside parks, woods, rivers.
It is high time that something was done about the huge light pollution that emanates from the from the lighting tower at the LUL depot at Tottenham Hale shining onto Tottenham Marshes and the River Lea.