

Local Plan options

The greater emphasis on the importance of tackling climate change and looking after our natural environment is very welcome.

I think it is important to stop the existing villages and towns from coalescing so would like to see local gaps retained but accept that finding sites to meet housing targets might be difficult so some minor adjustments might be acceptable. I would also prefer new developments to be limited in scale and dispersed around the area rather than on massive new sites in the countryside.

In recent years a number of developments have been approved in areas classified as countryside. These have often been where there has been rich and varied wildlife and the developments have made no attempt to redress the damage caused. I would like to see clear policies for creating and safeguarding routes to link sites of local importance to the statutory sites so that they can become green corridors for free movement of wildlife. In many cases these could also act as green walking and cycling routes so valued in the recent lockdown.

I think making green walking and cycling routes more attractive and within easy reach of where people live should be a priority for health and wellbeing.

During the recent lockdown grass verges were left longer between cuts allowing wildflowers to bloom. Recent development at Abbotswood has included a lot of indigenous planting which is low maintenance and good for wildlife I would like to see this lighter touch expanded to give nature a better chance to co-exist with us.

