



Climate and biodiversity committee

Planning considerations and aspirations for a more climate change resilient and biodiverse Faversham

Enhancement not just protection

- Prior to commencing works, all mitigating measures for protected species will have been implemented according to advice and guidance from the ecologist and or relevant statutory authorities.
- Developers to demonstrate how protected species will not only be kept safe but how the development will ensure long term survival of the species within the development footprint
- Existing natural assets retained within the development footprint, be they veteran trees, old hedgerows, or ponds should be incorporated into the landscape scheme. Carry out work to improve and conserve existing features and mitigate any impact from works.

Boundaries and Green buffers

- Create continuity and wildlife corridors by connecting new hedging with existing hedging and carrying out conservation repairs
- Create wild flower and grassland edges
- Where wild flowers are not deemed appropriate, provide pollinator friendly alternatives.
- Reduce or remove the use of pesticides where alternatives can be found.

- Planting should be native species and appropriately spaced for best chances of thriving

Hard boundaries and fencing

- Fences and walls to have hedgehog holes to allow small ground dwelling animals opportunity to move throughout the site. These holes should not be placed in boundary fencing that goes out onto a road.
- **Developers to consider the following features :**
- Nest sites for birds for example, swift bricks , housemartin houses, sparrow boxes.
- Installation of bee bricks
- Bat roost features
- Green roofs
- Bug hotels

Water sustainability

- Bioretention beds are designed to manage run off from impermeable surfaces and can be established with limited use of curbs
- Where possible (driveways etc) the surface should be permeable
- Consider the use of detention basins to mitigate flood risk
- Water butts to be installed and water used for gardens.
- Install rain gardens , small areas with free draining soil where water can collect and permeate more slowly.

Emerging Local Plan Policy

What do we expect from new developments? Swale expects all new developments to:

- 1. Consider green and blue infrastructure opportunities and

requirements at the earliest opportunity, taking into account existing natural environment and the most suitable locations and types of new provision;

- **2.** Be comprehensively integrated into the Green and Blue Infrastructure network (see the GBI map that follows) for both nature and humans;
- **3.** Have the principle of a 20% increase in biodiversity net gain at the heart of the design of the development;
- **4.** Link with the existing active travel network and provide for its expansion, to allow residents to safely walk and cycle around their neighbourhood and between their homes, work, services and facilities and transport hubs;
- **5.** Reflect the most up to date guidance and best practice;
- **6.** Have put in place the funding and administrative mechanisms for the sustainable management and maintenance of the green and blue infrastructure so that it is to provide benefits and services in the long term;
- **7.** Be designed, from the start, to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- **8.** Integrate landscape protection and enhancement into schemes, linking landscapes to green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity net gain;
- **9.** Seek to use natural resources, including agricultural land and water, prudently, find opportunities to improve the quality of our soils, air and water and reduce the risk of flooding; and
- **10.** Have the natural environment and climate change adaptation as a golden thread running through their development proposals.

Net Zero carbon

Faversham Neighbourhood plan steering group adopted the Net Zero Carbon Toolkit in October 2021. It will be included as an appendix in the emerging Neighbourhood plan .

You can read the whole document here:

Net Zero Carbon Toolkit (favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Government legislation

In January 2021 the Government announced a new target for all new build homes in the UK should :

- have high energy efficiency and low carbon heating to be carbon ready by 2025
- CO2 emissions from new build homes must be around 30% lower than current standards and emissions from other new buildings,

These regulations will be introduced from June 2022 and as a council we should actively question applicants on their commitments to these standards. As long as the building commences before June 2023, previous standards will be accepted but we should look to developers that are taking a forward look approach.