

Planning Committee

05 November 2021

Agenda item number 10

November Issues and Options Bitesize Pieces

Report by Planning Policy Officer

Summary

The review of the Local Plan for the Broads is underway. This report introduces some sections of the emerging draft Issues and Options stage of the Local Plan. These sections cover trees, woodland, shrubs and bushes.

Recommendation

Members' thoughts and comments on the draft section are welcomed.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The review of the Local Plan for the Broads is underway. The first document produced as part of the review of the Local Plan will be an Issues and Options consultation. As well as advertising that, we are reviewing the Local Plan. This stage identifies some issues and related options and seeks comments. Responses will inform the subsequent stages of the Local Plan.
- 1.2. This report introduces bite size pieces of the Issues and Options. Members will of course be presented with the final draft version of the Issues and Options to endorse it for consultation at a later Planning Committee.
- 1.3. The bite size piece covers trees, woodland, shrubs and bushes and is attached as appendices to this report. Members' views on this draft section of the Issues and Options are welcomed.

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Date of report: 20 October 2021

Appendix 1 – [Trees, woodland, bushes and shrubs.](#)



**Local Plan for the Broads - Review
Issues and options bitesize pieces
November 2021**

Trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs

The following is one of the draft sections of the Issues and Options. It relates to trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs. Members' thoughts are welcomed as we finalise this section of the Issues and Options.

Introduction

Trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs are an integral part of the Broads landscape and add great beauty, a sense of place and character to, and are a defining feature of the Broads Authority Executive Area. Trees and woodlands enhance the landscape and provide important landmarks, complementing the natural and built environment by providing screening, perspective, focal points, privacy and seclusion and they define and separate public open spaces. They also provide habitats for an exceptional range of wildlife and form a "carbon sink" helping to absorb and store and counteract the harmful effect of climate change.

We are also aware that in some locations, trees may not be welcomed due to the impacts on navigation and indeed, some areas of the Broads have a character that is open, giving vast views.

What the NPPF says

The NPPF at paragraph 131 says 'trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users'.

Issue

On occasion, trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs are affected by development.

We do already have policy DM13, which is a Natural Environment policy and DM8 that relates to Green Infrastructure.

We wonder if a policy on trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs will further the Authority's aim to preserve the variety, number and quality of trees and woodland within the Broads

Authority Executive Area and to ensure that development contributes to the maintenance or enhancement of the tree and woodland cover of the Broads.

Options

1: No specific policy. Rely on DM8 and DM13.

2: Amend policies DM8 and DM13 to include a greater emphasis on trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs.

3: Have a new policy on the subject of trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs. This would include protection and maintenance of existing trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs and also new.

Question x: Do you have any thoughts on trees, woodlands, hedges and shrubs and how we address these in the Local Plan?