

neighbourhood plans

From: bill coulson [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2017 19:43
To: neighbourhood plans
Subject: Support for Clennon Valley as a Green Space

Senders address: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir /Madam

Neighbourhood Plans

I am a recently retired individual and have become one of the volunteer Friends of Clennon Lakes. **Therefore I wish to support the designation of Clennon Valley as a Local Green Space (LGS) in accordance with the proposals in the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan** and wish to express my concern and dismay that the proposed designation has been objected to by the Torbay Development Agency on behalf of Torbay Council.

Clennon Valley has for many years been a place of recreation, sport and an important site for wildlife. The Valley has been designated a County Wildlife site by Devon Wildlife Trust. It is notable for the mammal, bird and insect species found within the designated boundaries. The site undoubtedly fulfils the criteria for designation as an LGS in other respects namely its beauty and tranquility, the site also provides a very important green corridor leading up from the coast and almost links the countryside to the West of Paignton Zoo.

I have seen just how important this area is for birds. The area has provided for Torbay's first Breeding Firecrest, our only breeding site for Tufted Duck (a scarce/rare breeding bird in Devon). It also provides Torbay's only regular wintering site for good numbers of Snipe, Woodcock, Teal, Gadwall, Shoveler, Water Rail and Cetti's Warbler. It also acts as an important pocket habitat for passing national scarce species such as Bittern.

Dusky Warblers, Yellow Browed Warblers and Grasshopper Warblers, all rare birds.

, have been observed passing through or over-wintering in the Valley.

The Clennon Valley has a chequered history, the lower valley once being a mixed marshland/low lying area with saltmarsh at the Goodrington end (now under a carpark – sadly) then used as a landfill tip, then converted to playing fields, with recreational ponds dug which now provide a rare valuable wetland habitat with large common Reed bed and open water not found anywhere else in Torbay. The upper fields leading up to Roselands provide beautiful open fields overlooking Torbay with good populations of important invertebrates including Brown Argus Butterfly, Brown Hairstreak and Marbled White Butterfly. This area is well used by local residents.

The central valley leads up to Paignton Zoo's nature trail this extensive woodland is a good mix of mature deciduous trees and limestone caves which provide roosts for both Greater Horseshoe and Lesser Horseshoe bats. Although this area lacks public access it still deserves full and higher level protection from any future development that the LGS provides.

Planning applications for Clennon Valley have come and gone over the years some failing to go ahead but other have been approved, these have all gradually eaten away at this green public land. As a resident of Paignton I would like to see strong permanent protection that this area deserves in accordance with the proposed Local Green Space in the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan.

I fully support the inclusion of the designation of Clennon Valley as a local Greenspace as proposed by the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan **and I do not support the objections previously raised by the council and Torbay Development Agency.**

Yours Faithfully

Bill Coulson

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