

## neighbourhood plans

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**From:** Mike Langman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 November 2017 14:22  
**To:** neighbourhood plans  
**Subject:** Paignton Neighbourhood Plans

Senders address: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir /Madam

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 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 important site for wildlife value (designated County Wildlife site by Devon Wildlife Trust) with notable mammal and bird species found within the designated boundaries. The site undoubtedly fulfils the criteria for designation as an LGS in other respects, beauty, tranquillity, the site also provides a green corridor leading up from the coast and almost links the countryside to the West of Paignton Zoo.

As a keen Birdwatcher that has for many years submitted records for the area to Devon Birds (also held by Devon Biodiversity centre) 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.

The 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 do not support the objections previously raised by the council and Torbay Development Agency.

Yours Faithfully

Mike Langman

As an individual and as Chairman of Friends of Clennon Lakes