

Environment policies

In no order of priority, the main issues we feel should be included into the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

Natural Environment:

1. Strategic gaps to be safeguarded, ensuring the villages which make up Southbourne are clearly defined, and to ensure good habitat for flora and fauna.
2. Surveys to be done of trees, hedges, habitats, flight paths – not just of what is currently in situ, but what could be encouraged to thrive.
3. Tree planting to be instigated, for all new development, either as linear woodland or cluster copses. Orchards to be retained. Trees to be 90% indigenous, 10% semi-indigenous.
4. Green spaces to be implemented – play areas, relaxation areas, safe and secure but accessible to all. Houses could be built to overlook green spaces, as with a village green.
5. Create green and blue corridors for wildlife and tamed life – e.g. Dog walking trail and path. Re-establish drainage ditches to create waterway in residential area, educational and to attract wildlife. Also investigate Nutbourne Mill pond.

Built Environment:

1. All new developments to demonstrate a high level of sustainability in design and construction; the NP would expect developers would construct to a BREEAM 'very good' standard.
2. Light pollution to be reduced – e.g. by reducing lighting for car traffic and increasing for foot traffic.
3. Building and landscape to be sensitively designed to alleviate water and flooding problems, rather than adding to them. Hard surfaces should be of permeable materials.
4. Rainwater and grey water harvesting to be encouraged, installation of green roofs to dissipate rainwater run off.
5. Preference to north-south facing new buildings, renewable energy opportunities to be included in all new buildings.
6. The SNDP would expect all developers to engage with the existing community at an early stage to ensure that the new housing is embedded rather than imposed.
7. SNDP will expect any development to be designed with thought and care to compliment its unique location within Southbourne, to be site specific not generic.