

Proposed Amendment to **Motion to Declare a Nature Emergency and Accelerate Nature Recovery in Hastings**

Proposed by: Cllr Amanda Jobson

Seconded by: TBC

Insert the following before the final paragraph of the current motion:

‘In order to protect and restore nature in Hastings Borough, this council cannot ignore The Planning and Infrastructure Bill, currently making its way through Parliament. This Bill proposes changes to our planning system which would allow developers to effectively ‘buy’ their way out of site-specific environmental obligations towards protected features and species by paying into a central ‘Nature Restoration Fund’ instead. The Bill also removes the option for Planning Committees to hear applications as triggered by objections from residents (currently, the trigger is set at five or more in Hasting Borough, according to our Constitution).

It is this council’s belief that, in its current form, the Planning & Infrastructure Bill presents a threat to our much-loved and needed local natural habitats in Hastings Borough and greatly reduces the ability for residents to democratically participate in local development planning.

The Wildlife & Countryside Link, supported by [CPRE](#), have proposed [amendments for the Planning and Infrastructure Bill](#), asserting that we should not have to choose between much-needed affordable housing development and nature recovery.

Furthermore, East Sussex County Council have passed a motion to lobby Government to amend the Bill and ensure protections for nature sites across the county ([read ESCC Briefing notes](#)).

This council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Angela Rayner MP and Baroness Taylor of Stevenage to request substantial amendments to the Bill to improve protection and regeneration of nature, such as those put forward by Wildlife & Countryside Link, and assurance that Hastings Borough’s nature protected sites remain fully protected;
- Write to our local MP asking her to support amendments to the Bill that address the concerns outlined above and, in the event that the Bill remains substantially the same, call on our MP to vote against its adoption on the grounds that it will set back nature recovery whilst also failing to help deliver the affordable or social housing our residents so badly need.