

Central Hertfordshire Green Corridor Group

Heritage - Ecology - Access - Development - Green Belt

The Central Hertfordshire Green Corridor Group (CHGCG)

Notice of a Public Meeting

To be held on **23rd February 2017** starting at **7pm** at the
Old Riding School, Hatfield House

The Central Hertfordshire Green Corridor Group (CHGCG) was formed to promote the benefits of the vital east-west green corridor through Hertfordshire.

The Group is not against development and fully accepts the need for local housing but delivering this housing must be sustainable. It also strongly believes that placement of housing must be well planned and thought out. To this aim the group will provide specialist focus and advice on Heritage, Ecology, Access, Development and Green Belt issues and promote the valuable contribution the corridor provides towards ecosystem services and movement of wildlife on a large scale.



Over the past year since our first public meeting that was attended by over 100 people the CHGCG has been assessing the value of the strategic green corridor north of the A414 between Stanborough and Hertford. The group also understands the importance of extending the corridor both east and west and is working towards this aim. Several reports have been published since the first meeting and the group has met with both local authorities to raise the following issues.

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The Group's focus is to:

- Raise public awareness of the sustainable opportunities and benefits generated by a well-planned green corridor and its role in facilitating ecosystem services.
- Ensure that wildlife has a wide enough corridor so that it can move freely through countryside, towns and villages as it adapts to climate change.
- Promote and lobby for improvements to the green corridor within planning authorities and councils including access.
- Engage with landowners and developers on an individual and landscape/corridor wide scale.
- Respond to development proposals as appropriate.
- Identify projects that collectively maintain and enhance the benefits of the green corridor.
- Identify the important and historic heritage assets within the corridor and understand their importance within the surrounding landscape to ensure they are retained for future generations.
- Share specialist knowledge with other like-minded countryside organizations and wildlife groups and improve communications.

“If you would like to hear more about our plans and receive an update on our studies we are holding an evening event and presentation starting at 7 pm on 23rd February 2017 at the Old Riding School, Hatfield House, AL9 5HX”.

Getting to the venue

Parking for evening events is available through Georges Gate, opposite the Citroen Garage on the A1000. The venue will be signposted from the entrance, for Sat Nav please use AL9 5HX

Key issues on wildlife and heritage but there is so much more

- The mass development proposed around the south and eastern edge of Welwyn Garden City could see around 4000 homes built on the arable land surrounding, The Commons, Thistle Grove and south of Panshanger on the arable land of Birchall Farm and the grassland of Panshanger Airfield.
- The farmland west of Hertford around Panshanger Park is also proposed for development. The combined development will have dramatic negative impacts on many local species and the historic landscape settings of Panshanger and Hatfield Estates.

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- The housing as proposed will block the free movement of wildlife through the green corridor.
- The housing will destroy the landscape that exists today that was formed by the retreat of the ice at the end of the last ice age. A landscape that is steeped in heritage and has a lineage of habitation that goes back to when Neolithic man farmed the arable ridge of the Commons.
- A green corridor should flourish to provide the crucial ecosystem services for the well-being of local people for such things as access to countryside, natural recycling of organic waste and conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen amongst other things
- The former landfill site of Cole Green is proposed to be formalized as mitigation for the construction of Birchall Garden Suburb. What does the developer propose for breeding skylarks, grey partridge, and linnets? What will happen to the ten species of bats recorded in several parts of the corridor that use the ancient hedgerows and woodlands linking to the surrounding landscape?
- What is proposed for the polecats, harvest mice, badgers and farmland birds that use wide open arable areas and surrounding landscape including woodlands and grassland when all the arable is covered with houses?
- There are scores of other red listed and protected species not being considered that will be affected.
- How does the developer propose to deal with the unregulated and toxic materials deposited in the former landfill site of Cole Green from the 1920s through to the 1980s that currently form the 20 meter high artificial hill over 100s of hectares.
- How does the developer propose to deal with the leachate that has been seeping from the site for many years into local water courses that feed into the River Lea to the south?
- Who will buy a house with a landfill site at the bottom of the garden?
- There is so much more, so come and have your say on the 23rd of February. It will be the last opportunity for you to make your voice heard before the government inspector reviews the local plans proposed by Welwyn Hatfield Council and East Herts Council later this summer.

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