06 September 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1012/17

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request/Response:

This freedom of information request relates to an evaluation of the conditions for biodiversity and to what degree those conditions have been maintained and improved since the Core Strategy was adopted in July 2011. The questions relate to clause e of Policy CS21.

Policy CS21 --- The natural environment

Development should be appropriate to the landscape character type within which it is situated and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration, or the creation of appropriate new features.

The quality and diversity of the natural environment of Rutland will be conserved and enhanced. Conditions for biodiversity will be maintained and improved……

All developments, projects and activities will be expected to:

e) Maximise opportunities for the restoration, enhancement and connection of ecological or geological assets, particularly in line with the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan;

The questions relate to the LPA securing opportunities to enhance biodiversity and maintain the landscape through the development control process i.e. the implementation of clause e.

1. Is Rutland County Council intending to issue planning guidance, alongside its review of the Local Plan, to ensure opportunities for ecological assets are maximised? How, and by when?

   Answer: No

2. How does the Development Control Section of Rutland County Council judge whether a planning application has ‘maximised opportunities to restore, enhance and connect ecological assets’?
3. Since 2011, how many major or minor developments have contributed to the enhancement of ecological assets in accordance with the Leicestershire and Rutland LBAP? How is this quantified?

Answer: Rutland County Council does not hold this information.

4. How are these opportunities recognised and maximised? Please describe the mechanism and examples of where this has happened.

Answer: Rutland County Council does not hold this information.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council