

What is the Green infrastructure Strategy?

It's a strategy that aims to identify projects to improve green spaces and water based places in the District. It's a mix of big ideas and smaller community based projects, short term and longer term initiatives.

One of the key aspects of the Strategy is to provide a wide range of open spaces for communities to use. The projects seek to provide for the needs of local residents for places to walk and enjoy the outdoors including by rivers and canals; children's play space including wilder places to play; and help the District's contribution to dealing with the declared climate change emergency in providing space for wildlife, and more trees to capture carbon and provide shade.

How does it relate to existing green spaces?

It's about improving existing green spaces and also about providing alternative new green spaces to take the pressure away from important ecological sites in the District. This includes Epping Forest – the idea is that the new open spaces will relieve the visitor pressure on the Forest and other important natural places and help them to survive and regenerate the plant, insect and wildlife that relies on them. Some of these new spaces are part of the proposals for new housing developments in the District.

What are these new and improved spaces to be used for?

An important part of the whole strategy is about multi use or multi functional spaces so they can be good for a number of purposes like children's play, dog walking, running routes, and help with reducing the carbon in the atmosphere through carbon capture via planting trees and other vegetation.

Why are you asking for the public to input?

The strategy is about meeting the needs of residents for attractive outdoor spaces so it makes sense that anyone who might use them should have a say about how they might be designed or where they could be. The Council is keen to hear from the public about their ideas about the new spaces that are being introduced, and other project ideas

for Green Infrastructure in the District. Indeed, you might know of a space that could be improved or put to better use, or live close to where a new public space is going to be provided.

Who else are you asking to input?

As well as anyone who lives in the District we are asking some key partners to let us know what they think like Natural England and the Conservators of Epping Forest as well as Parish and Town Councils, Neighbourhood Plan Groups and societies that operate within the District.

When is the consultation?

It runs from 4 June 2020 to 16 July 2020 at 5pm

How do I give the Council my views?

There is an online survey on the website

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/greeninfrastructurestrategy, or you can download the form to print, complete it and return to the address on the form.