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**Sandra Hutchings**

**From:** Lisa Turner - EEC |  
**Sent:** 09 December 2011 12:03  
**To:** DPD  
**Subject:** GI Plan consultation  
**Attachments:** GI Plan consultation Dec 2011.doc

Please find attached a short response from the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership.

My apologies if my comments arise from not having fully digested all of the documentation!

Regards, Lisa  
<<GI Plan consultation Dec 2011.doc>>

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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING CONSULTATION

RESPONSE FORM

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Response by:

Mrs Lisa Turner  
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*Sections, policies or paragraph numbers that comments refer to:*

1. Section 3: Strategy and delivery plan – para 1.3 Strategic Objectives.
2. Section 2: GI Assessment.

*State why you are objecting to or supporting the specified parts of the document:*

1. We support the detail of the strategic objectives listed under paragraph 1.3 as being appropriate and comprehensive. However, the documentation does not provide a sense of a strategic approach to GI management, and with some of the aspects highlighted in the objectives it is not clear to us how these will be achieved through policies, for example point 2 of objective 1, point 1 of objective 2 and point 3 of objective 3.

One such example of a GI project is the proposal to develop a multi-user route between Hemyock and Willand, using the former railway line, and linking to the existing cycle route beyond. This offers opportunities for green tourism/leisure, alternative sustainable travel (to school for example), links to Tiverton Parkway and the Grand Western Canal, and health and well-being benefits. This is the sort of strategic project with wide benefits – geographic and functional – that could be specifically highlighted, or least be clarified how such aspirations may be achieved through the GI Plan for the district.

2. It is positive that the GI resource in rural areas has been assessed and deficiencies identified, however we are not convinced that the presence of GI in a catchment equates to accessibility/usability of that resource for multiple benefits. For example an area may score well by being rich in biodiversity sites and habitats, but this will be largely not relevant in a practical sense to local people's daily lives. Also, a village may be close to a large area of open access land but not well connected to it by public rights of way, or be inaccessible to many due to terrain.

*Please notify me when the Council adopts the document.*

