

CIL

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SUMMARISED:



Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule – Form for Representations

Please enter your personal details below

	Personal Details	Agent Details (if applicable)
Title	Mr	
First Name	Justin	
Last Name	Milward	
Job Title	Regional & Local Policy Officer	
Organisation	Woodland Trust	
Address 1	Jayrise	
Address 2	Butcombe	
Address 3	Bristol	
Address 4		
Post Code	BS40 7UT	
Telephone		
Email		
Signature		

Representations on the draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule should relate to either the level of the charge or its variance across Mid Devon, or to the supporting evidence.

What aspect of the draft CIL Charging Schedule does this representation relate to? (Fill in one box).

Paragraph	Paragraph 2.10
Omission, General, Other (please specify)	Support/Object

Please explain below why this part of the draft CIL Charging Schedule is incorrect or inappropriate

The Woodland Trust supports paragraph 2.10 stating that green infrastructure generally – but which should also include trees and woodland specifically – is eligible funding items in accordance with both local and national policy. We note that the final Green Infrastructure Plan will influence CIL provision.

- The CIL regulations cite the definition of infrastructure in the **Planning Act 2008**, section 216, specifying that 'open spaces' and 'flood defences' are eligible items for CIL.
- The **National Policy Planning Framework** clearly states: '*Local planning authorities should: set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of*

biodiversity and green infrastructure (DCLG, March 2012, para 114).

- The Government's just published **Independent Panel on Forestry** states: Recommendation: *'Planning policy and practice should:.... Encourage local authorities to look creatively, and across boundaries, at the use of S106 agreements, biodiversity off-sets and particularly the Community Infrastructure Levy. These levers could produce greenspace schemes, including trees and woodland, that make a significant difference to the landscape as a whole'*. Defra, Final Report, July 2012).
- The Woodland Trust believes that woodland creation is especially important for green infrastructure because of the unique ability of woodland to deliver across a wide range of ecosystems services benefits – see our publication **Woodland Creation – why it matters** (<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/about-us/publications/Pages/ours.aspx>). These include for both landscape and biodiversity (helping habitats become more robust to adapt to climate change, buffering and extending fragmented ancient woodland), for quality of life and climate change (amenity & recreation, public health, flood amelioration, urban cooling) and for the local economy (timber and woodfuel markets).
- The new **England Biodiversity Strategy** makes it clear that expansion of priority habitats like native woodland remains a key aim – *'Priority action: Bring a greater proportion of our existing woodlands into sustainable management and expand the area of woodland in England'* (*Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystems services*, DEFRA 2011, p.26).
- In a letter to all Local Authorities calling for support for the Government's National Tree Planting Campaign ('The Big Tree Plant'), the **Environment Minister Caroline Spelman** has extolled the many virtues of trees: *'Trees offer so many benefits to our citizens. They capture carbon and hold soils together, prevent flooding and help control our climate. They also add immeasurably to our quality of life by making areas more attractive and healthier places to live. In recent years the number of trees being planted annually across the country has declined, and could decrease further, unless action is taken to reverse this trend'* (letter to all Local Authorities, 12th November 2010).
- An important publication from the Forestry Commission, **The Case for Trees in development and the urban environment** (Forestry Commission, July 2010), sets out *'The multiple value of trees for people and places – increasing greenspace and tree numbers is likely to remain one of the most effective tools for making urban areas more convivial'*, and lists (on p.10) the benefits as –
 - Climate change contributions
 - Environment advantages
 - Economic dividends
 - Social benefits.

Please explain, as clearly as possible, how the draft CIL Charging Schedule should be altered to make it correct or appropriate

We therefore support this document in paragraph 2.10 in making it clear that green infrastructure is eligible for CIL, and are objecting only in respect that it would read even better if this included a specific reference to trees and woodland also being eligible.

If you are unsatisfied with the supporting evidence to the draft CIL Charging Schedule please explain, as clearly as possible, why the evidence is unsatisfactory

Please indicate whether you:

No Wish to appear at the Examination

Yes Wish to be notified that the draft charging schedule has been submitted to the Examiner in accordance with section 212 the Planning Act 2008

Yes Wish to be notified of the publication of the recommendations of the Examiner and the reasons for those recommendations

Yes Wish to be notified of the adoption of the charging schedule by the charging authority.

Please return completed forms to Programme Officer, Forward Planning, Mid Devon District Council, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton EX16 6PP or email to programmeofficer@middevon.gov.uk

Data Protection Act. Please note that this information on this form will be entered onto a database and the paper copies retained on file. The information will be used for the purposes of Town and Country Planning and may be viewed by any person for such purposes.

The text of the draft CIL Charging Schedule and the supporting evidence can be seen on the Council's website at www.middevon.gov.uk/cil