

APPENDIX KJ1 : PINHOE PETITION

Democratic Services, Exeter City Council 14April21:

PROTECT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN PINHOE / PETITION ACCEPTED

INTRO TEXT >

Higher Field at the top of the village is not only a hub for local wildlife and biodiversity, it is an important connection point as a wildlife corridor. The Pinhoe Ridgeline connects us to the woodland skyline.

PETITION >

We the undersigned petition the council to safeguard Pinhoe's natural landscape and skyline, urgently to protect our historic hedgerows and trees, and to recognise these wildlife habitats are essential to our community wellbeing and quality of life, as intrinsic features of our local distinctiveness and character.

We call for formal protection of Higher Field as open green space vital to our community and the diversity of local wildlife, and for robust protection of its critical landscape position as part of the Pinhoe Ridgeline connecting to northern Exeter's distinctive woodland skyline, visible across the city. We call for protection and funded repair of wildlife habitats across Pinhoe within Exeter City Council's strategic vision for Liveable Exeter and the corporate plan to "tackle congestion and accessibility, promoting active and healthy lifestyles and building great neighbourhoods".

This ePetition ran from 14/04/2021 to 09/06/2021 and has now finished.
2201 people signed this ePetition.

APPENDIX KJ1a : PINHOE PETITION / THRESHOLD FOR COUNCIL DEBATE > PRESENTATION to EXETER CITY COUNCIL by Kate Jago, 21st JULY 2021

Democratic Services, Exeter City Council 24June21:

Subject: PROTECT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN PINHOE

"I can confirm that having combined the paper and electronic versions and removed duplicate signatories and those that do not have an Exeter postcode, that the total number of signatories on the petition is 2032.

I confirm that you have passed the threshold of having obtained 2,000 signatures and therefore will be able to formally present the petition with five minutes to do that, and then the matter will be debated by Members of Council for up to 15 minutes. The Councillors will decide how to respond to the Petition at this meeting.

I also wished to confirm that due to ongoing social distancing restrictions, the Council meeting has been moved to the Corn Exchange with a change in the date to Wednesday 21 July at 6.00pm"

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL written and presented by Kate Jago:
also published: <http://pinhoe.org/pinhoes-petition/>

"Thank you Lord Mayor, for the opportunity to speak today.

I'd like to thank the Council for its time and attention* and Council officers for their guidance and advice in running the petition. Thank you all for your individual and collective contribution and commitment to local democracy at this time of climate emergency.

This petition is in front of you as the result of extractive models of development which have hollowed out green infrastructure in Pinhoe. We are asking for the Council's cross-party support for a transformative community-led vision for Pinhoe and for the city's Northern Hills, to protect wellbeing, wildlife and wildspaces not only for Pinhoe but for the whole of Exeter, connecting our vital Nature Recovery Network across the city and beyond.

When the parish of Pinhoe joined Exeter in 1966, it embraced its new role as city suburb. Rural farming fields gave way to development – slowly at first, but with gathering speed.

Pinhoe has played an important part in the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point area: hosting the Met Office and bordering the Science Park as part of the joint strategy for adjacent development. Substantial housing developments weave through and wrap around our village alongside all the accompanying traffic, business and educational infrastructure.

We recognise the city's efforts to contextualise development while under sustained pressure from successive government targets. But I'm here today because those protections have failed. And the consequences are cascading towards collapse.

More than 1500 cars an hour pass through the centre of Pinhoe during peak times. The traffic strategy for Pinhoe is on the brink of collapse. Change must come.

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* Inspired by WHY REBEL, this is an adapted quote from Jay Griffiths' "Regina vs Me"

APPENDIX KJ1a : PINHOE PETITION / PRESENTATION to EXETER CITY COUNCIL by Kate Jago, 21st JULY 2021 (cont.)

Meanwhile, historic sunken lanes are breached; footpaths and rights of way removed and degraded; important landmark trees are vulnerable, isolated from the context of their landscape; wildlife corridors are being decimated. It's death by a thousand cuts.

So here's the good news!

In neighbouring East Devon, the ambitious Clyst Valley Regional Park has widespread public support, successfully bid for major funding and is woven through their councils' strategic objectives. With well-defined networks of greenspaces, environmental sustainability, plus local and national collaboration established as core values, it's a wonderful model.

We know our Council has challenged government guidelines where it can and officers have sought to balance the impossible demands not only in Pinhoe, but across the city. And we're heartened by the Council's recent support for Pinhoe Ridge at Higher Field.

This is our vision:

- To establish a "natural asset network" of historic lanes, public greenspaces, footpaths and bridleways to be placed at the core of a new community-led approach to create a resilient, sustainable active travel area in Pinhoe. This 'community asset' strategy could open new avenues of funding and infrastructure investment.
- For the Pinhoe Area Access Strategy to be revisited and completely revised in this context, identifying pollution hotspots, developing community-led solutions and placing the wellbeing of our community directly within Exeter's corporate strategy to "tackle congestion and accessibility, promote active healthy lifestyles and great neighbourhoods". Support from Exeter City Council could be foundational for our community request for review.

This petition also marks the beginning of our campaign for the NORTHERN HILLS, an iconic part of the city's skyline, to be protected as the city's new Ridgeline Park:

We ambitiously propose a connection to the city's green circle of Valley Parks at Mincinglake and to the Clyst Valley Regional Park at Poltimore, to create an extensive, ambitious Nature Recovery Network in line with Natural England's national project. It could also extend into Somerset via the Two Counties Way.

Underpinning the sense of place for both Pinhoe and Beacon Heath, this project would protect wildlife and wildspaces not only for these communities but for the whole of Exeter, connecting a walkable Nature Recovery Network across the city and beyond.

Building from the petition to create our community-led vision for connection across the city, this is our PROJECT OF HOPE, founded on practical potential and demonstrating social and environmental value to all of Exeter.

Thank you."

APPENDIX KJ1b : PINHOE PETITION / > PRESENTATION to EXETER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE by Kate Jago, 21st JULY 2021 / 1

Democratic Services, Exeter City Council Friday 6th August 2021:

Subject: PETITION TO PROTECT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN PINHOE

As you know it was agreed that the petition would be referred to the forthcoming meeting of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 23rd September which will take place at the Guildhall and commence at 5.30pm. Members will have before them a note that will be circulated with the agenda so that they will be able to further debate the matter.

You are invited to speak as the petition organiser for 5 minutes just before members begin to discuss the matter but then you would have no further opportunity to contribute to the meeting.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL written and presented by Kate Jago:

also published: <http://pinhoe.org/petition-strategic-scrutiny/>

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak today and respectful of the expertise of this committee. I'm also grateful to my local councillor David Harvey who advised me to be myself, to focus on the petition and to only ask the council to do what the council can do.

As a systems convener, I'm interested in bringing people together across social and commercial interests to generate collective solutions to complex, systemic challenges. Like this.

Green infrastructure in Pinhoe has been deteriorating over time and the network it provides for nature and wildlife is collapsing.

I can quote the Treeconomics Survey, commissioned by Exeter City Council, that shows Pinhoe has the lowest tree canopy cover in the city. And I can show you the Devon hedgerows brimming with biodiversity, full of trees and wildlife, running along key routes through Pinhoe – hedgerows that come to an abrupt halt, where they have been removed and reduced to a single plant in a single pot standing alongside the developer's advertising boards.

As a community in Pinhoe, we've been watching this happen with increasing anxiety; we're not alone. We've been contacted by groups devastated by the scale of wildlife loss in their area. Many are looking for inspiration and most, quite frankly, are looking for hope.

So here it is:

I present to you our idea for a Ridgeline Park to protect the distinctive landscape of the Northern Hills and connect across the city and beyond. This Ridgeline Park would make so many connections – not only to the city's Valley Parks at Mincinglake by extending the Green Circle walk, but reaching all the way across to the Greater Exeter area at Poltimore, Cranbrook and the Clyst Valley Park. And beyond, through the Two Counties Way, to Somerset.

We see a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to safeguard local green spaces for local people to encounter local wildlife, with all the wellbeing benefits that brings.

There's an amazing network of green spaces across Exeter which could track so many routes to connect everything in the most amazing resource for the whole city. >>

APPENDIX KJ1b : PINHOE PETITION / > PRESENTATION to EXETER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE by Kate Jago, 21st JULY 2021 / 2

It develops the narrative of Exeter's Garden City status in the most powerful way, enhancing the Council's reputation for its regional ambition and directional policymaking, notwithstanding the challenges of government planning directives.

Importantly, it would shift the Council's narrative from growing the city, to building a city that thrives.

What can the Council do?

Local landowners need new policy frameworks to explore carbon offsetting and other nature recovery investment models. The expertise is out there and Natural England has already begun this process.

Local Plan consultations need new models of mapping and protecting green infrastructure to recharge the sense of civic participation.

Council can develop new models for community housing: local housing for local people, alongside the Liveable Exeter and Net Zero plans. Integrating conversations with developers in a local conversation.

This sort of community wealth-building approach is gaining momentum nationally. Exeter City Council has the opportunity to lead our city at this moment, as it builds the new Local Plan and looks to reimagine relationships with our neighbours across the Greater Exeter area.

The Ridgeline Park project achieves all these objectives.

The World Health organisation announced yesterday that it has halved its recommended guideline limits for particulate pollution. I suggest to this committee that there are many roads in Exeter which would fail this limit multiple times on a daily basis. The climate crisis is also a crisis of our wellbeing.

From Pinhoe, we urge you to create change. To begin the process of priority and policy that can uniquely shape this city in a new direction that will protect our green infrastructure. We want to work with the Council to create this PROJECT OF HOPE, beginning with the Northern Hills, founded on practical potential, demonstrating social and environmental value to all of Exeter. “

Thank you / Kate Jago