

1. The development will make a difference to Carr Dike after rainfall and also when no rainfall, how will this be dealt with?

This is linked to flood defence and drainage. New developments have to comply with a drainage strategy. There is a requirement to hold back drainage. This is within the site policy that main drainage has to contribute to biodiversity. It is aimed to have a wetland feature and habitat as part of enhancements to the site. For peak flows and normal rain events, it should be less not more.

2. Two recent ecological surveys that I have experienced in local planning applications have been 'desk based'. Will desk based surveys play a part in this Masterplan?

Desk based surveys play a part. The ecologists commissioned have to obtain all sorts of data sets. This has also included working closely with RSPB with the commissions. They have been a combination of desk and field based. They have to look at whats mobile, plants, water voles, birds, bats, what moves from area to another.

3. Light affects local wildlife, how will this be addressed? And can you talk about the mention of golden plover?

Bats do not want their roosts illuminating. We require ecologists to find out if there are bat roosts, so its either protect or move them. We require developers to put in specific plans how they will not illuminate - for example Carr Dike, requiring a plan of what will be illuminated on the ground. With regards to the Golden Plover, over last couple of years we have commissioned two assessments, and it hasn't been proved that they use the site area in significant numbers.

4. I'm pleased that you want to increase wildlife but it's very hard to see how this will be the case with new road, transport and loss of land - can you talk it through please? I'm also concerned that there is talk of anything that can't be maintained is ok as long as it is replaced somewhere else - that won't help us in this area.

There is a new initiative called Biodiversity Net Gain, which must leave wildlife/habitat land measurably better off than before the development started. Ecologists put a value of 'biodiversity units', this relates to habitats, woodland/wetland etc. The total gain in terms of overall habitats and quality needs to be not less than 10%. This may require negotiations with land owners to obtain mitigations off site to achieve this.

- 5. There was mention of keeping trees and hedges, can you tell us about the % that will be kept? Where the roundabout will be, there is a patch of woodland, will the roundabout remove all these?**

The new access, will not remove all the woodland. It is plantation woodland which is located in that area. It does not have a very high ecological value and what is lost will be replaced. For areas lost, it will not be less, it will be replaced. Hedgerows are separate losses and these will be replaced, with similar length and type.

- 6. Were the lighting requirements the case when Aldi was built?**

The requirements for lighting at the Aldi distribution centre were based on policy at the time the application was determined. The Council did not have a Biodiversity Officer at that time and the risks of external lighting to, for example, bat species was not realised then.

- 7. Is it accepted that humans also like Green space and to see or be aware of wildlife? It sounds like the local residents will lose this.**

The new initiative will deliver a lot of biodiversity net gain, it will not be lost. The site will be enhanced, providing opportunity for ecological improvement of the site. Please see information about the Dearne Valley Green Heart, question 9.

- 8. If there are to be trees planted as part of any screening or to replace any lost would these be of a similar type rather than number?**

Any developer would have to provide information, advising of the plantations condition. Generally the plantation is larger and they would have to manage the woodland, which can result in a larger woodland.

- 9. There was talk yesterday of Dearne Green something - I'm a Dearne resident but don't know about it, can you tell us about it please?**

The council is 1 member of the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership. In 2006 the partnership was formed. It covers parts of Barnsley/Doncaster/Rotherham, a huge area – a key stakeholder is the RSPB, and with other key stakeholders (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust etc) work together for the benefit of the community and wildlife. It is about wildlife/habitat, linking very much with members of the community working together and to enable the community to have access to the Dearne Valley, improving wetland, woodlands and much more.

10. It is interesting to see biodiversity and ecology taking such a prominent place in the Masterplan but I do have concerns that economics will trump ecology and that plans for replacement hedgerows and trees may be conveniently forgotten as the plan matures. What powers do BMBC have to ensure your heartfelt commitments to us today actually take place?

It is about complying with our own policies. When the masterplan framework is adopted, the planning applications will follow and they will have to follow the masterplan framework policy. The planning conditions can be used, to ensure any developer does comply with policy. Biodiversity net gain is about not destroying very valuable habitats. For example, with regard to bats, there would be avoidance and mitigation. Its about providing more habitat than beforehand.

Here's a link to an RSPB booklet about the Dearne Valley Green Heart: [futurescape-dearnevally-booklet.pdf \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk/resources/booklets/futurescape-dearnevally-booklet.pdf)

11. There are many trees on the site, I hoped you would maintain these given the plan talking about ecology - I'm starting to feel less hopeful than I did. I would be horrified to see them cut down. The Green heart thing sounds good, I wish there was more of this.

There is woodland in the middle of the site. The higher value woodland in the middle of the site, will be retained and managed. Some mature trees will have to be removed, but there would be more woodland than before. The masterplan is also developing an energy strategy, to achieve low carbon. The aim is to influence the developer with regard to achieving low carbon, cannot make it a requirement.

12. In your expert opinion, do you feel that noise, fumes, light etc from the surroundings will impact pockets of wildlife embedded within? I should imagine that most birds and mammals will just move out?

Do not think there are any species impacted. Most wildlife will be fine, as long as are getting good air. Can only ensure the site provides the right habitats, so they may stay, but cannot say for sure they will stay.

13. I hope the Masterplan will reference how this area will not only bring employment back to the area but help to re-connect the local population with the local wildspaces, giving opportunities for volunteering, creating jobs and improving health. Its clear that the 'countryside' is what made many move to this area. Lets hope the Masterplan encourages both a great place to work but also to live: either human or animal

Please see question 9, relating to the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership, it is very much about what the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership is all about. There is fantastic wildlife and members of the community who have contributed massively to facilities such as the RSPB Old Moor and continue to do so, through the work of the Green Heart. Please also see Question 13, from the Highway Session held on the 10th February.

14. The trees at Cathill were cut down but it wasn't clear why at the side of the road. A large amount of hedges were lost and now it's bare but the space where they were still exists. It wasn't the road widening.

The A6195 has been widened between 10m and 15m on the eastern side of the approach to Cathill roundabout. The widening of the embankment was required in order to facilitate the new road alignment. This, in turn, has required the re-location of the land boundary, with the existing boundary (previous fence & hedgerow) now situated under the new embankment. As a result, it was necessary to re-establish the new highway boundary. A post and rail fence has been installed and the hedgerow recently re-planted.