

**ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Examination of Ashford Local Plan 2030**

**Inspectors:** David Smith BA(Hons) DMS MRTPI

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**INSPECTORS' ISSUES AND QUESTIONS**

**Issue 10:**

*Are the other topic policies for housing including high quality design justified, deliverable and consistent with national policy? Will they be effective?*

**ii) How does protecting the character and identity of settlements as intended by Policy SP7 achieve sustainable development? Will it be effective in ensuring the separation of settlements? Should there be a firmer commitment to defined green corridors around Ashford and some settlements rather than making assessments on a case-by-case basis?**

In answer to the last question, yes there should be a firmer commitment. In the absence of clear Borough-wide targets, in line with the Kent Biodiversity Strategy (being re-written), there is the danger that a NIMBY approach will lead to no obligation to protect the green **and blue corridors** around settlements and so no delivery of suitable work.

**Jennifer Wilson**

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