

DM/23/2867 –

Balcombe Parish Council would like to add their concerns regarding the proposal to change land between Cuckfield and Ansty into parkland.

This application is to provide mitigation and enhancement for bio-diversity gain for the proposal DM-23-2866 for 1600 homes between Cuckfield and Ansty.

The requirement for mitigation and compensatory habitat should always be made on site where possible. Offsite mitigation should only be used where this is not possible, the legislation is very clear on this. We would not want to see a precedent set where the first large development coming forward in terms of the new bio-diversity legislation uses off site mitigation where clearly there would be both space and opportunity to do this on site.

Furthermore off site enhancement relies upon land management and maintenance for its success and is limited in terms of time period.

The opening of valued habitats to the public does not necessarily benefit those habitats.