I refer to your email dated 27th March 2019 inviting the Wildlife Trust to make comments on the joint Neighbourhood Plan proposal from Formby and Little Altcar Parish Councils under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Trust made comments to the Parish Councils in December 2016. Whilst the latest version is an improvement on the previous version, biodiversity still does not come over as an important issue and wildlife corridors don’t really feature, other than in references to Green Infrastructure. In summary, very few of our concerns have been taken on board in the proposal submitted to the Council. The Local Plan has strong nature conservation / biodiversity policies and the proposed NDP won’t undermine them, but the Trust is disappointed at the missed opportunity to build on the Local Plan and include proactive policies aimed at enhancing biodiversity, habitat creation and ecological corridors. Ecological corridors do not get a mention in any of the policies.

I attach a copy of the Trust’s original comments to the Parish Councils, to which I have added, with orange shading, further comments in respect of the latest version of the proposed plan.

For the reasons stated above the Trust still has significant objections to the Plan.

Volunteer Planning Officer

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside.