

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

Mete Coban MBE
Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy
City Hall
Kamal Churchie Way
London
E16 1ZE



1st October 2024

Dear Mr Coban

The Colne Valley Regional Park is a network of 200km of rivers, more than 70 lakes, 270km of paths, numerous parks and multiple protected sites. Yet its enormous potential is stifled thanks to a crucial lack of joined-up thinking in the local authorities that surround it.

I write now because we are at a crossroads. Where will the regional park go from here in its mission to provide ready access to nature and green space for millions of Londoners living on its doorstep.

See our campaign which outlines five actions needed to realise this potential. I attach a concise briefing note and draw your attention to the following points the GLA could help us achieve

- 2 – restore the landscape
- 4 – establish status
- 5 – protect nature

The building blocks for this exist locally through:

- Organisational structure of the Colne Valley Regional Park Trust and strategies it is promoting including the campaign (see attached) and the Colne & Crane Valleys Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Strong partnerships. Nearly 100 organisations have joined as members in support of the Park's six objectives. This includes residents' associations and community groups, wildlife trusts and other charities, local authorities, businesses and government agencies
- a track record of delivery e.g recent £2.5m Lottery project and in development £5.2m follow up.
- Innovative programmes e.g. Groundwork's Green Skills teams that recruit participants from job centres and provide experience, training and mentoring to a) improve employability and b) improve public paths, wildlife areas and green spaces.

Colne Valley Park Trust

Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. Company No. 08131867

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG

www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

I would very much welcome a conversation about how we can build on 60 years of partnership working, realise opportunities for people in the 2020s and restore the rural/urban fringe around the capital so that Londoners can be proud of the countryside on their doorstep once again.

I invite you to see at first hand some of our beautiful wildlife areas and to contrast these with the increasing landscape decline that is spreading around our capital city. Please suggest some dates for a site visit to the Colne valley – alternatively, if it is more convenient to you, I would be happy to meet you in central London to discuss this alongside a concise presentation to show ‘the good, the bad and the ugly’ of the Colne Valley.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Stewart Pomeroy, Colne Valley Managing Agent
Email: stewart.pomeroy@groundwork.org.uk

Cc:

Bassam Mahfouz, Ealing & Hillingdon, London Assembly
Abby Crisostomo, Head of Green Infrastructure, GLA

Colne Valley Park Trust

Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. Company No. 08131867

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk