

From: Angie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2019 21:09
To: conservation <swtconservation@sussexwt.org.uk>
Subject: Re: What will you do for wildlife?

Hi there,

Thank you for your email contact. I have a lot of respect for the work of Sussex Wildlife Trust and I am happy to answer your queries. Please see my responses below.

- How will you and your party act decisively to tackle the crises in the natural environment? Our Plan for Nature will set legally binding targets to drive the restoration of species and habitats. We will embark on an ambitious programme of tree planting, with both forestry and native woodland species. We will fully fund the Environment Agency and other frontline environment agencies, and improve upstream river management. We will create new National Parks alongside a revised system of other protected area designations, which will guard existing wildlife sites and join up important habitats, while also ensuring more people can enjoy living closer to nature.
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- What will you do to ensure we have farming policies that support land managers in contributing to nature's recovery? A Labour government will maintain agricultural and rural structural funds but repurpose them to support environmental land management and sustainable methods of food production. We will invest in more county farms to replace those lost, and will work with agricultural organisations to increase access into farming for new entrants.
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- What will you do to ensure we protect and revive our seas? We will set maximum sustainable yields for all shared fish stocks and redistribute fish quotas along social and environmental criteria
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- How will you and your party prioritise and fund nature-based solutions to the climate crisis? By 2023-24 we will have increased funding for Defra executive agencies and arms-length delivery bodies by £70m, including £50m for Natural England to ensure the highest quality accurate environmental impact assessments for our nature restoration and economic transformation programme. We will also have increased funding to Natural England by £75m for the purposes of managed recreational access and nature restoration in our current and future national parks. For more information about funding, please see Funding Real Change, the accompaniment to the Labour manifesto detailing the economic side of our commitments.
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- What will you do to ensure that development is within environmental limits and truly sustainable in Sussex? Labour will tackle the climate crisis and cut energy bills by introducing a tough, new zero-carbon homes standard for all new homes, and upgrading millions of existing homes to make them more energy efficient. We will review the planning guidance for developments in flood risk areas. I have been actively trying to draw attention to the issues of unsustainable development in the Wealden constituency, particularly housing built on unsuitable sites, like flood plains and a lack of infrastructure that leads to environmental pressure - and I will continue to do this, irrespective of whether I am elected or not.

Kind regards,
Angie Smith

Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Wealden, 2019

On Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 12:38 PM conservation <swtconservation@sussexwt.org.uk> wrote:
Dear Angie,

As your local Wildlife Trust, we work on the ground to protect and recover nature in Wealden.

Four of our 33 nature reserves, which we manage for wildlife and the enjoyment of people, are in your constituency. With the support of over 400 committed volunteers and 35,000 members we speak up for nature and in particular the rare habitats found in Wealden including Ancient Woodland, Flower-rich Meadow and Heathland.

The upcoming General Election is a crucial moment for wildlife in the UK. Our natural environment is in crisis – the UK is one of the most nature-depleted places on earth and over half of our wildlife species are in decline.

We are utterly dependent on nature for our wellbeing and prosperity, so it is vital that the next government enacts the kinds of ambitious measures that will guarantee wildlife's recovery. There is evidently widespread support among the public for such decisive action.

Our members would be very interested to know what you will do for wildlife in Wealden and across the country. I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

1. How will you and your party act decisively to tackle the crises in the natural environment?
2. What will you do to ensure we have farming policies that support land managers in contributing to nature's recovery?
3. What will you do to ensure we protect and revive our seas?
4. How will you and your party prioritise and fund nature-based solutions to the climate crisis?
5. What will you do to ensure that development is within environmental limits and truly sustainable in Sussex?

We are asking all candidates in Sussex these questions. If you have no objections, we will share your responses with our members and publish them on our website along with those from other candidates.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Brocklebank
Director of Conservation Policy and Evidence