

2nd August 2016

Dear Wealden Council

Ref: Ecological Land Co-operative

We are writing in support of Ecological Land Co-operative's planning application to the Wealden Council.

The Plunkett Foundation is a UK charity which aims to tackle rural poverty and social exclusion through the promotion of community co-operatives. Community co-operatives are an increasingly important model used to protect vital rural community services whether that is a shop, a local pub, woodland or horticultural smallholding venture, such as Ecological Land Co-operative. Plunkett Foundation is the only national organisation to support community co-operatives in rural areas and has been working with Ecological Land Cooperative since 2014.

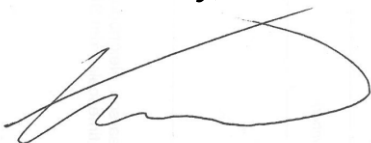
Our experience of working with Ecological Land Co-operative has been positive, with good communication, feedback and milestones being met. Through working with Ecological Land Co-operative, we are also aware that the impact of their work, like community co-ops across the world, is significant in improving the welfare of their beneficiaries, members and supporters.

We are proud to have supported Ecological Land Cooperative as the impact that their work makes aligns to the impacts Plunkett is keen to see happening. We are especially drawn to their work as:

- The sites Ecological Land Co-operative develop, such as their site at Greenham Reach in Devon, boosts the local economy and creates environmental benefits.
- Spaces that they develop have been proved to promote local consumption and reduce global, social and environmental impact of resource consumption
- Ecological Land Co-operative supports the invigoration of local rural economies and can produce local jobs, learning opportunities and the vitality of rural villages. We believe that a site such as this new site in Sussex provides investment in the local community and education and skill learning opportunities.
- ELC's work can act as a hub for re-ruralisation with visitors and interest from business as has been the case at Greenham Reach in Devon

If you have any questions about this letter of support or would like to ask for details Plunkett's work with Ecological Land Co-operative, please contact Plunkett directly on 01993 810730 or info@plunkett.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Tom Carman
Plunkett Foundation