

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – 15 JANUARY 2020

ITEM 4 – LOCAL GREEN SPACES

An e-mail (wording attached) has been received from the Willesley Environment Protection Association (WEPA) expressing the view that the Local Plan Review should include a policy (or policies) to address health and wellbeing, and therefore the designation of Local Green Spaces. WEPA has put forward additional sites over and above those identified in the Ashby de la Zouch Neighbourhood Plan.

It is suggested that contact should be made with those Parish and Town Councils who failed to respond to provide a further opportunity to put forward areas for consideration.

Officer's Comments

Whilst a detailed review has not been undertaken of those sites submitted in response to the call for sites, the initial assessment undertaken that is referred to in the report concluded that a number of those identified by WEPA would be unlikely to satisfy the test in the NPPF that Local Green Spaces are "*local in character and is not an extensive tract of land*".

As set out in the main report, it is suggested that officers seek to encourage the inclusion of Local Green Spaces in Neighbourhood Plans. Indeed, it could provide the basis for doing a Neighbourhood Plan. Officers will be attending an event being organised for 4 March 2020 to promote Neighbourhood Plans and this will be one of the key messages.

Recommendation

No change to recommendation at page 7 of the Agenda

Dear Mr Ashman,

I refer to the report to be considered by the Local Plan Committee on 15th January 2020 and am concerned to note that the recommendation to the Committee is that Local Green Spaces not be identified as part of the Substantive Local Plan Review.

Whilst I appreciate that Ashby has its Neighbourhood Plan in place, there are other Parishes that are not yet in this position. Also, there are significant areas of the District that do not have a Parish Council.

Willesley Environment Protection Association (WEPA) have put forward a number of additional sites for designation, over and above those currently included in the Ashby Neighbourhood Plan, following a request for such sites as part of the Local Plan Review, as proposed by the Inspector for the Current Local Plan.

You will be aware that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure. Therefore, the Review should include a policy (or policies) to address health and wellbeing, and therefore the designation of Local Green Spaces.

It is obviously disappointing that a significant number of parish councils did not put forward sites for designation. I note from the report that the cost of potential work on Local Green Space can be met from existing budgets. I would therefore urge the Local Plan Committee to make further contact with those Parish and Town Councils who failed to respond to provide a further opportunity to put forward areas for consideration.

Kind regards,
Frank Bedford MBE
Chairman, Willesley Environment Protection Association