

Protection and Promotion of Green Spaces

Reasoned Justification

Evesham Bell Tower

25.1 Beyond the Strategic Green Infrastructure a number of Local Green Networks serving the urban areas are identified on the Proposals Map. These consist of green corridors, urban green spaces, green links, common land, recreation spaces and



other open spaces which are, or potentially could provide a link to the open countryside and to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network. Local Green Networks are a valuable local community resource, which perform a variety of valuable functions, for example informal recreation, formal sports provision, residential amenity, accessibility, biodiversity, urban cooling, urban character and setting of buildings and settlements. The typologies and standards for providing Local Green Networks are set out under table 24, Policy SWDP 45: Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Use in New Developments. Where necessary the policy requirements associated with these varying types of Local Green Networks will be developed in the SWDP.

25.2 An important characteristic of Local Green Networks is the linkages between green areas, though even the more fragmented/isolated green spaces such as a playing pitch, can make a contribution as a local resource. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development proposals have applied the principles of Green Infrastructure planning. Proposals should not compromise the integrity of the Local Green Network, and wherever possible contribute to enhancing existing linkages and creating new links.

25.3 Some of the large elements of the Local Green Network have a distinctive landscape character e.g. remnant hedgerow patterns, rural/countryside character, watercourses, distinctive landforms and slopes, all kinds of historic assets, setting of important landscape features or green links to the open countryside and the strategic Green Infrastructure Network.

25.4 The reason for including land within the Local Green Network can be for a variety of functions, for example playing fields, informal and recreational open space, landscape and historic assets, footpaths and cycleways, nature reserves, allotments, garden land, cemeteries, stream and river banks, and areas of local nature conservation and habitat value. Their importance to the community and as a coherent network does not depend on whether they are in public or private ownership. In certain instances existing buildings can be included where it is considered that their setting and position within the overall Local Green Network is important.

25.5 A number of Local Green Networks include private garden land⁽¹⁾ Where they provide an important habitat for wildlife and may serve as links between other areas of the Network, or in themselves are a valuable element in the character of the area. Private gardens are no longer considered 'Brownfield' land.

25.1 SWDP 43: Local Green Networks

Policy SWDP 43: Local Green Networks

The Local Green Network ⁽²⁾, as shown on the Proposals Maps will be protected and enhanced.

Development or other land use changes will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that it will not have an adverse effect on the principal attributes of a specific Local Green Network nor compromise the integrity of the overall Local Green Network.

Any development which may be permitted must incorporate designs which enhance, restore and/or create new additions to the Local Green Network.

Links to the Objectives

25.6 The Preferred Option policy for Local Green Networks supports the following objectives:

- A better environment for today and tomorrow objectives 4 and 5;
- Improving health and well-being objective 2.

Alternative Options Considered

25.7 Development Management decisions could be based upon national planning policy. This would result in an absence of local planning policy to compliment strategies by other agencies/organisations. It would not provide sufficient protection of existing or provision of new Local Green Networks to the detriment of people's quality of life. This situation could worsen when national planning policies are replaced by the National Planning Framework.

25.8 Rely on the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network. Although this includes the wider strategic areas, there are many local spaces which are distinctive and important within the local area. They provide recreation space, wildlife habitats and a visual break for local communities. It is important that they are protected and enhanced.

1 The Local Green Network designation does not prejudice a householder's Permitted Development Rights. If however planning permission is required for a proposed development then the Green Infrastructure Network designation will be a material factor deciding whether planning permission should be granted.

2 All development proposals will contribute financially to the enhancement of the Green Infrastructure Network through the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.