

## **Draft LP23 Protection of Local Open Space (previously DM22)**

Link to draft policy and comments in full received from the draft consultation stage:

<https://west-norfolk.objective.co.uk/portal/lpr2019/lpr2019?pointId=s1542883611191#section-s1542883611191>

### **Consideration of issues:**

No adverse comments were received in relation to this policy. No changes are therefore needed to the policy.

#### **Officer Recommendations to Task Group:**

The Task Group is recommended to:

- 1) **Retain the existing policy.**

### **Policy Recommendation:**

#### **Policy LP23 - Protection of Local Open Space**

1. The Council will have careful regard to the value of any area of open space when assessing planning applications for development. In assessing the contribution that an area of open space plays, the Council will consider the following factors:
  - a. public access;
  - b. visual amenity;
  - c. local distinctiveness;
  - d. landscape character;
  - e. recreational value;
  - f. biodiversity, geodiversity

- g. cultural value and historic character
  - h. whether the site has been allocated for development in the Local Plan.
2. Proposals that will result in the loss or restriction of access to locally important areas of open space will be refused planning permission unless such loss can be offset by the replacement of equivalent or higher standard of provision or the wider benefits of allowing development to proceed outweigh the value of the site as an area of open space.
  3. The Borough Council will support local communities in designating local green space for protection in neighbourhood plans where this:
    - a. meets the criteria for local green space as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework; and
    - b. does not conflict with other policies in the Borough's Local Plan.

**Supporting text:**

**LP23 Protection of Local Open Space (previously DM22)**

**Introduction**

6.10.1 It is important to retain valued recreational and amenity open space in towns and villages. Parks, playing fields, ponds, woodlands, informal open spaces and allotments all provide opportunities for sport, recreation, leisure and biodiversity. It is important that people, particularly children and elderly people, should have access to open spaces close to where they live.

6.10.2 The value of a healthy natural environment as the foundations of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing is recognised by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

6.10.3 It is important that existing green infrastructure and open space is protected and enhanced to support new development in the Borough, particularly in respect of King's Lynn's urban expansion. This is supported by Strategic policies LP17, LP32 and LP05. Policy LP17 indicates that it may be necessary to secure biodiversity needs through planning conditions/obligations. LP17 also highlights the crucial role of the historic and built environment in delivering environmental quality and well-being. Policy LP32 indicates that the Borough Council will support proposals that protect, retain and/or enhance sports, leisure and recreation facilities and Policy LP05 sets out that obligations from developers will be sought through Section 106 legal agreements for allotments, indoor/outdoor sports facilities and green infrastructure.

**Relevant Local and National Policies**

- National Planning Policy Framework: Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities
- National Planning Policy Framework: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
- National Planning Policy Framework: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment
- 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)
- Strategic Policies:
  - LP17 Environmental Assets
  - LP32 Community and Culture
  - LP05 Infrastructure Provision
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009/2010)

### **Policy Approach**

6.10.4 The National Planning Policy Framework sets policy designed to avoid the loss of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, and provides the opportunity for local communities to identify certain types of important local green spaces through a neighbourhood plan.

6.10.5 Response to the consultation indicated a desire to provide a greater level of protection for locally important open spaces. The policy approach aims to ensure the amenity value of any local open space is fully considered and to maintain a balance between protecting locally important open space and enabling sustainable development within and adjacent to settlements.

**Sustainability Appraisal:**

**LP23 Protection of Open Space**

This policy is unchanged. The proposed policy was previously assessed as having a positive effect.

LP23: Protection of Open Space																							
Policy	SA Objective:																					Overall Effect	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	+		-
LP23	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	++	0	+	0	0	++	+	+16	0	Likely Positive Effect +16
Draft LP23	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	++	0	+	0	0	++	+	+16	0	Likely Positive Effect +16
No Policy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Likely Neutral Effect

**Appendix 1: Summary of Comments & Suggested Response:**

Consultee	Nature of Response	Summary	Consultee Suggested Modification	Officer Response/Proposed Action
STP Estates Group (inc. West Norfolk NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust)	<b>Support</b>	The STP Estates group aims to ensure that elements that contribute to health and wellbeing, such as leisure facilities and green space, are not overlooked. Access to green space has recently been highlighted in the publication of the UK Government's 'A green future: our 25 year plan to improve the environment'. This was published in January 2018 and includes detail in Chapter 3 on helping people to improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces. This includes considering the impact this has on mental health and how associated services can improve mental health. It is therefore imperative that access to green space is maintained and managed in a consistent manner.		<b>Support noted and welcomed.</b>
Consultations Team Natural England	<b>Support</b>	Natural England welcome the protection Policy LP23 affords to local open space.		<b>Support noted and welcomed.</b>