

Comments

Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan - Main Modifications Consultation (19/03/21 to 30/04/21)

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Please use a separate form for each representation.

Which Main Modification, change to the Policies Map or section of the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum or Habitat Regulations Assessment Addendum does your comment relate to?

Main Modification MM27 regarding Open Spaces, and Policy Map PM9 Deletion of Local Green Space reference numbers HVI006 and HVI007

Please use a separate form for each representation.

Representation

I am making this representation on behalf of Braybrooke Parish Council, as Chairman.

The green spaces in the centre of Braybrooke are fundamental to its character. They link the village to its agricultural past and to the surrounding countryside. Stretches of grass dotted with trees give the tranquil air of traditional parkland. The river running through them forms an important wildlife corridor, the trees support an unusually varied bat habitat. Children (and adults) stop to look at the sheep in the paddock. Although in private ownership, parts are used for community events like the annual fete.

Since the initial consultations on the Local Plan and since long before that, these spaces have been seen as protected green spaces of one kind or another and this has conditioned all the community responses to these consultations. At no time until now has it been suggested that they might not have full protection against development. To remove that protection alters the premise on which previous consultations were based. So removal of them cannot be considered on its own, but opens up all aspects of the Braybrooke development plan.

The Examiner suggests that inclusion in the Conservation Area provides adequate protection. The Braybrooke Conservation Area was designated in 1986. Since then it has never been reviewed, contrary to section 71 of Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. There is no doubt that the village's character has been changed by the 17 houses built in the Conservation Area since then, none of them so far in these green spaces but many of them against vigorous local opposition. The Conservation Area provides no protection at all.

We therefore appeal that, notwithstanding the (different) position of green spaces in other villages covered by this Local Plan, those in Braybrooke should be retained as a central element of the Local Plan for Braybrooke, until and unless it is overtaken by a made Neighbourhood Plan.

