

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?

MM27

Please use a separate form for each representation.

Representation

As residents of Loddington, we have a number of concerns about the proposed de-designation of two areas of land within the village currently designated as Historically and Visually Important Local Green Space (HVILGS).

HVI054 is a small area of land between Main Street and the ancient boundary walls of Loddington Hall and what is now Hall Gardens, but was originally the walled kitchen gardens of the Hall. It is triangular in shape and directly faces the tower and original main entrance into the 12th century St. Leonard's church across Main Street. It is split into 2 sections by the service road from Main Street which is the vehicular entrance to both Loddington Hall and Hall Gardens. On the larger area, which runs along the south-eastern wall of The Hall, there are five very large ancient trees. On the smaller area, which runs along the northern wall of Hall Gardens, there are three very well-established lime trees.

It is a very picturesque and tranquil setting and is at the "Historic Core" of Loddington, as identified in the Kettering Borough Masterplanning Report (2012) and is included in the Loddington Conservation Area adopted in December 1983. Both of the ancient walls which form the boundaries to it are built in local ironstone.

It offers the only safe, off road, uninterrupted views of the western end of St. Leonard's church, the bell tower and the spire. It is on this area of land that members of the local community have, for centuries, gathered to watch wedding parties and to pay their respects at funerals.

HVI054 meets all 3 criteria for designation as a Local Green Space, (Para 100 of the NPPF) namely:-

- 1 a) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.
- 2 b) Demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of its beauty, historic significance, and tranquility.
- 3 c) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

HVI027 which, like HVI054, is at the very heart, culturally, historically and religiously, of this ancient village, directly adjoins the church and has been the venue for village gatherings and celebrations for centuries, being the largest open space near the church and in the Conservation Area.

Known as The Glebe Field, it affords excellent uninterrupted views of St. Leonard's church across the ancient churchyard from the south eastern side of the village. It serves an important role as a safe and historic gathering point and a venue for local celebrations over the centuries and right up to the present day. Like HVI054, it is included in the Loddington Conservation Area adopted in December 1983 and currently has the additional protection and benefits offered by its HVILGS designation. Like HVI054, it too meets all 3 criteria for designation as a local green space.

The Rural Masterplanning Report (2012) highlights, in Policy LOD1, the importance of preserving views of the church.

We cannot understand why under current proposals, the protection of HVILGS will be removed from green spaces within a Conservation Area. Surely such important pieces of land deserve as much protection as possible?

The Sustainability Analysis Report Addendum prepared by AECOM Ltd on the Kettering Local Plan (Part 2) for Kettering Borough Council, includes Loddington, as one of the 14 plus settlements where Local Green Spaces will no longer be recognised as locally important in policy terms and will therefore no longer experience "the benefits associated with such recognition." It is hard to understand why the removal of these benefits is considered necessary, or justifiable. We have not been able to find any explanation as to why this action is being proposed.

Do you wish to be notified?

When the document is adopted?