

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 as a private householder who has been resident in Braybrooke for 15 years. I am appealing against the decision to remove protection from the open green spaces at the centre of the village.

These spaces provide attractive views across the village, are integral to the character of the place, and, whilst not part of the surrounding countryside, are vivid reminders of the agrarian history of the parish and its community.

Whilst privately owned, areas within HV1006 have designated recreational value and are used annually for community activities, such as the village fete and garden party, which perform an important role in bringing people together and creating a sense of community. If these spaces were not available to the village, given the age and mobility of a significant proportion of the community, it would not be practicable to provide for these events elsewhere in the parish.

Any change in the status of these open green spaces will have a direct impact on listed buildings and structures within the village. The 15th century triple-arch bridge over the River Jordan is a scheduled monument and lies directly between designated green spaces HV1006 and HV1007. Whilst not within the designated OGS areas, three listed buildings, Bridge House, The Old Rectory and No. 2 Newton Way, are adjacent and would be detrimentally affected by any change of use of the areas in question. The views from the 14th century Church of All Saints would also suffer considerably from any development of these areas.

As has been pointed out by others, the areas from which it is proposed to remove protection are home to a variety of wildlife, some of it quite rare. There are also several trees with preservation orders which sit within the areas HV1006 and HV1007. Removal of the current protection afforded to these spaces, whilst not detrimental in itself to these habitats, would inevitably remove one barrier to their future destruction by developers.

The Inspector argues that the presence of the Conservation Area provides sufficient protection against future development of these spaces. However, the evidence of the last 35 years since the Conservation Area was designated during which time 17 new properties have been built in the face of opposition from the community, would suggest that Conservation Area status provides precious little protection against unwanted development. Indeed, KBC's response to the 2016 consultation on the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan states that "it is considered that there may be circumstances where it would be beneficial for areas already within a Conservation Area to be provided with additional protection which focuses on maintaining the openness of the area."

I therefore appeal that the open green spaces at the heart of Braybrooke should retain their current designated status until and unless that status is altered by the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan.

Do you wish to be notified?

When the Inspector's Report is published?