

Paddock Wood Town Council

Matter 13 – Landscape, Local Green Space and Open Space, Sport and Recreation (Policies STR8, EN8, EN15, EN16, EN17, EN18, EN19, OSSR1 and OSSR2)

ISSUE 5 – Local Green Space

Q1. The PPG advises that if land is already protected by Green Belt policy, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space. Which sites designated as Local Green Spaces in the Plan are also within the Green Belt? For those sites, what consideration has been given to the additional local benefit of their designation? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306)

PWTC Response:

1. This for TWBC to answer.

Q2. Paragraph 101 of the Framework states that the designation of land as Local Green Space through local plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Have all the designations been put forward by local communities? If not, which ones have been identified by the Council?

PWTC Response:

2. The Town Council supports all proposed Local Green Space designations in the Local Plan.
3. The Town Council did submit additional areas for designation that were not accepted by TWBC for inclusion in the plan on the grounds that they already had a designation, for example ancient woodland.

Q3. What is the justification for designating site 217? How is it demonstrably special to the local community?

PWTC Response:

4. No Comment.

Q4. What is the justification for designating site 20? How is it demonstrably special to the local community, and does it represent an extensive tract of land?

PWTC Response:

5. No Comment.

Q5. What is the justification for the proposed Local Green Space designations at Cranbrook School (including the playing fields)?

PWTC Response:

6. The Town Council is interested in the Borough Council's response to this. Through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, consideration was given to designated school playing fields in Paddock Wood. However, through consultation, it was considered inappropriate to do this given that the fields are protected through Schedule 1 of the Academies Act and that this provides sufficient protection of the land.

7. The Town Council feels that this is an example of different community responses not being treated equally and of political influence affecting decision making in preparation of the plan.

Q6. Site 45 (New Pond Corner) is situated within a conservation area. What is the justification for its further designation as Local Green Space?

PWTC Response:

8. No Comment.

Q7. What is the justification for the proposed Local Green Space designations around Goudhurst, having particular regard to the location of the village in the High Weald AONB?

PWTC Response:

9. No Comment.

Q8. Have any Local Green Spaces been identified in Neighbourhood Plans which have either been through examination or formally made since submission of the Local Plan?

PWTC Response:

10. Although not yet submitted, the draft Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan identifies two further Local Green Space designations that were ruled out through the Local Plan but where it is considered that the criteria established in the NPPF are met and where these are supported by consultation responses.