

LOOSE PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

QUALIFYING BODY RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS - 7 JAN 2019

Question 2; Re. Policy LP5 (Designated Local Green Spaces)

*The green spaces designated here are all in close proximity to the community.
They all are local in character and not extensive tracts of land.
These areas have appeared in numerous drafts of the NP and been widely supported.
The loss of these areas in some way would be resisted locally.
It should be noted that the KCC Highways have supported designations numbers 5,7 and 8.
(see email 11 August 2017 - Consultation Statement page 173)
All these designated spaces are of importance to local residents in many ways. The comments below serve to illustrate this.*

A set of photographs are appended to illustrate the designated spaces.

DLGS No. 6. Field at rear of Herts Crescent/McAlpine Close. (NP reasons – beauty, green edge, recreational, tranquillity & wildlife habitat).

This mown grass area is a secluded, trapezoidal, flatish 0.8 ha space. The only access for the general public is via footpaths. It is bounded on three sides by mature hedges with a leylandi hedge to the east. Two sides adjoin orchards and the other two, housing. The hedges and their location next to orchards plus the secluded location provide a good habitat for wildlife. The space is much used by dog walkers as there is little else in the area. The area makes a good safe place for youngsters to play and families to exercise. The only other formal recreational area is a kilometre away to the north (King George V Playing Field) situated on the other side of the busy A229. It forms a public link area between farmland and residential development.

DLGS No.7. Green triangle at western end of Salts Avenue. (Beauty, tranquillity & wildlife habitat)

This is a small, mown grass triangular space at a T junction with the A229 about 250 m2. in area. It supports a mature conifer (with preservation order) and a seat of remembrance. The seat is often used, particularly by those that have walked up the steep A229 from the north. The conifer is a good habitat for many species of birds. It makes a pleasing focal point in an area predominantly tarmac with surfaces of the A229, the service road and Salts Avenue. It is the first formal green space feature on the left hand side of the A229 along the 5k. from Maidstone.

DLGS No.8. Verges at western end of Copper Tree Court. (Green edge, tranquillity & wildlife habitat)

These mown verges give Copper Tree Court width and a feeling of space. The area melds with front gardens and many residents take it upon themselves to maintain the whole area to keep it an attractive feature of the road. On the lower west end, south side, is an

important line of 8 mature scotch pines (not particularly prevalent in the area) with tree preservation orders on them. Four are in the designated space. In addition there are seven more mature trees in the designated space. As a visual feature their loss would be detrimental to the street scene. Further, the trees attract some less common birds such as,, goldcrests, coal tits, siskins, nuthatches, woodpeckers, owls are visitors and a mistle thrush nests there. A wealth of appreciated wildlife.

The Loose Road Character Assessment document refers to the western section of the road opening out with a green space, tall trees and views over open countryside.

DLGS No.9. Junction of Leonard Gould Way/Pickering Street. (Beauty, green edge, tranquillity & wildlife habitat.)

This is a small, flat, mown area (c. 24 x17m). It provides a green edge and space between new development and Pickering Street. It was the only green space afforded to a large (for Loose), fairly dense feeling (65 houses) built in 2010/11. It is neatly hedged supporting some interesting shrubs. There are also 5 maturing trees. It is visually attractive and will become more so over time. It is something of a little haven for wildlife and local residents in the new development. It extends the eco-strip along the front gardens of the older, more established properties in Pickering Street.

At planning stage the area was designated to be a recreational play area but this did not come about. At one time it supported a community bench but this has subsequently disappeared.

DLGS No. 11. Herts Crescent Green. (Green edge, recreational, tranquillity & wildlife habitat)

A formal, large area of flat, mown grass, providing a green edge to the front of properties around the three sides of Herts Crescent. The six mature trees provide wildlife with habitat. The area is appreciated by local dog walkers and youngsters use it for informal recreational purposes. For residents of Herts Crescent this is their only visible green space and open amenity providing them with relief from the impact of the traffic on the nearby A229.

DLGS No. 12. Holmesdale Close. (Green edge, tranquillity & wildlife habitat.)

This wide verge gives space to Holmesdale Close development. Without it the area would feel cramped. It serves to soften the newish development from the impact of the A229. The six mature trees are visually attractive and important for wildlife. There is little other green space in the area open to the public. It also displays one of the parish notice boards in a pleasant area providing news to one of its more distant areas. This area has an elderly population who are not able to get much access to green space.

lpc/ jan 19





