

## Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Examination Publication (Regulation 16)

Fellows Family [REDACTED]

Fri 13/09/2024 17:41

To:Neighbourhood Planning [REDACTED]

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Hart District Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My comments on the Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan at the District Council review stage are restricted to some of the LGS designations.

OPC has put forward for Local Green Space (LGS) designation six sites it owns (Beacon Field/Chamberlain Gardens/Chapel Pond/Community Orchard/Community Peace Garden/Recreation Ground), and one (Land at Montford Place) which is likely to be taken over by OPC in the not-too-distant future.

There are two potential problems for OPC and the community should LGS status be granted for these sites:

1. LGS designation may well make a project in respect of any of these sites more challenging if planning permission is required, maybe even to the point of it not being viable or possible;
2. In so far as future councillors could well be responding directly to residents' desires, local democracy will already have had its wings clipped by an LGS designation.

It is possible that these two problems will become tangible quite soon. Take for example the proposed Recreation Road LGS site. The supporting evidence says that the hard-surfaced and open grass area are both 'well used' without supplying any data to support this assertion. During the 14 years I have lived near the site I have in fact often been struck by how little both these areas (excluding the playground) are used.

My suggestion would be for OPC to withdraw the LGS proposal for the site and carry out a study of just how much the site is used, by whom and for what, and then consider, along with the community, if there are potentially other desirable uses that could be accommodated on the site. This review might best be made after the residential home, nursery car park and private houses planned for the adjoining land have been built and brought into use. This would put the council and community in a good position to decide what to do about the site without being hamstrung by an LGS designation.

Another site that might encounter a similar problem if it is accorded LGS protection is Land at Montford Place. The expectation is that at some point this area will be transferred to OPC. The granting of LGS status here could hamper OPC's ability to do things which the community might wish to do.

Your faithful  
Jeremy Fellows  
Kirklands, West Street, Odiham