

Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031

Response to Consultation Representation by Julie Penny, Blenheim Farm House

The comments made on the draft plan are welcomed and have been taken into account during the revision of the document ahead of submission to WODC. We would like to thank Julie Penny for her engagement with the consultation process and for the comments made. We note concerns expressed relating to the consultation process and apologise for any misunderstandings.

We recognise the strong objections raised to the designation of site LGS21 as a Local Green Space. We have given careful thought to the detailed reasons given and have reviewed the criteria for designation. As a result of this review, the town council has agreed that the designation of this site is no longer necessary or justified and therefore that the site should be removed designation under Policy NE7.

Our principal reason for considering this site for LGS designation originally was the protection of the Sandford Slade Blue/Green Corridor for wildlife and biodiversity. As a result of revisions to section 7 of the plan and specifically to Policy NE6, protection for this and other corridors has been enhanced and consequently separate LGS designation is not now considered to be necessary or justified. We also recognise that a significant part of the designated area lies within the private garden of Blenheim Farm House and we accept that LGS designation for such an area is inappropriate and disproportionate.

In summary, the reasons for removing this site from proposed LGS designation are as follows:

- Strong protection for the Sandford Slade blue/green corridor is provided by strengthened policy NE6 of the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031 (CNP) [such protection was the principal reason for considering designation of this site initially];
- The main footpath through the site is a public right of way guaranteeing continued public access along it;
- Much of the site lies within a private garden and is not accessible to the public. The owner's concerns in this regard are acknowledged and it was felt that LGS designation for such a site was disproportionate in this case;
- Restricted access to the site effectively limits the possible scale of any future development.

The representations by Julie Penny are reflected in the Consultation Statement that accompanied the plan submission. Full representations are published for view (with personal contact details redacted) on the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan website (www.charlburynp.org.uk) as referenced in the consultation statement.