

---

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 7</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>26 APRIL 2017</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STUART BATCHELOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING</b>	<b>OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>KAREN BEAVIN (EXT.5749) <a href="mailto:karen.beavin@south-derbys.gov.uk">karen.beavin@south-derbys.gov.uk</a></b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL GREEN SPACES OPTIONS CONSULTATION</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS03</b>

---

## **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Local Green Spaces Options document (Appendix A) for consultation.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

2.1 To update Members on progress and the plan going forward regarding the designation of Local Green Spaces within South Derbyshire.

## **3.0 Background**

3.1 Members will be aware that the Local Plan Part 2 was approved by Council for submission to the Secretary of State earlier this year, and was subsequently submitted on 24 January 2017 for examination.

3.2 Local Green Spaces were introduced with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. The designation of an area as Local Green Space is the process through which local communities can safeguard spaces that are of true value to them. Local Green Spaces can be designated through either a Local Plan (Local Development Framework) or Neighbourhood Plan.

3.3 A draft policy on Local Green Spaces, together with a topic paper which set out 84 potentially suitable spaces, was included in the Local Plan Part 2 options consultation in December 2015. The response to the Local Green Space policy through the consultation was very positive, with local communities keen to safeguard such areas. Through the options consultation around a further 60 spaces were suggested for designation by parish councils, community groups and individuals.

3.4 Through a process of site visits, assessment of the information received and a refining of the methodology, 53 potential Local Green Spaces were included in the Draft Local Plan Part 2 consultation. At this stage, the landowners of the proposed Local Green Spaces were contacted and in some cases, objections from the landowners were received.

#### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 The NPPF makes clear that Local Green Spaces must meet three criteria before they are designated, one of which is that the space must be *demonstrably special* to the local community. This could be because of its beauty, historic significance, tranquillity, recreational value or richness of wildlife, or another specific reason.
- 4.2 Despite the consultations through the Local Plan Part 2 asking local communities to set out why the proposed spaces were demonstrably special, in the vast majority of cases insufficient evidence was submitted to enable the spaces to be taken forward into the Pre-submission Local Plan Part 2. A policy on Local Green Space, Policy BNE8, remained in the Plan, with the stated intention that the Policy would apply to spaces identified in a future Local Green Space Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 4.3 Therefore, a Local Green Space Options Consultation has been produced, clearly setting out the spaces that have been suggested through the process so far and what information is required from local communities to prove the demonstrably special nature of the space to the local community. The Options document sets out the criteria for designation and emphasises the importance of submitting evidence on the sites included in the document if those spaces are to be taken forward to the next stage of consultation. At this options stage, new spaces are also allowed to be suggested, together with objections made to spaces included in the document.
- 4.4 All landowners of the spaces included within the Options document will be notified of the consultation. Where the landowner is not known, for example where the land is unregistered, then a notice regarding the consultation will be displayed at the land in question.
- 4.5 With regard to next steps, following the Options consultation all of the information received will be reviewed in order to inform the Pre-Submission Local Green Space DPD. A Regulation 19 consultation would then be undertaken prior to the DPD's submission to the Secretary of State.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

#### **6.0 Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 The adoption of a complete South Derbyshire Local Plan is a key priority of the District Council and is included as an action within the Corporate Plan.

#### **7.0 Community Implications**

- 7.1 Local communities are often keen to safeguard areas of green space that they feel are intrinsically important to the settlement in which they live. Local Green Spaces are the mechanism with which to do this through the planning system.

#### **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Appendix A - Local Green Spaces Options consultation  
Local Green Space Topic Paper – December 2016  
Local Green Space Topic Paper – June 2016