

Dear Aldbourne Resident,

I am writing on behalf of the Steering Group for the Aldbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan. As part of our work in developing the Plan, local people have suggested some small areas of land that they think could benefit from being formally designated in the Plan as 'Local Green Spaces' (LGS), providing them with protection from any future development. LGS designation "*allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them*";

The spaces suggested so far are identified on the enclosed sheet, and listed below:

1. Crooked Corner
2. Glebe Close / South Street
3. Goddards Lane play area
4. Oxford Street / Lottage Road
5. Rectory Wood and playground
6. The Pond
7. The Village Green
8. Valley View
9. Green verges on West Street
10. Whitley Road playing field
11. Whitley Road

The legislation on LGS is very strict; the spaces above are those that we have assessed and found to be potentially compliant with national planning policy criteria. To our knowledge there is no current intention to develop these sites. (Other spaces, such as the green space along the Bourne and Palmers Field, can be included in the Plan in other ways, for example as part of the Parish's green network.)

The attached questionnaire relates specifically to, which is identified on the enclosed map. The questionnaire is being distributed, in line with national practice, to nearby properties such as yours. Also enclosed is a sheet that shows all of the suggested spaces.

If you know other people who may wish to comment, they can contact aldbourne.np@gmail.com for an additional form (or simply use a copy of this form). There are also hard copies of the form available in the Library and Post Office, which you can use to give your comments on any of the above suggested spaces.

In order to satisfy the rigorous legal process to designate a space, we first of all need to know the views of those who value the sites because community support is essential. According to national planning policy, sites must be "*demonstrably special to a local community, and hold a particular local significance*"ⁱⁱ. That significance is about whether a site is:

- beautiful (as local people see that);
- historically significant (can be in terms of very local history);
- valuable for recreation (from formal use to informal dog walking);
- tranquil (mostly quiet), or
- rich in, or important to, wildlife (not necessarily living on the site, but also using it, e.g. bats).

Please let us know, by filling in and returning the form overleaf, if it meets – for you – any of the five criteria above. We will also be contacting the landowner, who has the right to object to the suggested designation. All the results will then be assessed by the

independent Examiner who will eventually report on the Neighbourhood Plan, and so the strength of local evidence is crucial.

The form overleaf gives details of how to return it and by when.

If you have any comments, please contact me using the details below.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

Aldbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

ⁱ National Planning Policy Framework 2019, para. 99.

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