

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan: Local Green Space designation justification

The draft Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan identifies five areas of land as locally valued green space to be designated as Local Green Space:

“Policy ENV3: Local Green Space

Our locally valued green spaces (green infrastructure) are identified on map X and are designated as Local Green Space. These Local Green Spaces (and the reason(s) for their designation) are:

- a) Severn Road Park Estate Green (used for recreation and community events)
- b) Midland Road Park Estate Green (used for recreation and community events)
- c) Boakes Drive Green (used for recreation and community events and noted for important wildlife)
- d) Verney Fields (part of) (local significance due to beauty, historic landscape features, tranquillity, wildlife; a rural, recreational amenity close to town centre)
- e) Court View Ponds (important wildlife)

These areas will be protected for the reasons and uses set out. Development proposals on or likely to impact on the sites will only be supported where they:

- i) maintain or enhance the existing use and amenity value of the site;
- ii) enhance the access to and use of the site where used for recreational purposes; and,
- iii) have no adverse impact on the landscape, habitats or biodiversity of the site or (where unavoidable) satisfactorily mitigate such impact.”

The government’s Planning Practice Guidance outlines the purpose of the designation:

“Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.”ⁱ

The purpose and criteria for designation are given in paragraphs 76 and 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework:

“76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.”ⁱⁱ

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Severn Road Green (West of Severn Road), Midland Road Green:

Justification for designation as Local Green Space

The Park Estate Greens are valued green, recreational areas within the large Park Estate which is in the North West of Stonehouse. The Greens are used by children for playing close to and in sight of their homes and by residents walking their dogs. The Greens are sometimes also used for community events. The large oak tree on Midland Road Green is especially valued. There are good views to Doverow Hill and the surrounding Cotswold escarpment from both Greens. The Park Estate was developed by the local authority in the 1950s and the Greens are part of the design and give character to the area. Further details regarding the proposal to designate are given in the *Stonehouse NDP Local Green Space Checklist Park Estate Greens, June 2016* and accompanying documents.

- **Proximity and location:** Severn Road Green (West of Severn Road) and Midland Road Green are both within a densely populated housing estate.
- **Special to the local community, beauty, recreational value:** They are valued by local people for their recreational value, views and as green and open spaces, one with a large tree. Local support for the Local Green Space proposal has been demonstrated by statements of support from residents and support from Stonehouse Town Council as well as Neighbourhood Plan consultation results.
- **Historic significance:** The area has historic significance as a mid 20th century local authority housing development.

Evidence

Evidence is summarised in *Stonehouse NDP Local Green Space Checklist Park Estate Greens, June 2016* and the following supporting documents:

1. Map of Park Estate Greens for Local Green Space designation, Stonehouse NP
2. Stonehouse NDP Park Estate Greens photographs
3. Extract from Stonehouse Town Council Regeneration and Environment Cttee Mins 22 Feb 2016
- 4a and 4 b. Notes of meeting SNPG and Stroud District Council Local Green Space 15 March 2016, Gmail - Proposal by Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group for Local Green Space designation for Park Estate Greens
5. Statements from Park Estate Residents on use of Greens May 2016
6. Summary by APT worker of how Park Estate Greens used, March 2016

ⁱ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

ⁱⁱ http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/policy/achieving-sustainable-development/delivering-sustainable-development/8-promoting-healthy-communities/#paragraph_76

ⁱⁱⁱ http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/policy/achieving-sustainable-development/delivering-sustainable-development/8-promoting-healthy-communities/#paragraph_77