

STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Tricia Lennie,
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FAO Ms Wendy Burden

Re: Examination Ref: 01/WB/SNP

7th September 2020

Response of Stevington Parish Council to questions in the Examiner's Procedural 28th August 2020

From my initial consideration of the SNP, I have the following questions to raise with the Parish Council relating to the Local Green Space (LGS) proposals in the SNP as follows:

- i. Proposed LGS1 and 3: were these sites considered for LGS designation in the preparation of the Bedford Borough Local Plan (BBLP) 2020?*

No, although the Parish Council was approached by BBC to identify and submit LGS sites for the original draft Local Plan (2035). When this Plan was dropped in favour of the more recently adopted LP 2030 it was agreed that as Stevington was already in the process of formulating its own NDP that LGS would be reviewed and identified in the latter document.

- ii. Having regard to the status of Stevington Windmill (LGS2) as a Listed Building and the protection conferred by that designation, would the allocation of its site as LGS provide any additional local benefit?*

The approach to the windmill is currently worked agricultural land and the 'footpath' to it is undesignated, by applying LGS status to the approach corridor to and around the mill we can be assured that access will remain for all to enjoy. The approach is used by visitors and residents on a daily basis and provides an opportunity to view the mill from a graduated distance and viewing of the exterior without potential encroachment of the farmer's surrounding crop.

- iii. Proposed LGS4 includes trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Having regard to the protection conferred by the TPO would the allocation of the site as LGS provide any additional local benefit? With regard to the designation of the route of the Public Footpath within LGS4, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) advises at para 018 Ref ID 37-018-20140306 that there is no need to designate linear corridors in order to protect a public right of way since it is already protected under other legislation. Would the inclusion of the Public Footpath provide any additional local benefit?*

LGS4 provides a visual screen between Oakley and Stevington. Previously designated Open Village Spaces have been built upon, with subsequent difficulty in enforcing planning conditions. SPC did debate this but made a judgement to keep it as LGS although with the TPO there should be additional security.

Best wishes,

Tricia Lennie – Clerk to Stevington Parish Council