

Consultation on Green Spaces Proposals

Green Spaces display board

At Lewknor parish fete & horticultural show

– 15th September 2019

Location

Lewknor Horticultural Show held in Lewknor Red Kite Park where the Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Planning (LPNP) team had a stand.

Method of Presentation

Within the LPNP stand a white board displayed the Question “Are these our IMPORTANT Green Spaces?” along with the following definition of what green spaces should be to provide guidance to interested parties and survey participants.

Locally significant due to:

- Beauty
- Historic Interest – part of the conservation area
- Recreation
- Tranquillity
- Quality of Biodiversity

Google Maps Satellite images of the following suggested sites matched with a high definition Ordnance Survey Map extract were displayed

- Red Kite Park, Lewknor
- School Playground, Lewknor
- St Margaret’s Churchyard, Lewknor
- Allotments, Lewknor
- Knapp Farm Orchard, Lewknor
- Junction of B4009 and Watlington Road, Lewknor
- St Lawrence’s Churchyard, South Weston
- Junction of A40 and Box Tree Lane Postcombe
- Junction of Box Tree Lane and Lower Road, Postcombe

Method of Survey

Visitors to the LPNP stand were invited to comment on:

- a) the selection of sites presented
- b) whether they thought there should be any additional sites
- c) Which ones they would give precedence to protecting
- d) Indicate if they had a “favourite space” and why

Preferences were marked onto a check sheet coded to the photographs. Significant comments were also noted.

Results

28 people showed more than a passing interest in the display.

6 were from outside the parish, from Watlington, Aston Rowant, Thame x 3, Hillingdon who asked questions of a more general nature about the Neighbourhood Plan.

23 people chose to comment. 3 from South Weston, 4 from Postcombe, 15 from Lewknor, 1 outsider (seeking to move to the village). 17 expressed preferences, the remaining 6 did not want to prioritise.

The most popular images for Lewknor were those showing the School playground and the allotments. The reasons given being variations on “it is nice that there are gaps in the housing in the High Street”. Of the two areas, the school play area was rated slightly higher for the view across it to the Church. Coming a very close second was the Knapp Farm Orchard, largely for the view across the orchard area toward the Church, but also for keeping an open feel to the village. Attracting a lot of comment, was the green roadside space at the junction of the B4009 and Watlington Road, as presenting a soft entrance to the village; that the village wasn’t “in your face” immediately at the junction.

There were fewer responses from Postcombe residents, two out of three indicating some surprise that there were spaces. The third suggesting that a seat on the space where Box Tree Lane meets the A40 would add to the amenity value of the space. The area immediately behind the England’s Rose alongside the A40 was suggested as a possibility.

Neither churchyard received a great deal of support. A suggestion was made that perhaps they had their own protection and that having other green space was important so that the churchyards were not the only tranquil spaces in the parish.

One Lewknor resident expressed the view that green spaces were helping to keep us all healthy. Another resident wondered if something could be done to make a feature of the spring rising in the allotment. Three Lewknor residents asked what protection could be given to the paddocks next to Red Kite Park.

Conclusion

It was agreed that the following spaces should be included in the neighbourhood plan as local Green Spaces:

- Knapp Farm Orchard, Lewknor
- School Playground, Lewknor
- Allotments and former watercress beds, Lewknor
- Land between Leathern Bottle and the watercress beds
- Verges at entrance to Lewknor village
- Wooded area next to Box Tree House, Lewknor

After further consideration the following areas were not included:

- Red Kite Park, Lewknor – this land has a restrictive covenant which it was felt provided sufficient protection
- St Margaret’s Churchyard, Lewknor – this is a consecrated burial ground which it was felt provided sufficient protection

- St Lawrence's Churchyard, South Weston – this is a consecrated burial ground which it was felt provided sufficient protection
- Junction of A40 and Box Tree Lane Postcombe - degree of protection felt sufficient by virtue of its contribution to road safety
- Junction of Box Tree Lane and Lower Road, Postcombe - degree of protection felt sufficient by virtue of its contribution to road safety