

# FRIENDS OF FOX HILL


## Completing the Draft Local Plan Public Consultation





The consultation closing date is 5pm on Friday, 20 March 2020

### To Complete the Survey

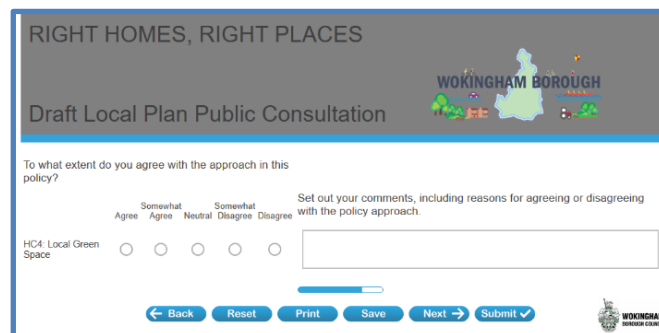
<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/> and select Draft Local Plan Survey

 Familiarise yourself with the Local Green Space information, extracts are below.


 Enter your name and address which is mandatory.

 The survey is divided into 10 chapters. 'Policy HC4: Local Green Space' can be found in Chapter 9: Healthy & Safe Communities, page 121.


 The screenshot on the right shows what you will need to fill in.




 Please comment on other chapters that are important to you as well.

 Your responses need to be of a positive nature; you cannot say “we do not want” as this will reduce the impact of your comments.

 Keep it short and to the point. Make it easy for the Council to read, bullet points are fine.

 Further information to assist is given after the extracts.

 Alternatively, you can download a form, scroll down the page, then select Draft Plan Consultation and then Draft Local Plan Response form.

### Extracts from the Draft Local Plan Update

#### Policy HC4: Local Green Space

The following areas are designated Local Green Spaces as shown on the policies map:

- a) Elms Field, Wellington Road
- b) Howard Palmer Gardens, Cockpit Path
- c) Barkham Recreation Ground, Latimer Road
- d) Langborough Recreation Ground, Gipsy Lane
- e) King George V Playing Field, Goodchild Road
- f) Land south of Reading Road, Bulmershe, Earley
- g) Fox Hill, Woosehill
- h) Joel Park and Holt Copse, Wokingham

Within the Local Green Space, development will be restricted to those limited types of development which are deemed appropriate, unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated.\* Development proposals will be considered appropriate where it is compatible with the reasons for which the land was designated.

All development proposals should be carefully designed and managed to minimise visual impact, respect the reasons for which the site was designated, and ensure the continued integrity of the site.

Development proposals outside Local Green Space, but conspicuous when viewed from it, should minimise any detrimental impacts to the visual amenity and respect reasons for which the site was designated.

Development proposals which improve accessibility to, or enhance the use of Local Green Space will be supported.

\* 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

9.16 The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Local Green Spaces may be designated where those spaces in both villages or in a town.

9.17 Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.

As outlined in national policy, Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife; and
- Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

9.18 Development within, or in proximity of the Local Green Space, should respect reasons for which the site was designed and minimise any impacts on it.

9.19 Where communities promoted green areas for Local Green Space, these have been assessed against the above criteria<sup>24</sup>. Proposals for additional designations of Local Green Space in neighbourhood plans will require similar assessment.

### **Fox Hill, Woosehill**

9.27 Fox Hill is located within proximity to existing residents of Woosehill and Barkham. The site is self-contained by residential development at Woosehill and Limmerhill, but forms part of the open countryside due to the presence of Coombes Wood and Bearwood Estate which is designated as a Registered Park and Garden and Local Wildlife Site. The site also forms an important separation between the settlements of Woosehill and Barkham due to undulating hills characterised by dense woodland, which provide local character and distinctiveness to the area. Fox Hill is considered demonstrably special to the local community as it is regularly used for a range of recreational and leisure activities, such as walking and cycling.

**This map shows the area proposed as Local Green Space.**

### **Key Points on which to Comment**

1. Explain why Fox Hill is important to you.
2. Explain how you use Fox Hill, how many years, and how frequently.
3. Explain how the woods make you feel. Does it positively impact your mental/ physical well-being?
4. Mention who else you see using the woodland, eg families, walkers, joggers, cyclists. Why do you think it is important to our community?
5. Explain how you use Fox Hill to access other areas such as the Coombes.
6. Explain the impact if access was changed or if development occurs.
7. Use keywords in your comments as these will make the Council Officers and Elected Councillors take notice.



### **Keywords**

Resilient networks of green space eg wildlife corridors – access for wildlife between Fox Hill, The Coombes, St Catherine Woods, & Arborfield	Ecological continuity – protecting ancient & semi-ancient woodland, woodland management, conservation interest & activities
Landscape value - its beauty, plant and wildlife diversity, richness of wildlife, veteran & mature trees	Landscape quality, scenic quality, rarity, tranquillity, sense of remoteness
Linking past generations with current and future ones	Opportunity to create a supportive Fox Hill community
Closeness to the community with pedestrian access	Well-being, health issues, supporting social cohesion
Social value of woods enriching peoples' experience, recreational activities eg Scout groups, & pupils of local schools	Any other examples of the value to our community