

BAWTRY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION

QUESTION FOR TOWN COUNCIL and DMBC, April 5th 2019

In examining policy NE3 Protecting and Enhancing Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities I am interested to explore whether there are reasons why the open spaces shown on Map 13 should not be referred to as local green spaces in accordance with the designation referred to in the NPPF paragraph 77. This would align the Plan policy more closely with the NPPF policy. The NPPF in paragraph 77 states:

'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."

I wish to know whether on the basis of the terms of paragraph 77 there are any views as to whether it is appropriate to change the designation on the Map13 open spaces to local green space and more directly apply the NPPF policy. The policy as recommended in the NPPF is very similar to that currently proposed in the Plan and is effectively a green belt presumption against development apart from ancillary development or demonstration of very special circumstances.

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Examiner
5/4/19