

Woodstock

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2020 - 2031

Consultation Statement

January 2022



WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2020 – 2031

Consultation Statement

January 2022

Woodstock Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Woodstock
Oxfordshire, OX20 1SL

<http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk/>

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Introduction and Overview

This document

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement has been produced to accompany the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the process of consultation that has been undertaken in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and how this has informed the submission version of the Plan.

Consultation exercises

- 1.2 This section provides a short summary of the consultation process undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan, which is then expanded upon in the supporting material (see below).

Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- The genesis of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found in the Woodstock Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (CIP). This was jointly commissioned in February 2019 by Woodstock Town Council and the Blenheim Estate to identify future infrastructure needs in the town in response to future growth and development.
- Amongst priorities raised during consultation with the local community undertaken to inform the CIP, the protection and enhancement of green and open spaces were raised as a key concern, particularly the status of the Recreation Ground. In the community survey distributed, providing more green spaces was rated as 4.1 out of 5 in terms of importance by 510 respondents, while keeping the Woodstock FC site (Recreation Ground) as a green space was rated as 4.6 out of 5 by 508 respondents.
- During consultation on the CIP discussions raised regarding the environment and the climate crisis dominated community events. Environmental and low carbon improvements, including biodiversity, wildlife habitats and green spaces, was placed on the Priority List relating to Section 106 developer contributions.

Informal consultation on Neighbourhood Plan

- Following engagement activities on the CIP, publication of that document and key messages regarding open space, the Town Council began preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan with a focus on designating important Local Green Spaces in Woodstock for protection.
- The Town Council was formerly designated for Neighbourhood Planning purposes in January 2020 and in August and September of that year distributed a

questionnaire asking local residents about green spaces in Woodstock, how they use and view these, and their thoughts on whether they should be designated as Local Green Spaces.

- Consultation was undertaken on thirteen sites identified as potential designation. The responses from residents overwhelmingly supported designation of all sites, with respondents reporting regular use of the sites.

Landowner consultation on Proposed Local Green Spaces

- As part of the initial consultation exercise, landowners of the sites proposed for designation were contacted to provide an overview of the purpose of designation and to ask whether they would agree to and would be happy with the site being designated.
- Letters were initially sent to landowners in February 2020, with responses received between then and May 2020. Further contact was made with landowners as part of the Regulation 14 consultation stage.
- Some of the responses note the value of the site and the rationale for designation, though others were not considered to meet the criteria for designation. These responses have informed the final list of sites designated in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Regulation 14 Consultation

- The Regulation 14 consultation ran for a six-week period in July and August 2021, though with some responses from landowners and other statutory consultees being received after this date and thus effectively extending the consultation period through to December 2021.
- Responses received from residents were supportive of the proposed designations. Equally, responses from some of the statutory consultees were supportive, though others suggested some sites did not meet the criteria. These have informed the final list of sites designated as local green space in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Supporting material

1.3 This Consultation Statement includes, in the appendices, material associated with the consultation process. This comprises:

- Appendix A: A report of the initial consultation undertaken including copies of material prepared for that.
- Appendix B: A copy of the letter sent to landowners during the initial consultation stage seeking views on proposed designations.

- Appendix C: A report of the Regulation 14 consultation undertaken including copies of material prepared for that.

Appendix A

This Appendix includes a copy of the survey used for collecting feedback on the proposed Local Green Space designations, as well as the summary report of feedback received.

WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE



INTRODUCTION

The Neighbourhood Plan

Woodstock Town Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are an opportunity for local communities to help shape future change in an area, related to development and land use.

In Woodstock new development will come forward in the future and the Local Plan identifies sites where new homes will be built.

The Town Council believes that, with this new development, it is essential to protect important green spaces in the area for the benefit of current and future residents, providing opportunities for sport and recreation, as well as places for wildlife.

What are Local Green Spaces?

National Planning Policy enables communities to designate 'Local Green Spaces' in Neighbourhood Plans. These designations provide additional protection to that green space, restricting development from taking place on that space. The designation is similar to Green Belt policy.

For green spaces to be designated national policy states that they should be:

'demonstrably special to a local community and hold 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'.

National policy also states that a site should only be designated as a local green space if it:

- Is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.
- Is considered demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance.
- Is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- Does not already have planning permission for development.

What are we asking?

The Town Council has identified thirteen possible local green spaces for designation within Woodstock. We would like your feedback on these sites, if you think they meet the criteria for designation, and why. We would also like to know if there are any other spaces that meet the criteria for designation.



WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

What green spaces are we asking about?

The green spaces are identified on the enclosed maps at the back of the questionnaire and include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. The Oxfordshire Museum | 8. Green Lane Cemetery |
| 2. The Memorial Garden | 9. Green Lane Allotments |
| 3. Marlborough School Playing Fields | 10. The Watermeadows |
| 4. Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club | 11. Old Woodstock Play Area |
| 5. New Road Playground | 12. Community Orchard and Woodland |
| 6. New Road Recreation Ground | 13. Hensington Road Cemetery |
| 7. Owl Nature Reserve | |

FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

| 1. How often do you make use of the green space? | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------------|--------|---------------------|---------|------------|---|
| | Daily | 2-3 times per week | Weekly | 2-3 times per month | Monthly | Less often | Historically often (Access now restricted) |
| Oxfordshire museum | | | | | | | |
| Memorial Garden | | | | | | | |
| Marlborough School Playing Fields | | | | | | | |
| Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club | | | | | | | |
| New Road Playground | | | | | | | |
| New Road Recreation Ground | | | | | | | |
| Owl Nature Reserve | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane Cemetery | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane Allotments | | | | | | | |
| The Watermeadows | | | | | | | |
| Old Woodstock Play Area | | | | | | | |
| Community Orchard and Woodland | | | | | | | |
| Hensington Road Cemetery | | | | | | | |

WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE



2(a). How do/did you use the green space? (Please tick all that apply)

| | Informal Exercise | Organised Sport | Children's Play | Relaxation | Growing Food | Enjoying Wildlife | Other |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| Oxfordshire museum | | | | | | | |
| Memorial Garden | | | | | | | |
| Marlborough School Playing Fields | | | | | | | |
| Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club | | | | | | | |
| New Road Playground | | | | | | | |
| New Road Recreation Ground | | | | | | | |
| Owl Nature Reserve | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane Cemetery | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane Allotments | | | | | | | |
| The Watermeadows | | | | | | | |
| Old Woodstock Play Area | | | | | | | |
| Community Orchard and Woodland | | | | | | | |
| Hensington Road Cemetery | | | | | | | |

2(b). If you have ticked 'other' for any of the green spaces, please expand here:



WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

3(a). Can the green space be considered 'locally significant' based on criteria outlined in national policy. (Please tick all that apply)

| | Beauty | Historic Significance | Recreational Value | Tranquility | Richness of Wildlife |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Oxfordshire museum | | | | | |
| Memorial Garden | | | | | |
| Marlborough School Playing Fields | | | | | |
| Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club | | | | | |
| New Road Playground | | | | | |
| New Road Recreation Ground | | | | | |
| Owl Nature Reserve | | | | | |
| Green Lane Cemetery | | | | | |
| Green Lane Allotments | | | | | |
| The Watermeadows | | | | | |
| Old Woodstock Play Area | | | | | |
| Community Orchard and Woodland | | | | | |
| Hensington Road Cemetery | | | | | |

3(b). If you have ticked yes to any of the above, please explain why:

WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE



4 (a). Do you think the green space should be designated for added protection?

| | Yes | No | Not sure |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|----------|
| Oxfordshire museum | | | |
| Memorial Garden | | | |
| Marlborough School Playing Fields | | | |
| Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club | | | |
| New Road Playground | | | |
| New Road Recreation Ground | | | |
| Owl Nature Reserve | | | |
| Green Lane Cemetery | | | |
| Green Lane Allotments | | | |
| The Watermeadows | | | |
| Old Woodstock Play Area | | | |
| Community Orchard and Woodland | | | |
| Hensington Road Cemetery | | | |

4(b). If you have comments on whether the spaces should be designated, please add here:

5. Are there any other green spaces we should seek to designate for extra protection as a local green space? If so, please say where and explain why:



WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

| 6(a). | |
|--|--|
| Name | |
| Organisation represented (if applicable) | |
| Post Code | |

| 6(b). Are you... (Please tick all that apply) | |
|---|--|
| A resident of Woodstock | |
| An employee in Woodstock | |
| Visiting Woodstock | |
| Other (please state) | |

| 6(c). How old are you (Please only tick one) | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|----------------|
| Under 18 | 18-25 | 26-35 | 36-45 | 46-55 | 56-65 | Over 65 | Rather not say |
| | | | | | | | |

| 6(d). Are you... | |
|----------------------|--|
| Male | |
| Female | |
| Would rather not say | |

KEEP IN TOUCH

7. If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, please provide your email address:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

DATA PROTECTION

Data is being collected by Troy Planning + Design on behalf of the Town Council. Data in this questionnaire will be analysed to inform the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. Anonymous data may be shared as evidence that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the aspirations of the community. Email addresses will only be used as stated and will not be shared with third parties. If you wish your data to be removed or to change your contact details please email info@troyplanning.com. Please see our privacy and data retention terms at: <https://troyplanning.com>

WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE



IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL LOCAL GREEN SPACES





WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN || LOCAL GREEN SPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

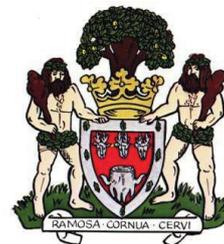
Please return this questionnaire by handing it in at the Woodstock Town Council offices
(address below). Please return by Friday 11th September 2020.

This questionnaire can also be filled in online at the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JJ2HKFT>

CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: 01993 811216
Email: info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

The Town Clerk
Town Hall
Market Place
Woodstock
OX20 1SL



Local Green Spaces Survey: Response Summary

1. Background

Between August 13th 2020 and September 11th 2020 the Town Council distributed a questionnaire asking local residents about the local green spaces that had provisionally been identified by the Town Council as in need of additional protection (i.e.: as Local Green Spaces). The purpose of the survey was to understand the significance of the spaces, how they are used, and whether they felt the protection was necessary. They were also asked to identify any spaces that hadn't been included but should be.

In total, 94 people completed the survey. 95% of respondents were residents and 8% were employees. 39% identified as male and 57% were female.

2. Site-specific Feedback

2.1: Oxfordshire Museum

90/94 respondents indicated they make use of the green space at the Oxfordshire Museum. The majority visit monthly (23%) or less often (40%). 14% said they visited 2-3 times per week and 13% explained that they used to visit more often but access is now more restricted (as a result of the Covid-19 precautions). The space is used predominantly for relaxation (82%), with others citing wildlife (8%) and informal exercise (6%) as other uses.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 76% of respondents believe the space has historic significance; 66% believe it should be protected for its tranquillity and 60% for its recreational value.

86% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional respondent comments:

- *"I use the museum garden for socialising"*
- *"An oasis in the middle of town"*

2.2: Memorial Garden

81/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Memorial Garden. The majority visit less than once per month (65%) but there are members of the community who visit weekly (5%) and 2-3 times per week (7%). 60% of respondents to the survey cited

relaxation as a reason for use, while enjoying wildlife and informal exercise were other widely highlighted responses (25% and 20% respectively).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 74% of respondents believe the space should be protected for its tranquillity, while 51% believe it holds significant historic value.

72% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional respondent comments:

- *"As the site of the old Union Workhouse it should be commemorated in some way (perhaps a sculpture)"*

2.3: Marlborough School playing Field

77/94 respondents indicated that they use the playing field, 9% of whom use it on a daily basis. A further 9% use it 2-3 times per week and 13% weekly. 48% of respondents use it less than once per month. The playing field is used for a number of different reasons including informal exercise (70%), children's play (28%), organised sport (15%) and relaxation (15%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 99% of respondents believe the space has recreational value, while 25% value its tranquillity.

91% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

2.4 : Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club

73/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Bowls and Tennis Club. 73% of those visit less than once per month, while 10% visit monthly. The main reasons for using the Bowls and Tennis club were informal exercise (31%) and organised sport (31%). Less common reasons included relaxation (15%) and children's play (13%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 100% of respondents believe the space has recreational value.

78% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

2.5 : New Road Playground

83/94 respondents indicated that they visit New Road Playground. While most of these visits are less than once per month, the playground is used regularly by parts of the community; 12% use it 2-3 times per week, 7% use it weekly and 10% use it 2-3 times per month. The main reason for use was, unsurprisingly, children's play (64%), though residents also used the space for informal exercise (29%) and relaxation (14%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 100% of respondents believe the space has recreational value.

83% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

2.6 : New Road Recreation Ground

80/94 respondents indicated that they use the Recreation Ground. 8% of those responding to the survey use it daily and a further 8% use it 2-3 times per week. Ten people claim that they use it monthly while 14% use it at least once per week. Informal exercise was the most commonly cited reason for use with 56% of residents using it for this purpose. Other typical reasons included children's play (33%) and relaxation (23%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 100% of respondents believe the space has recreational value, while 11% value its tranquillity.

81% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional respondent comments:

- *"The only large recreational space near the town centre."*

2.7 : OWL Nature Reserve

83/94 respondents indicated that they visit the OWL Nature Reserve, with significant numbers (54%) using it more than once per month. Of those 54%, 11% use it daily and 12% use it 2-3 times per week. The main reasons for use were informal exercise and enjoying wildlife, with 66% and 51% respectively of respondents visiting for these purposes.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant', the OWL Nature Reserve is valued for a variety of reasons: 57% value its beauty, 36% believe it has historical significance, 58% believe it has recreational value, 67% value its tranquillity and 87% value the richness of wildlife it provides.

93% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional Comments:

- *"The OWL corridor is a rich wildlife corridor joining the town with the countryside."*
- *"[provides] a haven for wildlife and people in the town, linking it to an old footpath. [It] provides a buffer zone between house and shows the train link to Woodstock."*
- *"Exceptional area for birdlife"*

2.8 : Green Lane Cemetery

80/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Green Lane Cemetery. 63% of those visit less than once a month, 18% visit between once a day and once a week, and 11% visit monthly. The main reasons for use were informal exercise (28%), relaxation (22%) and enjoying wildlife (20%). 58% of users also cited 'other' as a reason for use, likely reflecting those who visit to pay respects to people who are buried there.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 83% of respondents value the tranquillity the cemetery provides. A further 40% feel the space has historic significance.

84% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

2.9 : Green Lane Allotments

73/94 respondents indicated that they use the Green Lane Allotments, though the majority (78%) claim this is less often than once per month; however, small numbers are regular users, including 7% who use it daily. 24% of people use the space for growing food; however, there are other reasons for use including informal exercise (24%) and enjoying wildlife (21%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 78% feel the space has recreational value, 56% value the tranquillity afforded by the allotments while 47% appreciate the richness of wildlife.

87% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

2.10: The Watermeadows

Seemingly the most popular open space in the town, 90/93 respondents indicated that they visit the watermeadows, with 22% visiting daily, 20% visiting 2-3 times per week, 12% visiting weekly and 13% visiting 2-3 times per month. Just 14% visit less often than once per month. 82% of visitors use the watermeadows for informal exercise, 63% use it for enjoying wildlife and 52% for relaxation.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant', the Watermeadows is valued across all five criteria – beauty (81%), historic significance (59%), recreational value (69%), tranquillity (88%), richness of wildlife (91%).

97% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional respondent comments:

- *"The historic watermeadows are both tranquil and teeming with wildlife - an important recreational walking area."*

2.11: Old Woodstock Play Area

82/94 respondents indicated that they use the Old Woodstock Play Area, 17% of whom visit daily. 11% visit 2-3 times per week and a further 11% visit monthly. 6% of respondents also claim that they used to visit often in the past, but access has since been restricted (as a result of the Covid-19 precautions). Informal exercise (48%), children's play (58%) and relaxation (37%) were the main reasons for use.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 99% of respondents believe the space has recreational value, while 29% value its tranquillity and a further 23% appreciate the richness of wildlife.

86% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional respondent comments:

- *"The field in Old Woodstock, adjacent to the play area, is frequently used by the community for recreation and exercise. Its use has increased significantly since lockdown too and is a valuable connection with nature for residents (quite different to Blenheim Park). There is also a lot of wildlife in the field - we have frequently seen Barn Owls, other owls, foxes, deer, stoats, weasels and other animals in the field."*

2.12: Community Orchard and Woodland

83/94 respondents indicated that they use the Community Orchard and Woodland, with a large proportion using it daily (12%), 2-3 times per week (17%) or weekly (10%). Informal exercise (74%), relaxation (60%) and enjoying wildlife (57%) were the main reasons for use cited by the respondents.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant', the Community Orchard and Woodland is valued across four of the five criteria – beauty (62%), recreational value (72%) tranquillity (75%), richness of wildlife (84%).

88% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

Additional Comments:

- *"A place for residents to volunteer for outdoor activities and being close to nature"*
- *"A rich area of ecologically diverse flora and fauna"*

2.13: Hensington Road Cemetery

78/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Hensington Road Cemetery, though the majority use it either monthly (10%) or less often (73%). Reasons for visiting include informal exercise (24%) and relaxation (33%). 50% of visitors cited 'other' as reasons for their visit., reflecting those who visit the cemetery to pay their respects to those who are buried there.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 56% of respondents believe the space has historic significance, while 20% appreciate the richness of wildlife.

83% of respondents think the space should be designated for added protection.

3. The Importance of Green Space to Local Residents

In their comments respondents expressed a strong desire to protect all of the local green spaces that exist within the town, citing the health and community benefits they provide and their importance to the character of Woodstock:

- *"These green areas have all been around for a long time and offer places for rest, recreation, getting outdoors and boosting one's mental health"*
- *"All of the above mentioned are significantly important green spaces to all in Woodstock, I utilise most of the green spaces everyday while out walking with my dogs."*
- *"The green spaces are the lungs of the town"*
- *"Woodstock is lucky to be surrounded by tranquil spaces on our doorstep. We should be proud of our green spaces, or we are no different to any other local town. Proximity to green spaces is important and the further out these get due to housing development means they are used less by the long-standing residents as Woodstock expands outwards. We must protect these spaces"*
- *"Each of these spaces are what makes Woodstock such a special place, green, historical and family friendly, with an amazing array of wildlife. These need to remain."*

Appendix B

This appendix includes a copy of the initial letter sent to landowners seeking views on the proposed local green space designations.

<<Insert Address>>

<<Insert date>>

Dear <<INSERT NAME>>

**Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan:
Local Green Space Designations – Memorial Garden**

I am writing on behalf of Woodstock Town Council to invite your input to the creation of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan.

The Localism Act granted powers to Town and Parish Councils to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, which will be subject to consultation, will eventually form part of the suite of policies used by West Oxfordshire District Council to inform and determine planning applications.

The Town Council is keen to use the Neighbourhood Plan to designate Local Green Spaces. Use of such designation gives special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

The National Planning Policy Framework outlines the criteria that should be satisfied for a Local Green Space to be designated. The green space should be:

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

The Town Council considers that the <<SITE NAME>> meets the criteria for designation. As the landowner, we are asking for your views on the appropriateness of such a designation.

It is important to note that whilst designation would afford the green space similar policy protection to Green Belt, it does not place any new restrictions or obligations on landowners. Management of the land remains the responsibility of the landowner although, with your agreement, there may be opportunities that can be explored which allow the local community to become more involved in the management of the space. Furthermore, designation does not confer any rights of access over what exists at present.

Further information can be found in:

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Planning Practice Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan is at a very early stage and we are seeking your input into this now so that we can jointly shape a Plan with the wider community.

Please do let the Town Council know whether you are comfortable with the potential for designation of the <<SITE NAME>> as Local Green Space, or whether there are any concerns or comments you wish to raise. All will be considered through production of the Plan.

Please can you reply with your comments to the Town Council by Friday 20th March.

We have included a plan showing the extent of the green space being considered for designation. We would be grateful if you could confirm that this reflects the extent of the green space.

The next steps in the process are to ask for wider public input to the Plan. We will then draft the Plan and policies for more formal consultation, after which it will be submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council for independent examination. Subject to the outcomes of the examination the Plan will then proceed to referendum, where everyone registered to vote within Woodstock will be able to say whether they believe the Plan should be 'made'. If more than 50% of all people who turn out vote in favour of the Plan then it will form planning policy.

We think this represents an excellent opportunity for the community of Woodstock to come together. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely
For Woodstock Town Council

<<Insert Name>>
<<Insert Position>>

Appendix C

This appendix includes a report of the Regulation 14 consultation. It includes copies of material prepared as part of that process.



WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SUMMARY OF REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION

DECEMBER 2021

1. Overview of Process

The Regulation 14 consultation stage of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan took place for a six-week period running from 19 July 2021 – 31 August 2021. Some responses from statutory consultees and landowners were received after this date, effectively extending the consultation period through to December 2021.

Notice of the Regulation 14 consultation was sent direct to:

- **Seven** organisations (as listed below), representing statutory consultees, and including utility and service providers.
 - Natural England
 - Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Robert Courts MP
 - Oxfordshire County Council – Communities & County Cllr for Woodstock
 - West Oxon District Council – Planning Department and two District Councillors
 - Thames Water

- The **Nine** parish council's neighbouring Woodstock, being:
 - Begbroke Parish Council
 - Bladon Parish Council
 - Blenheim Parish
 - Kidlington Parish Council
 - Shipton-on-Cherwell Parish Council
 - Stonesfield Parish Council
 - Tackley Parish Council
 - Wootton Parish Council
 - Yarnton Parish Council

- **Eighteen** other organisations (as listed below) who has expressed an interest in the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, including landowners of the sites proposed to be Local Green Space designations.
 - Blenheim Estates
 - Wake Up to Woodstock
 - Probus Club
 - Glyme Valley Probus Club for Ladies
 - Woodstock Guides, Brownies & Rainbows
 - Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club
 - Marlborough School
 - The Natural History Society

- Woodstock Music Society
- Woodstock Lunch Club
- The Woodstock Society
- St Mary Magdalene Church
- Woodstock Baptist Church
- Woodstock Methodist Church
- Catholic Church of Woodstock & Kidlington
- Woodstock Youth Club
- Woodstock Social Club
- Trustees of Hensington Road Memorial Garden

Details of the relevant statutory consultees to contact were requested from West Oxfordshire District Council.

The Regulation 14 version of the Plan and supporting documentation were available to view electronically and download via the Town Council website during this period. A screenshot of the consultation page of the Town Council website as it appeared during this period is provided below.

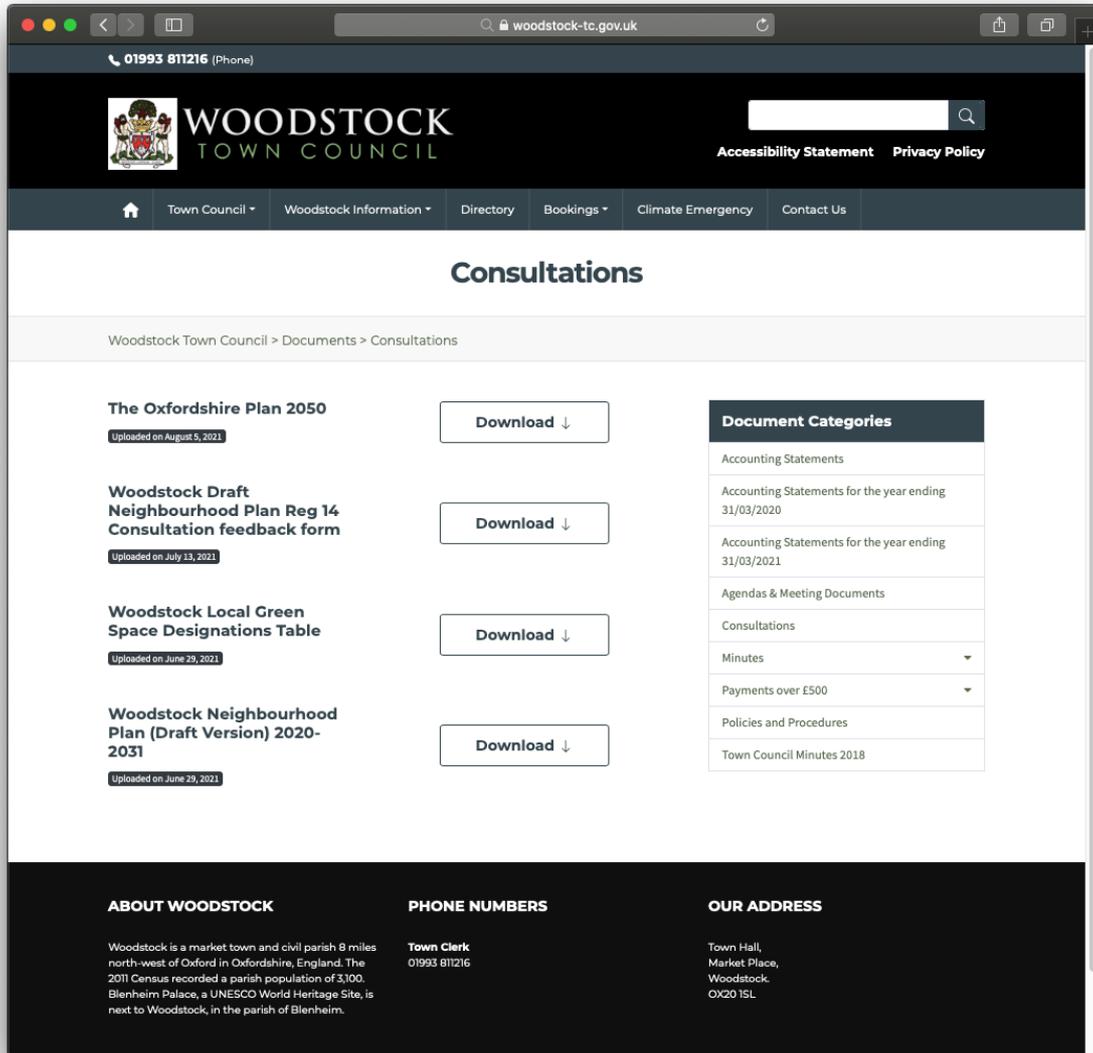


Figure 1: Consultation page, Woodstock Town Council website

In addition to the direct approaches outlined above the Regulation 14 consultation period was also advertised in the following ways:

- Posters were displayed around Woodstock, within Town Council noticeboards and elsewhere. A copy of this is presented below.
- Town Council newsletter
- Town Council meetings
- Woodstock & Bladon monthly magazine
- 'We Love Woodstock' Facebook page
- Sustainable Woodstock's newsletter

CONSULTATION

WOODSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



OUR WOODSTOCK, OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Woodstock Council has been preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to help protect green spaces in the local area.

The Town Council has identified thirteen possible local green spaces for designation within Woodstock. These have been informed by and are in response to comments made during earlier consultation events. Their designation will provide additional protection to that green space, restricting development from taking place on that space. The designation is similar to Green Belt policy.

We are now seeking your views on the draft Neighbourhood Plan; all of which will be reviewed when preparing the final version.

You can submit your comments via the feedback form, which is available online via Woodstock Town Council's website, or by hand. Before submitting your views, please do take time to familiarise yourself with the draft Plan, also available online via Woodstock Town Council's website.

Please submit your feedback before 31 August 2021. We look forward to hearing what you think.



Please tell us what you think

To find out more about the plan, please visit the Town Council website: www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk

Please submit your views by completing the feedback form either online or by hand and returning to the Town Council offices. The consultation period runs from 19 July to 31 August.

SCAN TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK



Figure 2: Copy of poster used to raise awareness of the consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

2. Responses to Survey

The survey issued alongside the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan asked respondents to say whether they supported the proposed designations or not, if they felt the sites met the criteria for designation, then which criteria were applicable, whether there were any particular management arrangements associated with the space, whether people would be willing to become more involved in management and maintenance if possible, and whether there any wider comments that should be considered.

Responses to the survey form were received from 30 people. Although not all expressed a view on all of the sites, there was overall support for all of the proposed Local Green Space designations in the draft Plan, as illustrated in the following chart.

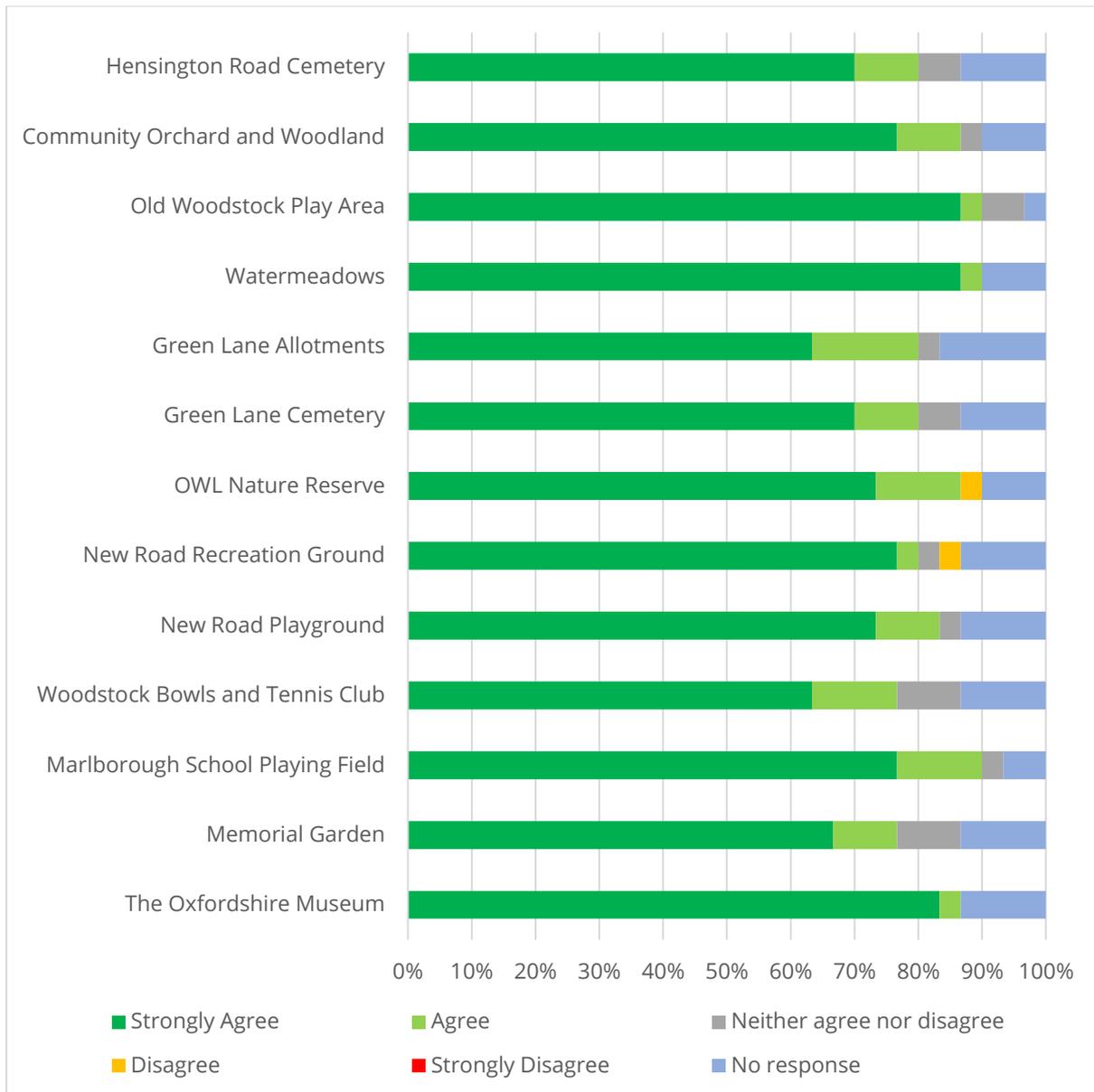


Figure 3: Summary of responses to consultation

Responses are summarised on a site by site basis below. In addition, comments were received from a small number of other organisations. These are woven into the sections below where they apply to a particular site.

The Oxfordshire Museum

Of those who responded to this question on the survey, all agreed or strongly agreed that it should be designated. Specific comments included:

- *Beautiful oasis in an interesting and informative surrounding.*
- *Beautifully tranquil area in the centre of town , gardens well used by children visiting the library.*
- *Small wildflower areas are essential for pollinators*
- *Essential for well being*
- *'To be ignorant of what has happened before you were born is to remain always a child.' Cicero - A museum is the guardian of one's heritage and its proper use makes adults of those who patronise it. Our museum is a font of learning and education and its garden is an oasis of peace, beauty and tranquilly for residents and visitors in the centre of the town. Fletchers House, site of our museum, is of historic importance.*
- *A special open space in the town centre.*
- *Fantastic central position*
- *There are no parks in the town centre and this is an area that is free on certain days only. Recreational value and planting has wildlife value.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Beautiful enclosed space and hence very useful to young families*
- *Special to community and visitors*
- *Used by all generations from baby groups to OAPs. Beautiful gardens.*
- *With the cafe, this is the only outdoor space in the centre of Woodstock where people can meet and chat. It is also a wonderfully reflective place to sit, away from the traffic.*
- *A beautiful space that is tranquil and atmospheric*
- *Should be designated due to education, recreational value and tranquillity. It is a green space in Woodstock that is open to all and used as a meeting place for various groups.*
- *Tranquil, and recreational value for all ages*
- *Meets all criteria*

Despite the strong support for designation expressed above, OCC, in their capacity as landowner, object to the proposed designation of this site. They say that designation would create an additional layer of policy over and above those that already apply. It notes that the site is located within a Conservation Area, that that garden contributes to the character and appearance of this, and that Museum building is listed. Referring to the NPPF, it notes that consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation. It also objects on the basis that the designation would unreasonably restrict the ability of the occupier to effectively operate their existing facilities, noting that should the Museum wish to provide additional accommodation for its own purposes, then the garden would be the most logical location for this, but that designation as LGS would prevent that from happening.

Memorial Garden

Almost 80% of all respondents expressed support or strong support for designation. A small number of people did not respond to this question or said they were unsure as to whether it should be designated or not. Specific comments included:

- *Wildflower areas are essential for pollinators*
- *Essential for well being*
- *The Memorial Garden is another public quiet and tranquil refuge with its benches flowers, bushes and pathways which give an aura of a nature reserve close to the town centre. It's a place to relax and unwind and should be regularly maintained. It is also an historic site of the UNION workhouse.*
- *Should be kept but could be relocated subject to proposed use of land and properly maintained, current location is not essential.*
- *Wasted opportunity that is not currently looked after but could be fantastic*
- *Recreational value*
- *Seems neglected and unused but historical significance*
- *Not given enough care*
- *This is dedicated to the town's residents who gave their lives. It is also a civic focal point for memorial activities, and had received nationwide coverage of Armistice celebrations.*
- *A small spot that my child loves to take sanctuary in and small the herbs*
- *Should be designated due to historical significance. Unfortunately space is currently misused and is heavily littered. It is not a place I would like to use. Existing planting provides a hidden area, one suggestion would be to open it up so visible from Hensington Road.*
- *Tranquil*
- *Beauty / Tranquillity*

One respondent noted that although the garden is special to the community, and was created with the best intentions, it is not maintained and is a place for anti-social behaviour. They note that *'designation should be combined with efforts to compel the trustees to discharge their duties to restore the garden and maintain it for the benefit of everyone who lives and works in Woodstock'. This is now happening.*

This was reiterated by another who said that is overgrown and, because of anti-social behaviour, you can feel uncomfortable sitting in the garden. It was suggested that it should be opened up and maintained, encouraging greater use.

The OCC Property team note that part of the site proposed for designation is within the ownership of the County and comprises part of the adjacent library rather than the Memorial Garden. It says the extent of the proposed area should be redrawn to exclude this, noting that it is not necessary for this to be included to gain access and that it does not in any event form part of the garden. The area that OCC Property suggest should be removed from designation of the site is illustrated below. The suggested change to the boundary of the site was echoed in the response provided by WODC.



Figure 4: Area of land outlined red that OCC Property notes as being part of the adjacent library and that it recommends should be removed from the extent of the proposed designation as LGS of the Memorial Garden.

Marlborough School Playing Field

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond or indicated they were unsure. Specific comments included:

- *Any school playing field should always remain a green space for children*
- *One of the few open green spaces in the town*
- *Wildflower areas are essential, we are losing our insect population. Schoolchildren are aware their future is affected by increasingly critical climate change*
- *Essential for well being*
- *A vital space for all the children of Woodstock, whether they attend the school or not*
- *This is where my son and daughter romped and played while at the local schools. It serves the Marlborough High School's recreational program for its students It's a large open space, rare in Woodstock, and is, and has been used by members of the local schools*
- *Required for the wellbeing of our young people*
- *Unsure why we are being asked this. It's a school playing field that is used all the time during school term but could be made available for others? Perhaps could benefit from outdoor fitness equipment. The hedge surrounding and trees will support wildlife.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Essential recreational space for the school*
- *Vital for school*
- *Important as sports facility for the school*

- *One of the very few local open air amenities for our children. At a time when children are being encouraged to exercise more, this area is vitally important.*
- *An important place for children to play football*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value. It is the only playing field adjacent to the school.*
- *Recreational value - much needed*
- *Recreational (self-evident)*

The OCC Property team object to the proposed designation of this site. It says that school playing fields are already protected as they are subject to separate consent from the Secretary of State and that Sport England has a statutory duty to protect playing fields. It says that school playing fields thus already have necessary levels of protection without the need for additional policy layers such as Local Green Space designation. However, the same response also note that if additional education facilities are required in Woodstock in the future, then it may be necessary to accommodate this on the edge of the school playing fields, but that designation as LGS would prevent this. It suggests that this suitably located site would no longer be able to assist in meeting the ongoing requirement to provide school facilities and that alternative sites would need finding elsewhere, potentially on the edge of Woodstock, but where land has been optioned by developers and housebuilders.

Conversely, the OCC Public Health team support the proposed designation of the site. They note with future development coming forward immediately to the south and east of this site, the Playing Field requires protection.

WODC note that national and local plan policy should help protect against the loss of school playing fields, but that designation as local green space would help make sure of this.

Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond or indicated they were unsure. Specific comments included:

- *We need more unmown areas. Climate change is real!*
- *Essential for well being*
- *The Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club is another vital green space near the heart of the town. It provides well-kept facilities and recreation ; tennis and bowling, for both young and old. It also act as a local social venue . It is essential that this site be maintained and protected as a community recreational site.*
- *Should be kept but could be relocated subject to proposed use of land, current location is useful but not essential.*
- *Central facility could be for all*
- *Recreational value to the community. I would like to see perhaps some of the courts/green open to non-members for occasional players. Little value to wildlife.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Great recreational space for all ages*

- *Good local resource*
- *Important facility for the whole community*
- *A haven of peace for our older (and not so old) community. This is a wonderful social amenity for local people.*
- *A community hub*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value, although not open to all.*
- *Recreational (self-evident)*

The OCC Public Health team support the proposed designation of this site. It is recognised that the site is important as a place for recreation and provides an opportunity for people to participate in organised sport. Given the ageing population of the area, this is important as people need to keep active and involved in their community in older age. Designating this site as Local Green Space will support this.

New Road Playground

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond or indicated they were unsure. Specific comments included:

- *The only playground accessible for the majority of children in the Hensington area of the town, we use this playground several times a week and it is always busy.*
- *Essential to leave unmown areas for wildlife*
- *Essential for well being*
- *A vital play area for all children of Woodstock*
- *This is where my young children played and it still serves the local community as a recreational site for parents and younger children. It is also an important vital open space next to the Bowling and Tennis Club and a short walk into the town centre. Picnic tables adorn the site.*
- *Should be kept but could be relocated subject to proposed use of land, current location is useful but not essential*
- *Central located play area needed*
- *Significant recreational values to families with limited wildlife value. Would like to see some fitness equipment.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Great recreational space*
- *Needed play area*
- *Used by generations of children for the past 50 years at least.*
- *This is the only area in the town for mothers and young children to meet and play. When we are encouraging young people to exercise more, this area is vital.*
- *An important play area for children (that is in need of improvement)*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Recreational (self-evident)*

The OCC Public Health team support the designation of this site, saying it is 'required'. The response notes that it is an important recreational space for parents of young children as

there are no other playgrounds within the main area of Woodstock, and that it is essential that children have access to local recreational space, both for their physical health and for their social and mental development. It also refers to increasing levels of obesity, anxiety and emotional distress among younger age groups during Covid-19 and that social interaction and access to safe green space is crucial to the mental health of children.

New Road Recreation Ground

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond or indicated they were unsure. One respondent indicated that they disagreed with the proposal to designate the site. Specific comments included:

- *The football club nurtures children through to adult in a well-kept green area*
- *Wild, unmown areas are essential if we are to be serious about the effects of the climate crisis*
- *Essential for well being*
- *A vital exercise space for everyone*
- *These large recreational grounds are like lungs of fresh air away from the town centre and the heavily travelled A44 . They serve as the home site of the local football club but there is plenty of open space for public informal recreational activities such as walking dogs, play and general exercise and relaxation. It also serves the town as a social venue. It is a valuable green open space.*
- *Should be relocated to the outskirts of the town as part of any new development, subject to proposed use of land, with new and improved facilities and extended use. With the exception of the football club and the youth club, the current location is not respected or maintained by the users of the open space currently available.*
- *Unless replaced and opened up for use by all*
- *Significant recreational value for football and could benefit from floodlights for winter's evenings. This is an area that could be developed as an outdoor gym. Offer some wildlife areas in the hedges surrounding.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Essential recreational space for footballers, families, dog walkers and universally accessible*
- *Good for community use but needs better protection*
- *Again important facility for sport and pet owners*
- *The only public area in town for organised sports, and the only sizeable open space in the centre of town. This area is, again, essential, for Woodstock as a community.*
- *A meeting place for children and adults alike*
- *Should be designated due recreational value and should be developed as outdoor gym, skateboard park etc*
- *Recreational value*
- *Recreational (self-evident)*

Blenheim wrote to say that the Recreation Ground is important to the Football Club and that designation should not frustrate their operation nor activities. The response also suggested that the site might provide an opportunity to accommodate an expansion of the adjacent primary school.

WODC note that designation of the site might restrict expansion of the adjacent primary school and will liaise with OCC in their role as local education authority about this. OCC did not comment on this site in their Regulation 14 response.

OWL Nature Reserve

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond. One respondent indicated that they disagreed with the proposal to designate the site. Specific comments included:

- *Minimise scrub bashing and be extremely careful when it is done so that larvae are not being destroyed*
- *Essential for well being*
- *This is an exceptional area which has been transformed into a nature reserve for local residents in which to ramble about. It serves as a safe home for local wildlife and fauna.*
- *As well as a site for wild life lovers, its historical background is enhanced by its natural beauty. A place to get away from it all.*
- *Lovely*
- *Rich in wildlife and flora, a good wildlife corridor. Recreational value for walking to Sansom's Lane and beyond. Managed by volunteers.*
- *Nature and recreational value*
- *Lovely nature walk*
- *A piece of land narrow and of little interest to anyone except dog walkers*
- *Good but should be better cared for especially the steps from embankment area*
- *Lovely area as nature reserve*
- *An area which is prone to flooding, but also the only natural habitat for wildlife in the area. With the busy main road next to it this area is a living lung for the town, as well as the only wildlife haven in the area.*
- *A pretty place abundant with nature*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value, beauty, historic value and richness in wildlife It is a linking path also.*
- *Richness in wildlife*
- *Meets all criteria*

In terms of management and maintenance, responses suggest that volunteers are active in helping to look after this space.

Green Lane Cemetery

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond or indicated they were unsure. Specific comments included:

- *Commemorate with wildflowers*
- *Important for people with loved ones there*
- *It is used by local residents as an important place for quiet soul-searching and remembrance. It's within a short walk of the bustling town centre. It's place where one can relax because of the tranquillity of the site. The cemetery also enjoys an historical providence.*
- *Significant as a cemetery that is in use. Tranquil as a cemetery and offers some wildlife support.*
- *Sacred ground*
- *Cemeteries should never be built on*
- *Needed*
- *This is a reflective space for the town. Outside the central area, and still in use, for present internments, this is a necessary focal point for families.*
- *Important to the local community who have family members and memories at rest there*
- *Should be designated because it is a cemetery, I'm not sure why it is on this list as I thought it is protected?*
- *Wildlife and tranquil*
- *Self-evident*

WODC note that the risk of development of cemeteries is low and question whether such sites should be designated as Local Green Spaces. However, it is acknowledged that the cemetery has considerable significance for the community and is a demonstrably special green space.

Green Lane Allotments

The majority of respondents expressed support or strong support for designation of the site. Some did not respond or indicated they were unsure. Specific comments included:

- *Scrub and hedges would improve shelter for insects, eg beetles, earwigs, hoverflies also toads etc which would devour the crop pests and slugs*
- *Essential for well-being and providing food.*
- *Good location for people to use*
- *Significant community asset. Recreational value, food production, friendship, tranquil and wildlife supporter.*
- *Encouraging people to be self sufficient*
- *Lovely calm space, allotments of clear community value*
- *Needed*
- *When housing plots are becoming progressively smaller it is essential to have some space for older residents to perform outside activities, to promote healthy eating and exercise. Outside the town centre, the allotments are always in demand, and should not be considered an area for development.*
- *Important to encourage sustainable living*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value, tranquillity and richness in wildlife*
- *Recreational value and environmentally friendly - sustainability for food locally / economically for families*
- *Recreationally and economically important*

The OCC Public Health team support the proposed designation of this site. They say it is well used and a popular site with a waiting list for new allotment spaces. They say that allotment use has been on the increase in recent years, particularly since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and that such spaces require protection as they are important for community involvement and social interaction as well as for healthy eating and physical health.

Blenheim queried whether the proposed designation formed part of the wider Local Plan designation for housing growth. The Town Council confirmed that did not and only extends to include the allotments. This is noted by Blenheim.

Watermeadows

Of those who responded to this question on the survey, all agreed or strongly agreed that it should be designated. Specific comments included:

- *Absolutely stunning*
- *Allow natural regeneration and stop over management*
- *Essential for well being*
- *The Watermeadows are one of the most important environmental and biodiverse site on the edge of the town.*
- *It is a significant habitat for plants, birds, mammals, waterlife and trees.*
- *This flood plain of the River Glyme is open to the public who revel in its beauty, wildlife and opportunities for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment of the surrounding environment.*
- *A potential Local Nature Reserve.*
- *Very beautiful in the midst of the town.*
- *Beautiful, historic and important for wildlife*
- *Historic significance, rich in wildlife. Recreational value but limited numbers as paths can be slippery after rainfall and can become overgrown. Tranquil but access could be improved. Managed by volunteers mostly but also Wychwood project did have a contract until recent. Flooding risk needs managing.*
- *Wildlife, recreational value. Unspoiled beauty*
- *Essential nature reserve*
- *Part of the environment*
- *Lovely facility for the town*
- *With the OWL reserve, these meadows help to protect the lower area of the town, and to provide sanctuary for wildlife in an otherwise increasingly busy and urban environment.*
- *The most wonderful outdoor space in Woodstock which encourages us to appreciate nature all year round*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value, beauty, tranquillity, richness in wildlife and historical value. It should be managed to maintain access and reduce flood risks due to climate change.*
- *Historic and richness in wildlife - beautiful area - tranquil*
- *Meets all criteria*

WODC note that the site is located within a conservation area and thus benefits from protection through policy, but that Local Green Space designation may bring additional benefits, such as helping to support future funding bids for management projects.

The OCC Public Health team support the proposed designation of this site. They say the area regularly floods during periods of heavy rain, protecting immediately adjacent residential areas from the effects of flooding. They say designation is required in order to protect the community from flooding.

In terms of management and maintenance, it was suggested that more could be done to involve local children in the upkeep of the area.

Old Woodstock Play Area

Of those who responded to this question on the survey, the majority agreed or strongly agreed that it should be designated. A small number of respondents were unsure as to whether it should be designated. Specific comments included:

- *Children have a right to outside spaces*
- *Hedges, scrub, wildflowers*
- *Essential for well being*
- *A vital play area for all children of Old Woodstock. Also links to the important public footpath to Wootton which is another vital exercise place for all*
- *This Play Area is under threat for development of 120 houses by the Blenheim Estate, even though it exists as a vital play area site for Old Woodstock residents and especially young children. It has special emphasis as an important site for community exercise and for the enjoyment of the open spaces. It is a valuable asset to the community of Old Woodstock and to the neighbourhood in which it exists.*
- *Should be kept but could be relocated subject to proposed use of land, current location is useful but not essential*
- *Any green space that can be saved from the Blenheim Bulldozer has to be good.*
- *Vital community asset on danger of being lost due to over development*
- *Significant and well-used play area. Supports no wildlife except for having grass area. Could have an outdoor gym.*
- *Recreational value*
- *Very useful for all children of the area*
- *Poor, too small*
- *The only outside amenity in an area which will see increasingly more development. This is the only meeting place for ladies and young children without having to use a car, and negotiate increasingly busy and dangerous roads.*
- *An important hub for the local community and children*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value*
- *Recreational value, beauty, rich in wildlife - learning area for children - quiet and tranquil*
- *Recreational, social, wildlife*

WODC note that the site forms part of an allocation and subject to a live planning application which will include re-provision of the play area. As such, it is considered that it does not satisfy the criteria for designation.

Community Orchard and Woodland

Of those who responded to this question on the survey, the majority agreed or strongly agreed that it should be designated. A small number of respondents were unsure as to whether it should be designated. Specific comments included:

- *Stop tidying and neatening this area....scrub is essential for harbouring wildlife*
- *Essential for well being*
- *A vital exercise and mental health space for all*
- *This woodland is such that it has become an important piece of land as a source of community interest and used and serviced regularly by a local community group. It is known for its abundance of wildlife and a tranquil place for residents to exercise, relax and meditate.*
- *A lovely idea*
- *Beautiful and excellent facility open to everyone*
- *Rich in wildlife and flora. Recreational value, place to volunteer. Educational and a place to learn new skills and gain new knowledge.*
- *Future organic food source for the community.*
- *Good for walks and walking your dog. Significant to residents of Old Woodstock in particular due to proximity.*
- *Recreational value to community. One of very few green areas left in Woodstock*
- *Valuable community recreation area*
- *Will develop nicely*
- *Gorgeous place to remind you about the importance of sustainability and community*
- *Should be designated due to recreational value, beauty and richness in wildlife. This area can also be used as a resource for wood, fruit etc*
- *Rich in wildlife, sustainability, tranquil*
- *Meets all criteria*

Blenheim queried the extent of the proposed area which the Town Council clarified as only extending to cover the Community woodland and orchard, as well as setting out the work the community, with Sustainable Woodstock, has undertaken to plant and manage the area. This is noted by Blenheim.

The OCC Public Health team support the proposed designation this site. They note that more than 900 trees were planted here in 2010/11 to mark 900 years since the foundation of Woodstock and that tree planting helps mitigate climate change. Designation would prevent damage to these trees.

In terms of management and maintenance regimes, responses noted that the land leased from the Blenheim Estate and is currently looked after by Sustainable Woodstock. In the event that Sustainable Woodstock are no longer able to look after this green space the responsibility is held by Woodstock Town Council.

In order to maintain good access, the paths and glades need mowing during the growing season. Annually, the woodland and orchard need reviewing for safety and the fruit trees need pruning to maintain healthy growth and a good fruit yield. The orchard meadow requires cutting once a year (and raking if the wildflower meadow is to be retained). Dog owners need reminding of their need to pick up dog mess.

Hensington Road Cemetery

Of those who responded to this question on the survey, the majority agreed or strongly agreed that it should be designated. A small number of respondents were unsure as to whether it should be designated. Specific comments included:

- *Allow scrub and regeneration to occur*
- *Important for those with loved ones here*
- *Cemeteries are places to meditate and relax and this one, a short walk from the town centre, is ideal for such. It is well maintained and is used for remembering relatives or just walking in a peaceful and contemplative environment. It is also of historical importance. Its gates are always open to the public.*
- *Significant as a cemetery. Tranquil-offers some wildlife support.*
- *Sacred ground*
- *Cemeteries should never be built on*
- *Should be respected*
- *The only open space in a fast developing area of the town, and a retreat for local people.*
- *Important to the local community who have family members and memories at rest there*
- *Also an attractive feature in the middle of dense housing*
- *Should be designated because it is a cemetery. I'm not sure why it is on this list as I thought it is protected*
- *Tranquil*

WODC note that the risk of development of cemeteries is low and question whether such sites should be designated as Local Green Spaces. However, it is acknowledged that the cemetery has considerable significance for the community and is a demonstrably special green space.

3. Other responses

In addition to the comments and responses noted in the previous section:

- A general comment was made in feedback that although Woodstock is adjacent to Blenheim Park it doesn't benefit from that proximity, noting that it is not a public park and that access to it is constrained and limited. This, it was suggested, emphasises the importance of the green spaces within Woodstock, which are considered to meet all the criteria for designation.
- In addition to comments included in the section above about specific sites proposed for designation, WODC responded with a series of constructive comments around the content of the draft Plan, including suggested amendments to the text and references to various policies within this. WODC note that the document is clear, well-structured and well-written, and succinctly sets out the role of the Plan and the justification for sites proposed for designation as Local Green Spaces.
- Historic England replied to thank the Town Council for consulting with them but advised that they have no comments on the draft Plan.
- Natural England welcomed the recognition of the importance of green space provision but did not have any specific comments on any of the proposed designations. They did however suggest that consideration might be given in the Plan as to whether the proposed Local Green Spaces could provide biodiversity enhancements, or improve access to nature for the local community. This was echoed by one of the respondents to the survey who suggested that more could be done to encourage wildlife in all of these spaces.
- Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) wrote to support the ambition being shown by the Town Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and that they welcome the commitment to protecting local open spaces which enable people to enhance their mental and physical health. Site-specific comments were provided in response to the Plan from the Property team at OCC and from the Public Health Team. These are integrated in the previous section of this summary report. Equally, Other comments from the Public Health team are summarised below:
 - The Plan's commitment to protecting local open spaces is welcomed, particularly those that include community facilities and those which enable local people to enhance their mental and physical health.
 - Agreement is expressed in respect of the use of Local Green Space designations, and that the intent to protect these for current and future generations is underpinned by the NPPF.
 - The responses notes that the criteria for designation in the NPPF refer to the value of the spaces, but that this can be difficult to demonstrate, including those places that are used for walking for example.

- The response notes reference in the Plan to the Woodstock Community Infrastructure Delivery Plan which reports that residents support the provision of more green space in the area. In line with this, the Public Health team say it would be difficult for them to support proposals that would result in the loss of green space.
- Agreement is also expressed in terms of references to the economic costs and gains from Local Green Spaces as referenced in the Plan, as well as the importance of such spaces in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also suggested that reference to the economic value of green spaces is expanded to acknowledge that the value of these spaces is intrinsically linked with social and wellbeing benefits.
- The response highlights the wider role that such spaces might also have to play in terms of climate resilience and helping to protect the community from flooding. In particular, it strongly supports the designation of the Watermeadows for these purposes.
- Despite recognising the single focus of the Plan on local green spaces, the response suggests that consideration should also be given to promoting active travel opportunities, particularly in respect of school travel.

4. Summary

The Oxfordshire Museum: Although strongly supported as a LGS designation the landowner makes the point that it already benefits from policy protections and that adding another layer of policy would both Plan be unnecessary and potentially undermine the operational requirements of the Museum. It is thus suggested that the site be removed from the list of proposed designations in the Neighbourhood Plan but we do feel it should be recognised as an area of *outstanding* value to the community.

Memorial Garden: This was supported as a designation, though with the boundary amended to omit land associated with the library. It was noted in responses that the site is somewhat neglected and that improvements to the management and maintenance of the site is required. It is suggested that the site be designated, but that management and maintenance arrangements put in place to improve the quality of space for all.

Marlborough School Playing Field: Designation of the site was supported by the majority of respondents. OCC Property as landowner however objected to the designation, saying it would add an additional layer of policy designation and that it would potentially preclude opportunities for school expansion at a later date. However, there is tension within OCC, with the Public Health team noting the importance of the site and that with the additional growth proposed around Woodstock, and in close proximity to the site, it 'requires' protection. WODC note that national and local plan policy should protect the playing fields, but that designation would make sure of this. Although part of the school grounds, it is unlike other schools in that the playing field is open to and accessible to the public, using it as a space for dog walking and play. It is thus suggested that the site be designated.

Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club: Designation of the site was supported by most respondents, recognising its recreational value. This was further emphasised by the OCC Public Health team. It is thus suggested that the site be designated.

New Road Playground: As with the Bowls club, designation is supported by the majority of respondents, being an important recreation space. It is also supported by the OCC Public Health team, who say that designation is required, being crucial to the mental health of children. It is thus suggested that the site be designated.

New Road Recreation Ground: This is recognised as being of important recreational value within the town, with designation supported by the majority of respondents. WODC note that the site may have potential to accommodate expansion of the adjacent primary school, as do Blenheim. However, there are no proposals for this in the Local Plan and OCC as Local Education Authority have not commented upon this. Blenheim also stress the importance of the site in providing for Woodstock Town Football Club. It is considered that the site should be designated. This will maintain its role and function as a recreation space and sports facility, but also providing potential future play space for the growth of the adjacent school.

OWL Nature Reserve: Designation of the proposed site is supported, with respondents noting its wildlife and recreational value, with responses also noting that the community is active in helping to maintain the site. It is thus suggested that the site be designated in the Plan.

Green Lane Cemetery: Support as expressed for the proposed designation of this site as a Local Green Space, noting its social value, but also being a place of tranquillity and reflection, and having value as an area for wildlife. It is suggested that the site be designated.

Green Lane Allotments: The proposed designation of the site is supported by respondents, who note the value for the community in terms of wildlife, sustainability and general health and well-being. This is also noted by the OCC Public Health team who support the proposed designation, commenting that allotments are important for community involvement and social interaction as well as for healthy eating and physical health. It is suggested that the site be designated.

Watermeadows: Designation was supported by respondents, who noted its wildlife and recreational values. Furthermore, designation was supported by the OCC Public Health team, noting its importance in respect of protecting the community from flooding. Although WODC note that the site benefits from protection as it is within a Conservation Area (although conservation area status alone does not preclude development), designation may help with future funding bids for management projects. It is suggested that the site be designated in the Plan.

Old Woodstock Play Area: Designation of the site is supported by residents who note its important value as a local recreation space. This strong support might also be a response to the Local Plan allocation for growth and development at this general location. That policy says that as part of any development, the play area and open space should be replaced and enhanced. The purpose of the Local Green Space designation is not to frustrate development but to protect green spaces of value that can endure beyond the Plan period. In this case, although the green space is quite clearly of significance and value, its designation would frustrate development. As such, it is suggested that this site should be removed as a Local Green Space designation from the Neighbourhood Plan. Any replacement provision should be made in line with Local Plan policy, and that this should be equally as accessible to the community as the existing space – both in terms of proximity and safety, but also in terms of the amenity value and setting the space provides to existing residents.

Community Orchard and Woodland: The proposed designation is supported by the majority of respondents, being a place that the community is actively involved in running and managing. It has historic value, marking the 900th anniversary of the foundation of Woodstock, and, with the planting of trees, has an important role to play in responding to climate change. It is supported by the OCC Public Health Team. It is thus suggested that the site be designated in the Plan.

Hensington Road Cemetery: As with the Green Lane Cemetery, support was expressed for designation of this site, noting its social value, but also being a place of tranquillity and reflection, and having value as an area for wildlife. It is suggested that the site be designated.

Other comments: It is noted that the green spaces may have value in contributing towards biodiversity net gain and that efforts to this as well as improving accessible to natural space could be included and supported in the Plan. In response to the climate emergency and forthcoming environment bill, coupled with future growth likely to take place in and around Woodstock, it is suggested that the Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan be expanded to include reference to such opportunities.

APPENDIX A: Letters

This appendix includes copies of letters / emails sent to organisations and individuals about the consultation.

EMAIL SENT TO RESIDENTS WHOM HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BEING KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Dear Resident

Notification of formal consultation on Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14, Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning Regulations)

I am writing to you as you have previously expressed interest in the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan.

I am now pleased to advise that the Regulation 14 Consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan runs for a six-week period between 19 July 2021 and 31 August 2021.

During this time of social distancing the Neighbourhood Plan is available to view online via the Town Council website:

<https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/>

Subject to advice in respect of social distancing paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan may be available to view at the Town Council office. The address is:

Town Hall,
Market Place,
Woodstock,
OX20 1SL

If you would like to make representations, please download the pre-submission consultation comment form from the website or complete the online survey.

Representations can be submitted online, by email or by post:

Online: <https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/>
By email: info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk
By post: Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan
c/o Woodstock Council
Town Hall,
Market Place,
Woodstock,
OX20 1SL

EMAIL SENT TO OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Colleague

Notification of formal consultation on Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14, Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning Regulations)

I write to advise you that the Regulation 14 Consultation of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan runs for a six-week period between 19 July 2021 and 31 August 2021.

The Town Council looks forward to receipt of representations from Oxfordshire County Council. We would be grateful if any comments from the County could be consolidated and provided as one complete set from all relevant service areas.

During this time of social distancing the Neighbourhood Plan is available to view online via the Neighbourhood Planning page of Town Council website:

<https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/>

Subject to advice in respect of social distancing paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan may be available to view at the Town Council office. The address is:

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OX20 1SL

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c/o Woodstock Council
Town Hall,
Market Place,
Woodstock,
OX20 1SL

APPENDIX B: Survey Form

A survey form was available in paper and electronic format for completion. The consultation material encouraged use of the electronic version (hosted on Google Forms), with the QR code on the display poster providing a direct link to this. A copy of the feedback form is included on the following pages.



WOODSTOCK DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION: FEEDBACK FORM

PLEASE RETURN BY 31 AUGUST 2021

The draft Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by and responds to comments made during earlier consultation events. We are now seeking your views on the draft Neighbourhood Plan; all of which will be reviewed when preparing the final version.

Before you complete this questionnaire please do take the time to familiarise yourself with the draft Plan. This is available online via the Neighbourhood Planning page of Woodstock Council:

The questionnaire can be completed and returned online, at:

www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk

This form can also be returned by email, to:

info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

Alternatively, the form can be returned by post:

Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan
c/o Woodstock Town Council
Town Hall,
Market Place,
Woodstock.
OX20 1SL



PART 1: COMMENTS

The draft Neighbourhood Plan includes a single policy that will help protect local green spaces in Woodstock. This is highlighted in a blue box and prefixed with the words 'Policy WNP LGS1'.

This policy identifies a number of green spaces within the neighbourhood area for designation. Justification for each site is laid out on subsequent pages of the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting material on the website.

When responding to this survey please note the following:

For a space to be designated as a Local Green Space it should meet a number of criteria. These include whether the space 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.

Spaces that meet the criteria for designation should also be local in character and reasonably close to the community it serves.

Spaces that comprise extensive tracts of land are not considered appropriate for designation.

Please use the tables below to provide your comments on this draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Your comments will be read and considered carefully and may result in modifications to the draft Neighbourhood Plan before it is submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council for independent examination.

Please note that fields marked with a [*] are required.



WOODSTOCK
TOWN COUNCIL

PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS

Please circle the number which most closely reflects your views as to whether the green space in question should be designated:

1: strongly agree 2: agree 3: neither agree nor disagree 4: disagree 5: strongly disagree

| Policy Reference | Local Green Space | Please circle one number per row | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (1) | The Oxfordshire Museum | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (2) | Memorial Garden | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (3) | Marlborough School Playing Field | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (4) | Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (5) | New Road Playground | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (6) | New Road Recreation Ground | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (7) | OWL Nature Reserve | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (8) | Green Lane Cemetery | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (9) | Green Lane Allotments | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (10) | Watermeadows | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (11) | Old Woodstock Play Area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (12) | Community Orchard and Woodland | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| WNP LGS1 (13) | Hensington Road Cemetery | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SPACES

Please provide any comments here that support your view on whether the green spaces should be designated or not.

Please consider whether the proposed spaces are:

Demonstrably special to a local community and hold 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?

If you think the spaces meet any of the criteria, or not, please let us know how and why

| Local Green Space | Comments |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| The Oxfordshire Museum | |
| Memorial Garden | |
| Marlborough School Playing Field | |
| Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club | |
| New Road Playground | |
| New Road Recreation Ground | |
| OWL Nature Reserve | |
| Green Lane Cemetery | |
| Green Lane Allotments | |
| Watermeadows | |
| Old Woodstock Play Area | |
| Community Orchard and Woodland | |
| Hensington Road Cemetery | |

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary



MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL GREEN SPACE

THIS QUESTION IS FOR LANDOWNERS

If you are the landowner of one of the proposed Local Green Space designations, or are responding on behalf of the landowner, are there any current or ongoing management arrangements that are required to retain the special value of the space:

| Local Green Space | Comment |
|-------------------|---------|
| | |

THIS QUESTION IS FOR THE COMMUNITY

If you are responding as a member of the community, please let us know if you have any ideas as to how the community might have a greater role in the ongoing management and maintenance of these spaces:

| Local Green Space | Comment |
|-------------------|---------|
| | |



OTHER COMMENTS

If you have any comments or suggested modifications please add them here, stating the local green space to which they refer:

| Local Green Space | Comment |
|-------------------|---------|
| | |

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary



PART 2: YOUR DETAILS

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name [*] | |
| Organisation | |
| Address [*] | |
| Email address [*] | |
| Post Code [*] | |

Are you (please tick all that apply) []*

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A resident of Woodstock [*] | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| An employee in Woodstock [*] | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Other (please indicate) | |

How old are you (please only tick one) []*

| Under 18 | 18 - 25 | 26 - 35 | 36 - 45 | 46 - 55 | 56 - 65 | Over 65 | Would rather not say |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |

Are you (please only tick one) []*

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Male | |
| Female | |
| Would rather not say | |



PART 3: CONSENT

We need to store your personal information in order to receive your comments. Please confirm whether you agree to the following:

| | |
|--|--|
| I consent to Woodstock Town Council storing my personal data [*] | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I consent to my name being published alongside my comments in the Consultation Statement prepared for submission and examination of the Neighbourhood Plan [*] | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I consent to be contacted with regard to my response by Woodstock Town Council [*] | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): protecting your data

A summary of all comments will be made publicly available. Please note that any other personal information provided will be confidential and processed in line with the Data Protection Act 1988 and General Data Protection Regulations. Woodstock Town Council will process your details in relation to the preparation of this document only.

As part of the consultation and in line with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) please confirm that you are happy for Woodstock Town Council to pass on your contact details (name, address, email address) to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) so that they can contact you at the Regulation 16 consultation and examination stages if required.

| | |
|--|--|
| I consent to Woodstock Town Council passing my contact details (name, address, email address) to WODC so that I can be contacted regarding the Regulation 16 consultation and examination stages [*] | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|--|--|

Woodstock Town Council
Neighbourhood Plan for Woodstock, 2020-2031

Consultation Statement

January 2022

Woodstock Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Woodstock
Oxfordshire, OX20 1SL

<http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk>