

# Local Green Spaces and Locally Important Open Spaces

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. During the Tewkesbury Borough Plan Local Plan Examination, clarification was required on the definition of a Locally Important Open Space and Local Green Spaces. The Council offered to provide the Inspector with a note by way of explanation. This note aims to provide that explanation.

## 2. Local Green Spaces

- 2.1. Local Green Spaces are considered under Policy LAN5 of the emerging Local Plan. They are identified in the National Planning Policy Framework under paragraphs 99-101. The NPPF provides that 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. Paragraph 10 further provides: The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) 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
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

- 2.2. Paragraph 8.26 of the emerging Local Plan sets out where Local Green Spaces have been identified in neighbourhood plans and paragraph 8.27 shows where they have been identified in the JCS.

## 3. Locally Important Open Spaces

- 3.1. Locally Important Open Spaces are considered under Policy LAN4 of the emerging Local Plan. They were also provided for in the Local Plan 2011 in the Landscape Section and set out on the Proposals map.
- 3.2. Locally important open spaces are considered to be of amenity value to the public, clearly visible and important to the character of the street scene. They are normally open spaces within a built up area that are important to maintain the character of a settlement, and the street scene. This could include a landmark building, such as a church, or forms of a landscaped edge to a built up area of a settlement.
- 3.3. Notably, unlike Local Green Spaces, the Important Open Space does not necessarily have to be 'green' and does not have the same level of protection as Local Green Spaces. The policy provides that development that adversely effects the open character and appearance of a Locally Important Open Space will only be permitted where the benefits to the community would outweigh the importance of the open space; whereas the test for development for Local Green Spaces that would not enhance that space will not be permitted unless there are very special circumstances.