

**Mansfield
District Council**

**Mansfield District Local Plan
Local Green Spaces
Statement of Consultation**



September 2015

www.mansfield.gov.uk



**Mansfield
District Council**

Contents

Section	Page
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Who was consulted?	2
3.0 How was the consultation undertaken?	2
4.0 Response from the public	4
5.0 What was said and what is our response?	5
6.0 Consultation with landowners	7
7.0 Conclusion	7
 Appendix 1	
- <i>Local Green Space: We want your nominations!</i>	8
- <i>Letter / email</i>	11
- <i>Nomination form</i>	12
- <i>Poster</i>	13
- <i>Social media</i>	14
 Appendix 2	
- <i>Friends / community groups targeted through the consultation</i>	15
 Appendix 3	
- <i>Assessment proforma</i>	16

1.0 Introduction

Purpose of this statement

1.1 It is important that the council engages with the community throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. In doing this we need to ensure we follow the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the Regulations¹ governing the development plan process.

1.2 In this case we were requesting site nominations from members of the public for land to be designated as Local Green Space (LGS). This is part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

1.3 This consultation statement sets out:

- who we consulted
- how they were invited to make comments
- a summary of the site nominations
- how those nominations have been considered.

Designating local green space in Mansfield district

1.4 The act of designating sites for local green space protection is seen as a positive step towards recognising an area's unique value and worth.

1.5 This is a special form of protection and allows for development where it contributes to the character of the green space.

1.6 It is expected that local communities are consulted during the preparation of local or neighbourhood plans to help identify areas for local green space protection.

Structure of this statement

1.7 This statement is structured as follows:

Section 2 - gives details on who was consulted

Section 3 - sets out how the consultation was undertaken

Section 4 - outlines the response we had

Sections 5 and 6 - provides a summary of the site nominations, our consideration of them and highlights that we contacted landowners.

Section 7 - provides a conclusion to the consultation.

¹ Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.0 Who was consulted?

2.1 We sought site nominations from organisations that we thought would be particularly interested in the protection of green spaces. This targeted consultation included Friends groups and community groups. We also advertised the consultation at all local libraries, at the Civic Centre and on the council website so that other members of the public could get involved.

A full list of the groups we targeted is provided at Appendix 3.

3.0 How was the consultation undertaken?

3.1 A number of consultation methods were used to invite site nominations. The list below sets out the details of the methods of engagement used.

- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

3.5 We made sure that we were in accordance with the recently adopted Statement of Community Involvement:

- ***'Local Green Space: We want your nominations!'***

The above document was produced by the council. It was the key document used to provide information about local green spaces during the consultation period to encourage site nominations from individuals and organisations.

- ***Making copies of documentation available for inspection***

Copies of the document and the nomination form were made available to view at the following venues. A poster was also placed at these venues to advertise this.

- Mansfield District Council - Civic Centre
- Warsop Town Hall
- Clipstone Village Library
- Forest Town Library
- Ladybrook Library
- Mansfield Library
- Mansfield Woodhouse Library
- Rainworth Library
- Market Warsop Library
- River Maun Recreation Centre
- Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre
- Watermeadows Swimming Complex
- Meden Sports Centre
- Oak Tree Lane Leisure Centre

- **Letters**

Letters were sent either electronically or by post explaining the purpose of the consultation event to 'Friends of' and community groups that we considered relevant. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix 1. A full list of these groups is provided at Appendix 3.

- **Website**

An electronic version of the document was available to view and download from the council's website. The document was also available on the Local Plan Consultation Portal to allow people to comment online.

- **Posters**

As well as the documents and nomination forms, posters to publicise the consultation event were displayed at the Civic Centre, Warsop Town Hall, libraries and leisure centres. A copy of the poster is included in Appendix 1.

- **Social media (Facebook)**

The Facebook page 'Making Plans for Mansfield' was updated during the consultation period to notify people about the consultation, and provide them with links to the report.

Please see Appendix 1 for details.

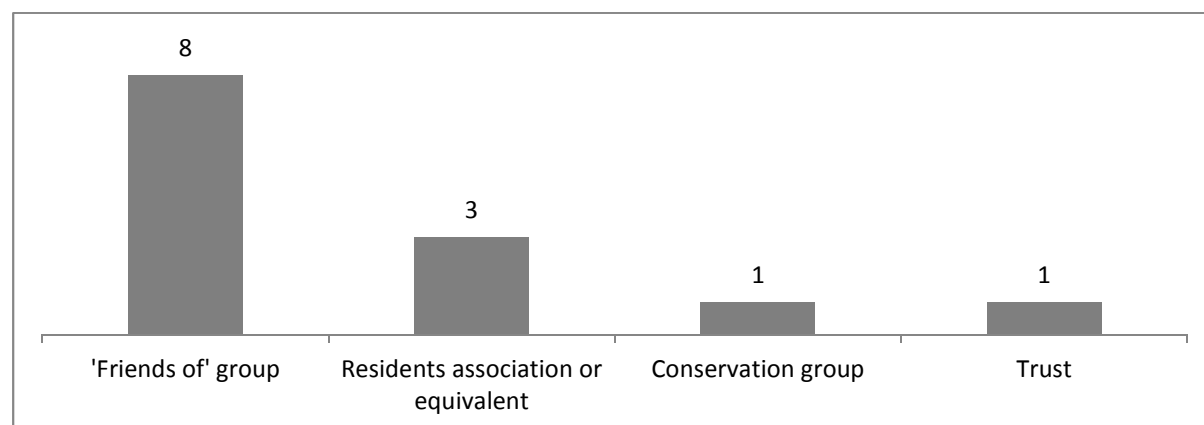
4.0 Response from the public

4.1 We received a total of 46 site nominations from the public. Of these 46 nominations, a total of 21 sites were put forward. These were:

ID	Site nominated	Number of nominations
1	Fisher Lane Park	11
2	Forest Road recreation ground	5
3	Spa Ponds	1
4	Garibaldi Plantation, Spa Ponds and woods to the north	2
5	Larkhills Park	3
6	Berry Hill Park	3
7	Land between Brunts school and Carr Bank Park	3
8	The Rock Houses, Rock Hill	2
9	Barringer Road field and Maun Valley local nature reserve	2
10	The Scrape (part of Quarry Lane local nature reserve	1
11	The Lords Ground, Mansfield Woodhouse	1
12	Yeoman Hill Park, Mansfield Woodhouse	1
13	The Carrs, Market Warsop	1
14	Carr Bank Park	1
15	Millennium Green, Mansfield Woodhouse	1
16	Litchfield Lane / Chatsworth Drive	1
17	Old Meeting House, Mill Walk	1
18	Area from Titchfield Park to Kingsmill Reservoir, inc Quarry Lane local nature reserve	1
19	Land around New Mill Lane and Garibaldi Plantation	2
20	Sandy Lane playing field	2
21	Green lane/ public footpath connecting the B6030 and Newlands Road	1
Total nominations		46

4.2 All of the respondents were local residents. In addition, 13 of the nominations were submitted by people who stated that they represent a Friends group, conservation group, residents association (or equivalent) or a trust. This is shown below.

Breakdown of representatives

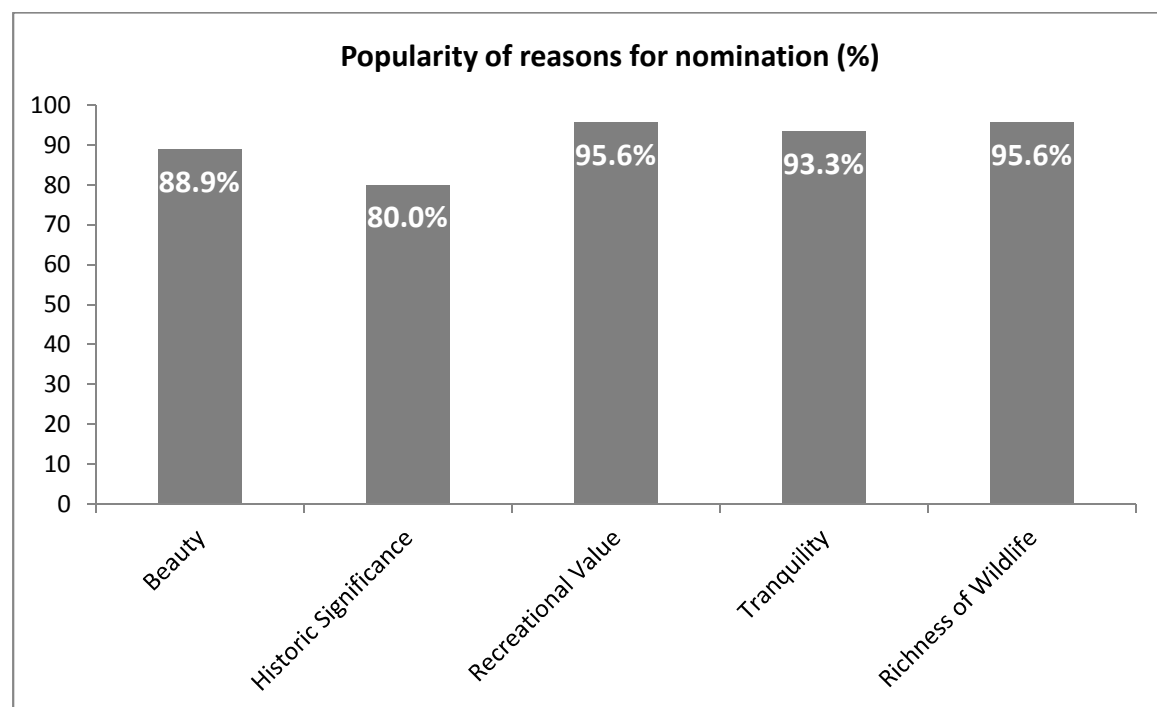


5.0 What was said and what was our response?

5.1 A summary of the main issues raised is set out below.

5.2 These nominated sites were spread out across the district from Market Warsop in the north to Berry Hill Park in the south. They were mostly located on the central and eastern areas of the district.

5.3 As the graph below shows, the most popular reasons for nominating a site for local green space designation included 'richness of wildlife' and 'recreation value'. Many respondents selected more than one reason for nominating a site.



5.4 The site nominations submitted ranged in size: from a small town centre amenity area to large areas of countryside. Nominated sites also included formal parks such as Carr Bank Park and more informal areas of urban woodland and historical fields.

5.5 We then assessed the sites in order to decide which sites were suitable to be considered for designation as local green space. This assessment concluded that 14 of the sites will be put forward within the Local Plan.

5.6 Our assessment of each nominated site is summarised overleaf. Where a smaller area of a nominated site was considered suitable for designation, the 'special role' comments on the right-hand side of the table generally relate to this smaller area (with the exception of ID 4 and ID 19).

Assessment of each nominated site

ID	Nominated site	Suitable for designation?	Is there a suitable alternative that should be designated?	Formal management measures in place?	Special role				
					Beauty	Historical importance	Recreational value	Tranquility	Richness of wildlife
1	Fisher Lane Park	✓	N/A	✓	x	x	✓	x	x
2	Forest Road recreation ground	x	✓ Adjacent local wildlife site	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓
3	Spa Ponds	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Garibaldi Plantation, Spa Ponds and woods to the north	x	✓ Spa Ponds (ID 3)	x	✓	x	x	x	✓
5	Larkhills Park	✓	N/A	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x
6	Berry Hill Park	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Land between Brunts school and Carr Bank Park	✓	N/A	✓	x	✓	x	x	x
8	The Rock Houses, Rock Hill	x	x	N/A	x	x	x	x	x
9	Barringer Road field and Maun Valley local nature reserve	x	x	N/A	x	x	x	x	x
10	The Scrape (part of Quarry Lane local nature reserve)	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
11	The Lords Ground	x	x	N/A	x	x	x	x	x
12	Yeoman Hill Park	✓	N/A	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x
13	The Carrs	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
14	Carr Bank Park	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
15	Millennium Green	✓	N/A	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓
16	Litchfield Lane / Chatsworth Drive	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Old Meeting House, Mill Walk	✓	N/A	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x
18	Area from Titchfield Park to Kingsmill Reservoir, incl. Quarry Lane local nature reserve	x	✓ Titchfield Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
19	Land around New Mill Lane and Garibaldi Plantation	x	✓ Spa Ponds (ID 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
20	Sandy Lane playing field	x	x	N/A	x	x	x	x	x
21	Green lane/ public footpath connecting the B6030 and Newlands Road	x	x	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.0 Consultation with landowners

6.1 Once the nominations were received and the sites assessed, private landowners were notified (during December 2014 / January 2015) of our intention to designate sites as local green space.

6.2 This included the council's property services and parks departments, who are responsible for the ownership and management of council owned land.

6.3 Feedback was then taken into account as part of the consultation process in order to inform a balanced decision on the designation of sites. There is also opportunity for formal representation / feedback at the wider local plan public consultation stage which will be held in early 2016.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 This consultation sought site nominations for land that may be suitable for local green space designation. As such it was focused on friends groups and other relevant community groups with an interest in the environment.

7.2 There was a good response to the consultation with 21 different sites being put forward for consideration. All nominations came from local residents, some of which represented friends groups, conservation groups, trusts or residents associations.

7.3 Each of the nominated sites has been assessed (please see Appendix 3 for the assessment proforma we used), and 14 were considered suitable for designation as local green spaces in the Local Plan. The 14 sites will appear in the Consultation Draft of the Local Plan when it is published in January 2016. There will be opportunity for comments to be submitted during a six week consultation period.

7.4 We will then carry out a further review of any new sites or issues that are raised before releasing a Publication Draft of the Local Plan. This will include the local green space designations that will be considered by an independent planning inspector at the local plan examination in public.

Appendix 1

- Local Green Space: We want your nominations!

Local Green Space

LOCAL GREEN SPACE: We want your Nominations!

A quick on line survey form has been made available for you and will only take a few minutes to complete.

What is Local Green Space?

The Government has made it possible for people to identify for special protection, green areas that are of particular importance to their local community. Guidance is set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF¹) published in March 2012, and Planning Practice Guidance².

A few guidelines before you nominate a site/sites

- Government guidance states that Local Green Space will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space.

This statement is not meant to put people off from promoting sites, however is meant to emphasise that in order to qualify as Local Green Space the site needs to be of special / particular importance to the community. Most areas of open space will already have some form of protection on them; either through the Council's planning policies, legal covenants such as Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields status or as Town and Village Greens.

For a site to be designated Local Green Space it:

- Cannot be an extensive tract of land. Although there is no specific size threshold, the intention is that local green space would relate to areas such as parks or village greens, and not to larger areas of the open countryside.
- Must be capable of enduring beyond the end of the local or neighbourhood plan period.
- Needs to be particularly special compared to other parks or open spaces.

The Authority will need you to provide information / evidence of how the land can retain its special characteristics for the long term. For instance, if the land is in private ownership, a management plan or other evidence as to how the site can retain its features in the long-term should be provided. If the site is in public ownership, resources will need to be made available to ensure the sites special characteristics can be maintained well into the future. The Local Plan end date has been set at 2031.

How are sites considered?

- In order to qualify as Local Green Space, the area being promoted will need to meet certain criteria. The Local Authority will assess sites against the guidance set out within the NPPF, namely:
- The site needs to be reasonably close to the community it serves. (The Authority consider that as a general rule any site promoted needs to be within a 1 mile walk from the community it serves).
- The nominated Local Green Space needs to be demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular significance. (The Authority request that you provide as much information as possible as to why the space is unique).

Sites can be nominated for the following reasons:

1. Beauty: The Authority recognises that everyone will have their view on whether an area is beautiful, however it is important to try and explain what makes an area unique. (For example, because of its setting or contribution to the landscape).

2. Historic Significance: This does not necessarily mean that the site dates back to a particular period in history or contains a recognised historical feature. Sites may be considered to be of historical significance due to a variety of reasons such as regular events, historical events, features, links to a historical person etc.

3. Recreational Value: Although most open space will fall into this category and offer some form of recreational value, the aim is to identify why a particular area offers something unique or that could not be accommodated on other sites that would serve the same community. For instance, it may be the only facility of its kind or if there is only 1 area of open space that is large enough to provide a particular sports facility, this may make it special.



4. Tranquility: An area can be important to a community as it provides an area that can be described as tranquil. To be considered suitable, areas will need to be able to demonstrate the following qualities;

- Feeling of remoteness or quiet contemplation.
- General inability to see man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or excessive lighting.
- Have a general lack of artificial noise from vehicles or industry.

5. Richness of Wildlife: The area will need to be evidenced as supporting wildlife that is of county or district importance and can include;

- Designated local wildlife sites (SINC's).

- Priority habitat as defined in the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan.
- A combination of important landscape features such as Ancient Hedgerow, Ancient Woodland, Veteran Trees, pockets of small woodland and wild flower meadow.
- A diverse range of wildlife (This will need to be evidenced through records, ecological surveys and / or expert advice).
- As a general principle, Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will not be appropriate for Local Green Space designation as these are considered to be adequately protected by national legislation and Local Plan policies.

Who decides which areas will qualify for protection as Local Green Space?

It will be for the Local Planning Authority to come to an objective and balanced decision as to those sites that qualify for protection within a Local Plan. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared, it will be for those responsible for preparing any Neighbourhood Plan to decide which sites will qualify for inclusion within that document.

Timescales

Local Green Space can only be designated when a Local or Neighbourhood Plan is prepared, or reviewed, and will therefore need to be listed within such plans. In order to include any sites within the Local Plan, we require all areas that the community wish to be considered to be submitted no later than Wednesday 30th April 2014.

If you would like to talk to an officer about this issue, please contact:

Dean Bellingham on (01623) 463322 or Kira Besh on (01623) 463195 or e-mail ldf@mansfield.gov.uk


Alternatively should you wish to write in to suggest a site, or provide further information on a site, please write to:

Planning Policy (for the attention of D.Bellingham), Mansfield District Council, Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts, NG19 7BH.

1

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

² <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation>



Mansfield District Council

Creating a District where People can Succeed

«ContactName»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«Address3»
«Address4»
«Address5»
«Postcode»

When calling please ask for: Dean Bellingham
Direct line: 01623 463322
E-mail: dbellingham@mansfield.gov.uk

Date: 12 March 2014

Dear «ContactName»

Local Green Space: We want your nominations

The Government has made it possible for people to identify for special protection, green areas that are of particular importance to their local community; and as such, Mansfield District Council is asking for nominations. I attach more information which I hope will prove useful.


As a member of a local Friends Group, we would like to offer you the opportunity to nominate Local Green Spaces which you feel qualify for protection in the Local Plan or any Neighbourhood Plans.

The consultation starts 17 March 2014 and all nominations need to be submitted by 30 April 2014.

To find out more and make any submission, please visit www.mansfield.gov.uk/localgreenspace

Alternatively you can contact Dean Bellingham on **01623 463322** or Kira Besh on **01623 463195** for further information.

Yours sincerely




Dean Bellingham
Principal Planning Policy Officer
Mansfield District Council

Managing Director – Ruth Marlow
Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG19 7BH.
Telephone: 01623 463463 Fax: 01623 463900 e-mail: mdc@mansfield.gov.uk website: www.mansfield.gov.uk

7 letters sent first class, and **14 emails** sent on 12 March 2014. The information was also forwarded on by email to the Greenwood Community Forum and any other relevant parties by the Greenwood Partnership.

- Nomination form



Local Green Space

Nomination Form

What site do you wish to nominate as a Local Green Space?

Please give as much detail as possible to help us identify the land. For example:

- name of site (if applicable),
- address of site,
- any adjacent properties / landmarks,
- grid reference (if known)

Should you wish to nominate more than one site, please use a separate form.

Which community / communities do you consider the site serves? (This could be based on a geographical area, a particular age group or interest group).


In order to fill in these next questions please make sure you have read the information on Beauty, Historic Significance, Recreational Value, Tranquillity and Richness of Wildlife at: <http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/localgreenspace>

(please select one answer for each question)

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Beauty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(please select one answer for each question)

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Historic Significance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Local Green Space

(please select one answer for each question)

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Recreational Value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(please select one answer for each question)


	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Tranquillity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(please select one answer for each question)

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Richness of Wildlife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please give further details as to why the site is important:

Please explain how the site could be looked after so that its special characteristics can endure in the long term:



Local Green Space

About You

We require your contact details so that a member of the Planning Policy Team can contact you should they need any further information.

Your Full Name:

Your Address (including Post Code):

Your Email Address:

Your Phone Number:

Your Organisation (if applicable):

Thank you for your time.

A list of sites considered suitable for designation will be posted on the Council's website (<http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/localgreenspace>) at a later date.

Local Green Space

Mansfield District Council is asking residents to nominate areas of Local Green Space that are of particular importance to their community. These areas will then be considered for special protection within the Local Plan.



Sites can be nominated because of their:

- Beauty
- Historic Significance
- Recreational Value
- Tranquility
- Wildlife

Nominations need to be submitted by 30 April 2014

To find out more and make your nominations visit www.mansfield.gov.uk/localgreenspace.

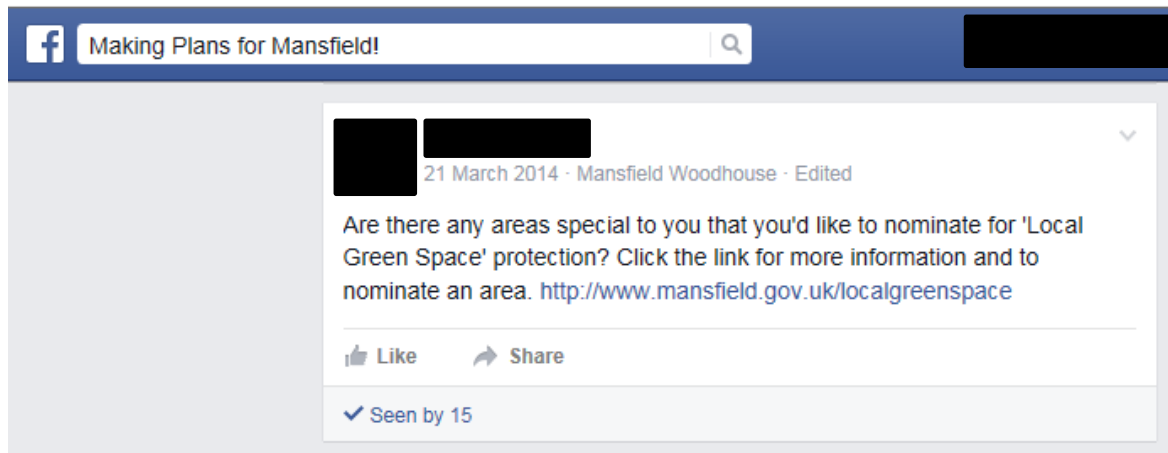
If you do not have internet access you can contact
Dean Bellingham on **01623 463322** or Kira Besh on **01623 463195**
for further information and to make your nominations over the phone.



**Mansfield
District Council**

- *Social Media*

- **Facebook**



Please note that the Planning Policy team now have Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please 'like' www.facebook.com/mymansfieldfuture and 'follow' [@MDC_Planning](https://twitter.com/MDC_Planning).

Appendix 2

- Friends / community groups targeted through the consultation

- Friends of The Carrs
- Maun Conservation Group
- Friends of Carr Bank Park
- Friends of Fisher Lane Park
- Peafield Community Association
- Friends of the Hornby Plantation
- Friends of Yeoman Hill Park
- Friends of Quarry Lane
- Friends of The Hermitage
- Friends of Forest Road Park
- Oak Tree Conservation Group
- Forest Town Nature Conservation Group - Rushpool Open Space

Also sent to the following groups by the Greenwood Partnership:

- RSPB Local Mansfield Group
- Friends of Quarry Lane
- Oak Tree SAFE
- Friends of Fisher Lane Park
- Friends of Peafield Park
- Friends of Kings Mill Reservoir/Hermitage
- Friends of Thynghowe
- In Step Mansfield
- Friends of Yeoman Hill Park
- Maun Conservation Group
- Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust
- Mansfield Woodhouse Society
- Warsop Footpaths Group
- Forest Town Nature Group
- Friends of Greenwood Community Forum

Appendix 3

- Assessment proforma

LOCAL GREEN SPACE PRO FORMA

Name of site _____

Date of visit _____

Present _____

Number of public representations for nominating the site _____

Existing protection status (e.g. LNR; 1998 Local Plan policy LT1 or LT2, etc)

We must be aware of the NPPF guidelines:

Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space.

(Therefore, although other areas may not have been nominated, would we be able to justify the difference between the areas we recommended should be designated and other similar areas that may be in the locality.)

1. Is the area put forward considered to be a large tract of land YES / NO
If the answer is 'NO,' then go to question 3.
2. If the area is considered to be a large tract of land, is there a smaller area that could still be considered? YES / NO
3. Which community does the area serve / is likely to serve?

4. IN the opinion of the officers/members undertaking the assessment, does it have a particularly **beautiful** setting or features of particular beauty? YES / NO
5. If 'YES,' what is this?

[BEAUTY: while this is a very subjective issues, what we asked people to try and demonstrate was 'What is unique' about the area, what sets it aside from other areas of open space that may be in the local area, does it offer something that isn't or would be difficult to replicate in the area?]

6. Is there any **Historic Significance** associated with the site? YES / NO

[Historic Significance: This is restricted to the fact that the site dates back to a particular time in history or contains recognised historical features. It can include things such as the site is the only suitable location for the annual community bonfire night / village fete, etc.]

7. Are there any Regular Events held on the site that makes it special? YES / NO

-
-
8. In the opinion of the assessment team, does the site provide a **Recreational Value** that is not, or could not be, provided on an alternative site within the locality?
YES / NO

If so, what facility or use

9. In the opinion of the assessment team, can the site be considered to be particularly **Tranquil**? YES / NO

[Tranquillity : This is most likely to be at the time it is used the most. Tranquillity is defined as calm, peaceful state without noise, worry, etc.]

10. Is there any evidence that the site has a **Richness of Wildlife** that is of county or district importance? YES / NO

Is the site considered to be suitable for designation by officers?

(tick any or all that apply)

Beauty

Historic Significance

Recreational Value

Tranquillity

Richness of Wildlife