

Application for Local Green Space designation for

NSP014 Shepherds Mead

**On behalf of the Shepherds Mead Preservation Group and
Norton St Philip Parish Council**

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13th December 2015

Norton St Philip Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

1.	General Information	Tick where evidence is attached
1.1	Name and address of site – including all known names Shepherd's Mead located on land to the south of Longmead Close, Norton St Philip	
1.2	Site Location Plan – showing locality and boundaries of the site and map scale Site Reference Number: NSP014	See Attachment 1
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation – Norton St Philip Parish Council	
1.4	Ownership of site, where known Devina (Bena) Ford, Karma, Downhead, Shepton Mallet BA4 4LQ	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? No. The owner is unlikely to support the designation as her agent has put this land forward for consideration for future development. She is, however, aware that it is currently the subject of a, larger, Village Green Application, so is unlikely to be surprised that the villagers believe it is a site worthy of LGS designation in the event that the Village Green Application is unsuccessful.	
1.6	Photographs of site Attached	See Attachment 2
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space – does it serve the whole village or a particular group? It serves the whole village and beyond, including various Rambler Groups.	
2.0	Planning History	
2.1	Is there a current planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? No. As stated above the agent of the owner has submitted the entire site for possible inclusion in the Local Plan Pt 2 HELAA.	
2.2	Is this site allocated for development in the Local Plan Part 2? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? As per 2.1 above.	

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3.0	Size, scale and 'local nature' of proposed Local Green Space Area: 1.67ha. It is a wildflower meadow, with 3 Public Rights of Way and an 'unofficial' permissive path which has been in constant use for decades. The site has been used by Villagers for more than 80 years for informal recreational activities.	
3.1	Area of proposed site It is unlikely that a site over 50 acres would be considered suitable for designation 1.67ha.	
3.2	Is the site an extensive tract of land? Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as LGS and how does it relate in size to other fields/areas of land in the vicinity? No, it is only 1.67ha. To the east is farmland, to the west it abuts the Conservation Village, to the south, where it runs to a point, it adjoins a residential lane and to the north is a new residential development.	
3.3	Is the proposed site 'local in character'? Does it feel part of the local area and why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What evidence can you provide? Yes it feels part of the local area. It forms an integral part of the setting of the historic ridge top Conservation Village, being part of the rural landscape into which the Village fits, thereby preserving and enhancing the significance and setting of this Heritage Asset. It connects physically as it directly abuts the Conservation Village itself, with the ancient village boundary wall separating the western part of the site from the village. It connects visually as it is situated at the highest point of the village, the ridge of this ridge-top village. For that reason alone, it is inappropriate that it should be built upon as any new buildings would form a completely new skyline and would dominate the village landscape and the 85 Listed Buildings contained within the Conservation Village. The Conservation Area Appraisal notes that "one of Area's great assets is the visual and psychological contrast between 'urban' and rural elements. As a consequence, the significance of the Conservation Area derives not only from its historic settlement pattern and its many listed and historic buildings, but also from the abundance of green space both within it and its rural landscape setting. That setting allows for an understanding and appreciation of its significance, providing an historical context for this ridge-top village, marking it as a rural settlement". This site contributes to this assessment. It connects socially as this land has offered informal recreational space for the residents of Norton St Philip for at least the last 80 years and consequently this	See Attachment 3

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	<p>make this space significant. Recreational activities include walking, football, cricket, other ball games, general playing, kite flying, sledging, skating and wildlife spotting.</p> <p>This site is a beautiful wildflower meadow. It contains 3 public rights of way (PROWs) and 1 'unofficial' permissive path which are used daily by many residents, including dog walkers.</p> <p>In the event that the private landowner insists that the residents restrict themselves to use of the PROWs and permissive path, that benefit is tremendously enhanced by the setting in which they are located - the wildflower meadow. And it is the landscape value of the wildflower meadow, its continued use by the villagers for more than 80 years and its location in relation to the Conservation Area and its Listed and Historic Buildings that makes it locally significant.</p>	
4.0	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	<p>Is there a need for a local green space in this location? Is there a shortage of accessible green space in the area?</p> <p>Yes. Most of the other Local Green Space applications do not allow public access.</p> <p>This site contains 3 public rights of way (PROWs) and 1 'unofficial' permissive path which are used daily by many residents, including dog walkers. It is certainly the only green space on the eastern side of the village suitable for dog walkers.</p>	
5.0	Evidence to show that 'the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves'.	
5.1	<p>How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community?</p> <p>The site immediately abuts the Conservation Village, so is on the doorstep for all.</p>	
5.2	<p>Are there any barriers to the local community assessing the site from their homes? Include main roads and possible evidence along with potential solutions</p> <p>No, this site is already very well used by the community because of the 3 Public Rights of Way and an 'unofficial' permissive path.</p>	
6.0	Evidence to show that the green area is 'demonstrably special to a local community'.	
6.1	<p>Evidence of support from Parish Council –</p> <p>This application is submitted by the Parish Council. And at the special Parish Meeting held on 19 November 2015 to discuss the Local Plan Part 2 options and consultation document, 100 resident expressed their support for Shepherd's Mead becoming a Local Green Space via a show of hands.</p>	

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6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders such as ward members, district councillors etc. A letter of support is attached from Ward Member and District Councillor Linda Oliver.	See Attachment 4
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups – such as conservation groups, wildlife trusts, local amenity societies, local schools etc. A letter of support is attached from the Campaign to Protect Rural England.	See Attachment 5
7.0	Evidence to show that the green area ‘holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty’ Indicate what evidence you are providing against each point.	
7.1	Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty. Since the 1930’s the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows to agricultural and property development. The land is a wild flower meadow, which by definition has been set aside for grazing, haymaking and recreation, but has never been cultivated or developed. It is special because of its beauty and the recreational use made of it by the villagers for more than 80 years.	
7.3	Site visibility – Is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there any long distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations? The site includes 3 Public Rights of Way and an ‘unofficial’ permissive path, so is, itself, a public space. It is located at the highest part of the village (on the ridge of the eastern part of the village). It is visible as one approaches the village by road or on foot from the West and forms the skyline above the Conservation Village. There is a straight line of sight to and from the Church tower. Any buildings sited here would form a new skyline which would look down on and dominate the village and significantly impact the setting of this heritage asset.	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? Such as conservation area, special landscape area, area of outstanding natural beauty? No, although it is currently the subject of a Village Green Application because of the importance the residents place on this green space. This application for LGS is deemed a ‘fall back’ in the event that the Village Green Application is	

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	unsuccessful.	
7.5	<p>Is the site specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or historical documents?</p> <p>Yes. The Norton St Philip Conservation Village Appraisal includes, for example, a summary of key characteristics of the village and states “the ridge of the eastern part of the village contrasts with the slopes to the west, giving good views out and into the historic core.”. This site is the ridge in question.</p>	
7.6	<p>Does the site contribute to the setting of a historical building or other special feature?</p> <p>The land is one of the few open spaces immediately annexing the built up street scene of the Conservation Village. Therefore, it does make a significant visual contribution to the character of the settlement, particularly as it is a wildflower meadow with several Public Rights of Way. Indeed, the Norton St Philip Conservation Area Appraisal notes that “one of Area’s great assets is the visual and psychological contrast between ‘urban’ and rural elements. As a consequence, the significance of the Conservation Area derives not only from its historic settlement pattern and its many listed and historic buildings, but also from the abundance of green space both within it and its rural landscape setting. That setting allows for an understanding and appreciation of its significance, providing an historical context for this ridge-top village, marking it as a rural settlement”. To allow this land to be built on would conflict with Policy DP3 of the Local Plan Pt 1 which is only supportive of schemes that would preserve and, where appropriate, enhance the significance and setting of the District’s heritage assets. In addition to the primary reason of maintaining this special green space for the continued long term enjoyment of the villagers, this application for LGS status is to ensure this land has special protection from development eg if Mendip fail to maintain a 5 year housing land supply.</p>	
7.7	<p>Is the site highlighted in literature or art? i.e. famous book or painting.</p> <p>No.</p>	
8.0	Evidence to show that the green area ‘holds a particular local significance for example because of its historical significance’?	
8.1	Is this criterion relevant to this site? No	
8.2	<p>Are there any historical buildings or remains on the site? Including listed buildings, ancient monuments, memorials etc.</p> <p>No, but it is bounded on one side by the ancient boundary wall of the Conservation Village and some of the Listed Buildings in the Village overlook the site.</p>	

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8.3	<p>Are there any important landscape features on the site? Including old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds; or historic garden features.</p> <p>The west side of the site is bounded by the historic rubble wall of the Conservation Village and the east side is bounded by a hedge of mature hawthorn amongst other species.</p>	
8.4	<p>Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village?</p> <p>Only to the extent that it is the highest point of the village which is recognised as a ridge-top village.</p>	
8.5	<p>Did any historic events take place on the site?</p> <p>No.</p>	
8.6	<p>Do any historic rituals take place on the site?</p> <p>Such as maypole dancing etc.</p> <p>No.</p>	
9.0	<p>Evidence to show that the green area 'holds a particular local significance, for example because of its recreational value including as a playing field (if appropriate).</p>	
9.1	<p>Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes</p>	
9.2	<p>Is the site used for playing sport? If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports and is the provision free or club membership required?</p> <p>No, not for formal sport.</p>	
9.3	<p>Are the public able to physically access the site? Are there any public rights of way across the site or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole or only part of the site? Is there good disabled access to the site?</p> <p>Yes. There are 3 public rights of way and 1 'unofficial' permissive path which has been used on a discretionary basis for decades. There is also a linking fourth public right of way adjacent to the site. Historically, the whole site has been used by Villagers for over 80 years at the discretion of the landowners. More recently, the landowner has restricted use to the footpaths which crisscross the entire site.</p> <p>There are two accessible gates for the disabled and two stiles. One footpath is being surfaced.</p>	
9.4	<p>Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? E.g. dog walking, sledging, ball games etc.</p> <p>Yes. The site has been used for over 80 years for informal recreational activity by villagers, their families and visitors. In days gone by it was recognised as the safest green area for children to play as it is away from any traffic and is a</p>	

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	<p>natural environment. Activities included dog walking, walking/jogging, cricket, football, cricket, other ball games, general play, sledging, skating, blackberry and mushroom picking, and, in general, enjoying the safe, natural environment of wild-life spotting (including deer, owls, skylarks, swallows, house martins, birds of prey, gold finches, house sparrows, starlings, butterflies, bugs etc). Attached is a synopsis of witness statements extracted from the evidence questionnaires completed in support of registration of this site as a Village Green. Copies of the fully completed questionnaires are available upon request.</p> <p>In the last 2 years, the landlord has restricted use to the footpaths only as she would like this land to be developed. Clearly activities are currently restricted to use of the PROWs and the 'unofficial' permissive path but even that benefit is tremendously enhanced by the beautiful and tranquil setting in which they are located – the natural wildflower meadow and views from its ridge position.</p>	See Attachment 8
10.0	Evidence to show that the green area 'holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity'?	
10.1	Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes	
10.2	<p>Do you consider the site to be tranquil? Are there any busy areas near by?</p> <p>Yes, this is a tranquil area. It is away from traffic, is a natural setting being a wildflower meadow and sitting on the ridge (the highest point of the village), it has tremendous views. Look westwards from the site over the rooftops of the High Street of the Conservation Village towards the 12th Century Church tower across to the other side of the valley to rural landscape towards Faulkland and beyond. Look eastwards, you have farm land and beyond that you can take in the Westbury White Horse, the western edge of Salisbury Plain and, on a clear day, slightly north east, the start of the Malborough Downs. In Spring and Summer the site is full of wild flowers which enhance the feeling of well-being and tranquillity.</p>	See Attachment 9
10.3	<p>Is the site within a recognised tranquil area?</p> <p>No.</p>	
11.0	Evidence to show that the green area 'holds a particular significance for example because of its richness of its wildlife'?	
11.1	<p>Is this criterion relevant to this site?</p> <p>See 7.2 above. The flora as described above certainly adds to the feeling of well-being that this site generates.</p>	

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11.2	<p>Is this site formally designated for its wildlife value? E.g. as a site of specific scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc.</p> <p>No</p>	
11.3	<p>Are any habitats or species found on this site? Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern etc.</p> <p>Yes. It is a habitat for a wide range of woodland, meadow and garden birds including Song Thrush, House Sparrow, Starling, Spotted Flycatcher (all Red List), Swallows, House Martins, Grey Wagtail, Dunnock, Spotted Flycatcher, Kestrel, Barn Owl (all Amber List) and Tawny Owls. Bats can be seen regularly through the summer months.</p>	
11.4	<p>What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?</p> <p>Not so far as the proposer is aware.</p>	
11.5	<p>Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? Including the long term monitoring of breeding birds etc.</p> <p>Not at this time.</p>	
12.0	Evidence to show that the green area 'holds a particular significance for any other reason'?	
12.1	Is this criterion relevant to this site? No	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why this site has a particular local significance for the local community?	

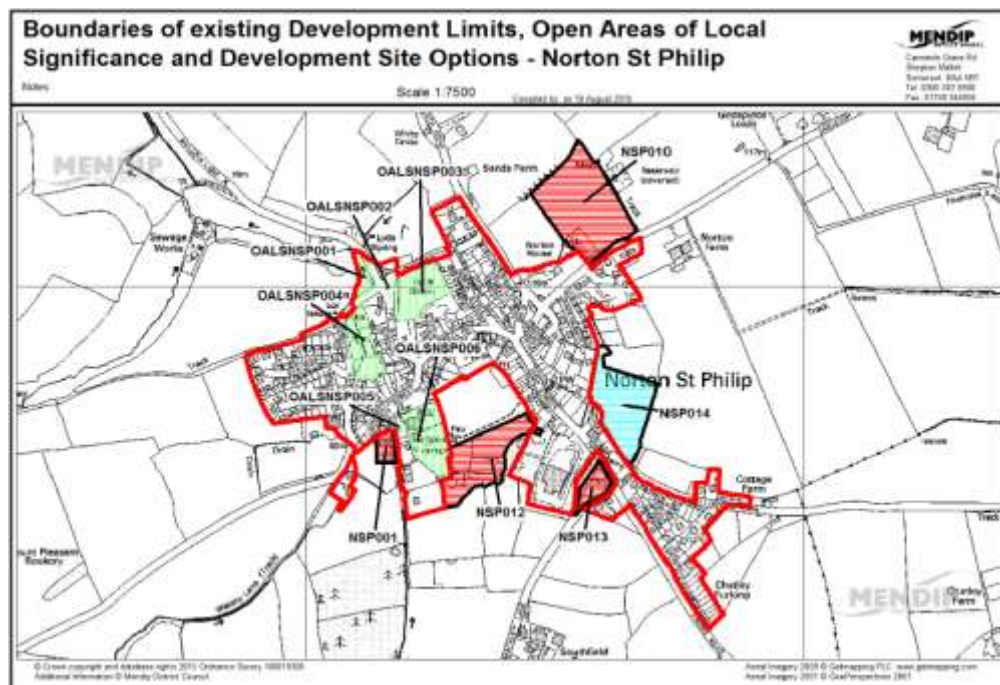
Completed by: Norton St Philip Parish Council

Date: 11 December 2015

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Attachment 1 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead

The site in question is shown as NSP014 on this map.



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Attachment 2 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead



Public access via 3 public footpaths and a permissive right of way



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Wild flower meadow



Habitat for listed birds

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Attachment 3 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead



Boundary wall and juxtaposition of site to Conservation Area



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Attachment 4 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead

Old Orchard, 8 Upper Farm Close, Norton St Philip, Bath BA2 7NA

Tel: 01373 834210

E Mail: Cllr.Oliver@mendip.gov.uk

9th December 2015

Application for Local Green Space (LGS) Designation for Land to the South of Longmead Close –Site reference NSP014 (Known locally as Shepherds Mead)

I give this application my full support for the reasons detailed below.

1. The green space put forward fulfils the requirements set out in the NPPF.
 - It is in very close proximity to the community it serves.
 - It is demonstrably special in many ways. It has a significance as one of the diminishing number of wildflower meadows in the country. Because of this it has a rare beauty and tranquillity and richness of wildlife, and also an important area for informal recreation and leisure activities. In this regard it ticks all of the boxes.
 - It is also local in character and not an extensive tract of land. I would quote from the letter of support from Chris Lewis, who is Chair of the Somerset branch of CPRE who states “ *The meadow is integral to the character of the village. It forms part of the setting of the historic ridge top Conservation Village, being part of the rural landscape into which the village fits, thereby preserving and enhancing the significance and setting of this heritage asset. The space the meadow creates adds to the essential character of the sky-line, which is itself part of the heritage asset of the village.*”

The letter from Chris Lewis can be found in attachment 5 of the LGS submission.

2. With the exception of the formal recreation ground, Church Mead, it is arguably the most significant green space in Norton St Philip.
 - The description of the site as “land to the South of Longmead Close” is a misnomer, (as is its description as a paddock). These are descriptions that have been wrongly applied to this area of land by the developers, which minimises its importance and imply that it is simply an ordinary field.
 - The land is in fact called Shepherds Mead. It is a wildflower meadow which, by definition, has been set aside for grazing, haymaking and recreation, but has never been cultivated.
 - The whole of the meadow is criss-crossed by 4 Public Rights of Way and one unofficial ‘permissive footpath’ the use of which has been demonstrated for over 80 years. These footpaths are in constant use by local residents, visitors from outside of the area and groups of walkers and ramblers. NO OTHER GREEN SPACE IN THE VILLAGE HAS SUCH ACCESSIBILITY, AND USAGE FOR INFORMAL RECREATION.

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- The whole of Shepherds Mead is also the subject of a Village Green Application (VGA) that was confirmed duly made and is now awaiting consideration that we understand is planned for this current financial year. Part of the evidence included witness statements and statements from some of these are included in the LGS submission in attachment 8. It gives further evidence of the use of this land for recreation and leisure over the last 80 years or so, and also the wide variety of activities taking place.

So the Parish Council on behalf of the local community feel they have a strong case to go forward to an official inquiry. If the application is successful the planning application approved on appeal for the northern section of Shepherds Mead, which was hastily put forward after the VGA was submitted, would not be able to proceed. However, if it should fail, then we believe we have sufficient evidence to fulfil the LGS criteria to protect the remaining two thirds of the meadow, and ensure that the community will still have access to a large part of this important green space in the village.

Cllr. Linda Oliver
Mendip District Councillor, Rode & Norton St Philip Ward
Somerset County Councillor, Frome North Division

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Attachment 5 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead

President

Roger Martin

Chairman

Prof. Chris Lewis CBE

Please reply to:-



28 November 2015

By e-mail to

Mendip DC Planning Policy Team

cc NSP Parish Council,

Linda Oliver,

CPRE Somerset

Dear Sir,

NORTON ST PHILIP APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION FOR THE LAND KNOWN AS SHEPHERD'S MEAD (PLOT NSP 014 MENDIP LOCAL PLAN)

CPRE Somerset wishes to support the application of Norton St Philip Parish Council for Local Green Space Designation for the land in Norton St Philip known as Shepherd's Mead, off Longmead Close in the centre of the village.

Norton St Philip has long suffered from overambitious housing development due to a combination of circumstances. These include the lack of any green belt in the whole of Somerset: a long time without a Mendip Local Plan and the leapfrogging effect across the green belt in Bath and North East Somerset, which Norton lies close to. Few of the new houses have been occupied by locals and most by those working in Bath and Bristol.

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In 2014, The CPRE National president Sir Andrew Motion visited Norton St Philip to see for himself how current planning laws had transformed the village. He also walked one of the 3 Public Rights of way through Shepherd's Mead. He later used Norton as an example of how pressure of developers combined with the planning process was changing many such villages far more than anyone had either planned or realized.

The current application for LGS space designation is for an area in the village which has a long history as a wild life meadow, unspoiled by cultivation for many centuries. It adds an oasis of tranquility to the village and has been used for nearly a century for informal recreation and leisure by many villagers. Other local groups of ramblers and walkers include a walk along one of the three permitted rights of way through the meadow on circular walks, usually including a stop at one of the village inns.

The meadow is integral to the character of the village. It forms part of the setting of the historic ridge top Conservation Village, being part of the rural landscape into which the Village fits, thereby preserving and enhancing the significance and setting of this Heritage Asset. The space the meadow creates adds to the essential character of the sky-line, which is itself part of the Heritage aspect of the village.

The current public access to the Mead is an important social possession of those living in the village, now extending for some four generations, and is something that should be recognized by the granting of the Local Green Space Designation, as any other use of the site would reduce significantly the quality of life of those living in the village. Although there are other green sites in the village they do not have the same sort of public access that has grown up over the years.

The views from the site also need preserving. To the west can be seen the rooftops of the High Street, the 12th Century Church tower and the rural landscape towards Faulkland. To the east is farm land and beyond the Westbury White Horse and the edge of Salisbury Plain. Such views are an essential part of rural England which should be preserved as much as possible as part of our heritage.

Also relevant are natural aspects of the site. In Spring and Summer wild flowers fill the area and enhance the feeling of well-being and tranquility. It is also a habitat for a wide range of woodland, meadow and garden birds including. Various types of Owl and Bats can also be seen.

I trust you will take into account our views when considering this application.

I am

Yours sincerely,

Chris Lewis CBE

Chair, CPRE Somerset

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Attachment 6 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead

Not Used

Attachment 7 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead

Not Used

Use of Shepherds Mead for Recreational Activities – Witness Statements

1. This wonderful field has been used by our family for over 20 years for many recreational activities: riding pretend horses with friends from playgroup; rounders' practice when school teams were being chosen; walking at a gentle pace with visiting grandparents; walking the dog; ball games when the hay has been taken; enjoying the company of sheep/horses/cows – a valuable education for small children.

The number and variety of wildflowers is wonderful in this field, as is the wildlife to be seen early morning or later in the evening. The blackberries are delicious at the end of the summer all along the back hedge, old friends bumped in to and news caught up on over a blackberrying session! I have been doing this for years and years because these particular blackberries have no pollution, no road dust or car fumes come near them.

In the winter months when the snow falls it is a lovely field for dragging a sledge around, and the small mound at the top end makes a good run for the timid!

Most of all this field is unique in the year-round pleasure it offers to hundreds and hundreds of people, pure countryside with easy access to everyone in the village.



Paul, Helen and Tabitha Cox, 5 High Street, Norton St Philip

2. Sandra and I have used the field for over 10 years to exercise [our dog] Sam - who we got in December 2002. **Graham Binns, Cherry Cottage, North Street, Norton St Philip**

3. When my children were growing up in the late 1980s and '90s we used to play in Shepherds Mead at all times of the year. I think of it as one of the essential lungs of the village. If it snowed we would take a sledge and have fun on the mound at the top of the field – just right for small children. **Robin Campbell, 4 Monmouth Paddock, Norton St Philip**

4. I have used Shepherds Mead many times to get from 'A to B', but on asking my daughter Ellie, she tells me she has walked dogs on there and also played there with friends on lots of occasions. It is a beautiful tranquil area and should stay that way.

Janet Shepherd, Sunnyside, Chatley Furlong, Norton St Philip

5. I have lived in the village for 2 ½ years with my husband, 4 children and dog. As residents of the adjacent Upper Farm Close, we regularly use Shepherd's Mead as an 'outdoor' facility. My

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children play ball games in amongst the grass and my youngest daughter spent hours picking the wild flowers when the area was laid to meadow. As we live so close to one of the entrances to the field, I am able to allow my children to play in the field unsupervised as (unlike the Mead) it is not adjacent to the main roads.

Personally, I am a keen runner and often do circuits around the field as it is so close to my home and needless to say, I am always walking my dog in the field! It is a fantastic facility and I would be truly disappointed if retaining this for village use is not considered.

Rachel Hambury Young, Upper Farm Close, Norton St Philip

6. I see people using Shepherds Mead for recreation at all times of the day. Walking dogs being one of the most popular activities we still see. My wife and family have lived next to Shepherds Mead for over 35 years and we have exercised our dogs regularly over the years in this safe and natural environment. Naturally at the odd times there have been sheep, cows or horses in it we have had to walk our dogs on a lead. When our two children were young they often played on Shepherds Mead doing what growing young boys do. Football was much easier to play in Shepherds Mead than our garden. I have also used Shepherds Mead to test out my new fishing rods on a regular basis. **Clive Parker, Upper Farm Close, Norton St Philip**

7. Our family regularly use Shepherds Mead (certainly on more than a weekly basis in the Spring and Summer months) as a recreation space - to exercise the dog, for personal exercise and as a play area. My son and his friends often play hide and seek in the long grass and use it as a general area for all sorts of boyhood games from bug collecting to tag to just hanging out. As our garden is small and the access to Church Mead and other parts of the village is very dangerous with no footpath and lots of traffic (often travelling at 30 miles per hour and above), Shepherds Mead is a really valuable large green space for our housing area as its accessible and sufficiently large for a range of uses. **Brenda Graham, Longmead Close, Norton St Philip**

8. Shepherds Mead is a green alternative to walking down the traffic-choked High Street. In contrast to Church Mead, the other green route, Shepherds Mead is left wild with mature trees, proper hedgerows, brambles and a variety of wild flowers: authentic nature, which I often enjoy there. **Christina Maddalena, Monmouth Paddock, Norton St Philip**

9. We have lived in the village over 6 years and have regularly used Shepherds Mead for outdoor exercise using the circular footpaths as a walking circuit. When we got our dog over 4 years ago this became a very important training and exercising area for us and to this day we exercise the dog on Shepherds Mead. The grass has not yet been cut this season so it is not easy to throw the ball for her, which is what we normally do but we still walk her around the field at least twice per day.

Shepherds Mead is lined with some natural hedgerows and in these are blackberry bushes that are rich pickings each year which my wife has foraged since we have lived in the village. **John Oliver, Upper Farm Close, Norton St Philip**

10. Shepherds Mead is a highly-valued space and provides a beautiful environment for the people of the village. My wife regularly uses Shepherd's Mead for dog walking, something she does for a number of elderly residents in the village. Both she and I also use Shepherd's Mead as a route for jogging. Both of these activities would be destroyed if this space were to be

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developed. We also use Shepherd's Mead as a convenient and safe cut-through to the village shop. **Richard and Jennifer Luscombe, Laureston House, Norton St Philip**

11. We moved to Ranmore Cottage, Norton St Philip in 1980 and still own the property today. The house backs onto Shepherds Mead field and the boundary is so close that horses used to come up to the windows on the ground floor and rub their noses on the glass!

[Our] three children grew up, privileged to live in such a favorable position for immediate access to the field. With so much traffic and narrow pavements in the village it was and is a safe place for children to let off steam in a healthy way and many of the village children used it regularly to play in and still do today.

Our son used to spend day after day in the field especially during the holidays playing there with other friends, making dens, playing numerous different games and ball games etc., flying kites, Frisbee, bowling practice, making bows and arrows and catapults from the trees along the far boundary etc. As he grew older he used the field a lot for practicing his casting techniques for fishing. He never used it for golf practice though people regularly do that and also use the field for training their dogs.

Our girls also used the field a lot, mainly for gathering nature treasures and insects from the hedgerows and tree line, but also for tennis volleying between themselves, games of chase, other ball games and teddy bears picnics.

Apart from jogging practice and walks we often used it for mushroom picking. There was a white owl that flew around the field a lot which people sometimes came to watch or look out for.

When the snow fell there were always short toboggan runs created by children and adults where they could form one, snowmen were built and it was the perfect place for snowball fights.

In the 33 years that we have owned Ranmore Cottage neither we nor our children have ever been challenged by the owner of the field with regard to our using it for recreational purposes.

The field was and is a little gem in the midst of increasing noise, traffic and pollution. It is a safe area where people can appreciate calm, and enjoys clear air and the joys of open space in the countryside. **Rod and Sheila Brewis, Ranmore Cottage, Townend, Norton St Philip, BA2 7LQ**

12. When our 4 children were growing up in the late 1980's and 1990's they used to roam around the village and hang around Shepherds Mead doing what normal kids do at that time of their lives. **Tony Day, North Street, Norton St Philip**

13. Since we moved into Norton St Philip over 12 years ago we have exercised our dog around this field at least twice per day. Our grandchildren like to play on Shepherds Mead and look at the wild flowers and wildlife. In the past we have seen deer on this field. More recently we took photographs for a very large 'igloo' some children were building during the snow. They told me that they were living in a rented property at the edge of the field

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Angela & Wahid Awan, Longmead Close, Norton St Philip.

14. I am 60 years old and have lived in the village the whole of my life. In the 1960's as a young boy, I, Alan Cook, Colin Busson, Ian and Gerard Curslake used to regularly play Cricket and Football on Shepherds Mead. It is where we used to hang around then.

Colin Francis, North Street, Norton St Philip.

15. We have lived in the village a few years now and we walk and exercise our dog in Shepherds Mead every afternoon. **Alan and Tricia Bishop, Springfield, Norton St Philip**

16. My family are one of the original families from Norton St Philip. I am now 75 and played as a youngster regularly on Shepherds Mead, playing ball, chasing around. One of the highlights of those times was when the large pond that used to be on Shepherds Mead froze up and my friends and I used to skate and play on it. **John Curtain, High Street, Norton St Philip**

17. I am 81 years old and have lived in Norton St Philip all my life. As a boy we all used to play in Shepherds Mead, run around, play ball and go swimming in the pond that used to be there at that time. **Geoff Angel, Bell Hill, Norton St Philip**

18. I was born in the village in 1942 and left in 1969. Shepherds Mead was my playground from the mid 40's and early 50's. I remember very clearly the pond that used to be at the Tellisford end of Shepherds Mead and sliding across it when it was iced over. Shepherds Mead was just the place we all used to play in and hang around, like children do in a place like this. Mum and Dad used to exercise our dogs and walk around and through Shepherds Mead during the time they were in the village.

Hilary Stevens (formerly of Tellisford Lane, Norton St Philip). Tel: 834760

19. I am 92 years old and have lived in the village all my life. When I was younger all my friends and I used to use Shepherds Mead to play in, there was nowhere else. From 12 years old onwards we used to play cricket, football, play in and on the pond when it was iced over amongst other things. It was really a general meeting place for the youngsters at that time. I played with a number of friends including Fred Perkins, Sid Perkins, Kirby Pearce and many more, most of which are not alive now. **Den May, Ringwell, Norton St Philip**

20. My wife and I and our two children, who are now 16 and 11 have lived in the village since 1998. We have always encouraged our children to play in Shepherds Mead as we considered the safest place for them, away from any traffic and in a natural environment. They have played in it regularly from being young children and my youngest still does. They play and have played all sorts of games in it including, hide and seek, kite flying and wild life watching. The natural meadow is alive with wild life and wild flowers and makes this a really special natural place for

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children to play and learn in. I also recall that Shepherds Mead was used for the Monmouth Rebellion re-enactment, some time ago. **Jeremy Kay, Fairbanks, Townsend, Norton St Philip**

21. All of our family have spent many happy years, fruit picking, dog walking and generally enjoying the safety of the green field with our children as they have grown up. Our parents, in their final years, also enjoyed walking in the field behind their house for therapeutic reasons.

Sally Fox and Ros Crookes, formerly of Norton St Philip

22. Having lived in Norton St Philip for 20 years and being interested in wildlife we have always enjoyed a walk through Shepherds Mead as this field is an oasis for wildlife. This field has never been cultivated only grazed. This area is good for spotting butterflies, wildflowers, small mammals and of course birds of prey including owls which use this field as a hunting ground. It is a pity that the pond that was once there is now dry if reintroduced this would further add to the variety of wildlife found in this field. We are so lucky to have this meadow which generations have enjoyed for many different reasons.

Tim and Bernadette Hanney, High Street, Norton St Philip

23. Our garden backs onto Shepherds Mead. My observation when in the garden is that it is used every day by many people walking their dogs. This includes local people, for whom this walk is a daily routine, but I also see visitors to the village enjoying this walk. I also observe village children using the field for play. I would also note that in the past two years I have heard skylarks in the field and it is used as a hunting ground by barn owls. The Mead ... is a valuable local amenity and wildlife haven. **Meriel Lee, Townsend, High Street, Norton St Philip**

24. My partner and I have lived in the village 7 years and regularly exercise a dog on Shepherds Mead and use it ourselves for walking around and exercise. In the past we regularly went to the area to see the Barn Owl that was nesting on the site. We have seen it hunting. Unfortunately, since the additional houses were built on Shepherds Mead we have not seen the owl.

Giles Atkinson, Plaine, Norton St Philip

25. My family and I live in Townend and our garden overlooks Shepherds Mead. We use the field very, very regularly for dog walking, cycling, playing games with our children, picnics, walking, running around, taking photos and video clips of the children playing, giving our children an environment to look at wildlife, sledging and playing snowballs in the winter. This open space is very important to us as a family and we see it as a right to enjoy the countryside close to our home. It is the very reason we left Bath and came to live here. The Government are always going on about children having fresh air and not sitting in front of the television, well if the building work continues there will be no more spaces for children and families to do precisely that! **Claire & Harvey Ditchfield, Town End, Norton St Philip**

26. I walk the dog round the Mead, (Shepherds) 3/4 mornings a week and would be very upset not to be able to do so. **Eleanor Sames, Mamre, High Street, Norton St Philip**

27. We regularly walk the dogs through Shepherds Mead.

Amber and Marcus Lorenzo, Tellisford Lane, Norton St Philip

28. I have regularly exercised my dogs round Shepherds Mead over the past 25 years. I have also flown a model helicopter there on occasion.

Mike Lutterloch, Roadmenders Cottage, Town Barton, Norton St Philip

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29. Shepherds Mead: I use it myself on a daily basis to jog as it's safe and local. My son uses it to play football when the grass is cut. My daughter and her friends use it to 'hang out' when the weather is fine. My daughter is also a keen photographer and uses Shepherds Mead a lot for that. We have had picnics there too!

Tracey Burnett, Shepherds Mead, Upper Farm Close, Norton St Philip

30. My father, Geoff Coombs and his brothers used to organise the Cricket in Norton St Philip. In the early 1950's ... they moved the cricket to Shepherds Mead for a couple of seasons. When my sister and I were growing up in the village during the late 1960's/ early 1970's, Shepherds Mead was the only field that was close enough to home in which we could play safely with friends

My sister and I had riding lessons at Longmead stables with Bina Hawkes [Davina Ford] and during spare time and school holidays we would help with mucking-out etc. At that time there was no fencing across Shepherds Mead such as there is today, the only fencing apart from the perimeter fences was the lunging-ring where we had some of our lessons. The whole field, right up to the 'Ha-ha' wall at the end of the garden belonging to Longmead House, was known as Shepherds Mead. There was no 'Paddock' or any other partitioning, the fence that we see there today and the so called Paddock/Menage have only appeared since the first phase of the building of Longmead Close. I can remember helping Mrs Hawkes with her daffodils which grew along the top of the Ha-ha and being able to jump straight down from the Ha-ha into the field, then cross the field to one of the stiles.

Every autumn we picked mushrooms in Shepherds Mead with our parents.

John lived at Townend. He always walked his dog in Shepherds Mead three times every day; the dog was 18 when she died in 1991. Also from time to time I would try to 'keep fit' by running around the perimeter while the dog had a run.

In 1992 we moved to Town Barton with Louise who was 18 months old at the time. Louise grew up playing in Shepherds Mead during the late 1990's and early 2000's because it was the safest place to let her have a bit of freedom without having to cross a road.

When I was working during the school holidays my parents would look after Louise. They took her into Shepherds Mead to play football, Frisbee, climb trees and to climb what she still refers to as the 'Red Rock' (the mound of earth at the Tellisford Lane end).

Sue & John Tozer, 3 Upper Farm Close, Norton St Philip

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Attachment 9 to LGS for Shepherd's Mead



Top of the ridge - looking West over the church tower towards Faulkland



. and East towards Salisbury Plain and the Marlborough Downs

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Views and public footpaths for quiet pleasure



. in all seasons

Milling, Jo

From: Clive Abbott [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2017 14:49
To: Milling, Jo; Nikki Duke
Subject: Fw: NSP014 Shepherd's Mead, Norton St Philip

Dear Jo Milling,

Please refer to the Application for Local Green Space Designation for NP014 Shepherd's Mead in Norton St Philip, dated 13 December 2015.

There is an error in para. 9.3 on page 6. The fourth sentence of the reply reads:

'Historically, the whole site has been used by Villagers for over 80 years *at the discretion of the landowners.*' [My italics.]

The words 'at the discretion of the landowners' are inaccurate and should be deleted. The sentence *should* read:

'Historically, the whole site has been used by Villagers for over 80 years.'

Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail, which I am copying to our Clerk, Ms Nicola Duke; and confirm that this amendment has been made in the Application, so that, when the time comes, the correct wording will feature in the documentation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Regards,

Clive Abbott

Chairman, Norton St Philip Parish Council

[REDACTED]

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