

FAO Norton St Philip Parish Council

Representations: Draft Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan 2024 Regulation 14 consultation.

Green Space

Despite the fact that the revised draft NP acknowledges that the original LGS designations did not accord with national policy on designating green spaces, there is now an attempt to apply a designation to all of the original 16 sites as "Important green spaces". We can find no policy documents that indicate justification or protection for green spaces that are not already designated as Local Green Spaces, OALS or Green Belt. In fact a member of the Parish Council at the recent appeal hearing stated that the important green space is apparently not a designation rather than an 'identification'. This therefore endorses our view that there is no policy supporting "important green spaces" designation.

We are therefore concerned that any attempt to label all of these sites with a designation that does not have any national policy supporting it, merely devalues the areas of land that have benefitted previously from the relevant policy designation. Designation of land should not be simply a vehicle to prevent development proposals. We have to accept a responsibility to recognise the need for housing for the District and that cannot be limited by reliance on NSP achieving "the minimum" as stated in the Mendip Local Plan.

We do not support any designations for land that is within private properties and their domestic gardens.

Housing

We feel that the housing numbers in the NP are not up to date figures and do not reflect the increasing lack of affordable housing provision both locally and across the District. There is a shortage of housing supply generally across the District and Mendip area cannot demonstrate a 5 year housing supply. There are very few affordable houses in NSP and there has been none since 2007.

Bell Hill Garage site

We see from comments on the planning portal that there are objections from statutory consultees regarding numerous aspects of the proposed development. Great Orchard appears to be impacted by the development and a number of historic buildings. In light of previous planning history it is premature to rely on this site to deliver housing. Particularly since there is a suggestion is for just 9 properties.

Notwithstanding our comments above, we recognise the work the NSP have undertaken in their endeavours to secure a NP. Its clearly not an easy task to represent the views and wants of each resident. Some of whom are not able or willing to participate in planning matters.

If there is any clarification needed please don not hesitate to contact us. Please can you acknowledge receipt of e mail.

Regards