

**Cliddesden Neighbourhood Plan**  
**ENV2 Local Green Space Background Paper**  
**August 2023**

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## 1. MAPS

The Neighbourhood Plan Team submitted the original version of the set of Local Green Spaces (see Map 2) to the community in the 2020 Issues & Options consultation. This was also shared with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Based on feedback from the consultation and BDBC, we reduced the size of LGS3 and LGS9 and completely withdrew some others.

Following feedback in the Regulation 14 consultation, a further two LGSs were withdrawn.

Map 1 is the result of the amendments and shows the current number and location of proposed LGSs, shaded green.

Map 2 shows the location of the original number and location of LGSs proposed, shaded blue.

Map 3 shows the combination of current (shaded green) & withdrawn (shaded blue) LGSs showing the relevant extent of withdrawn and reduced LGSs. This allows potential for future small scale development but would still retain areas of green space close to the centre of the village.

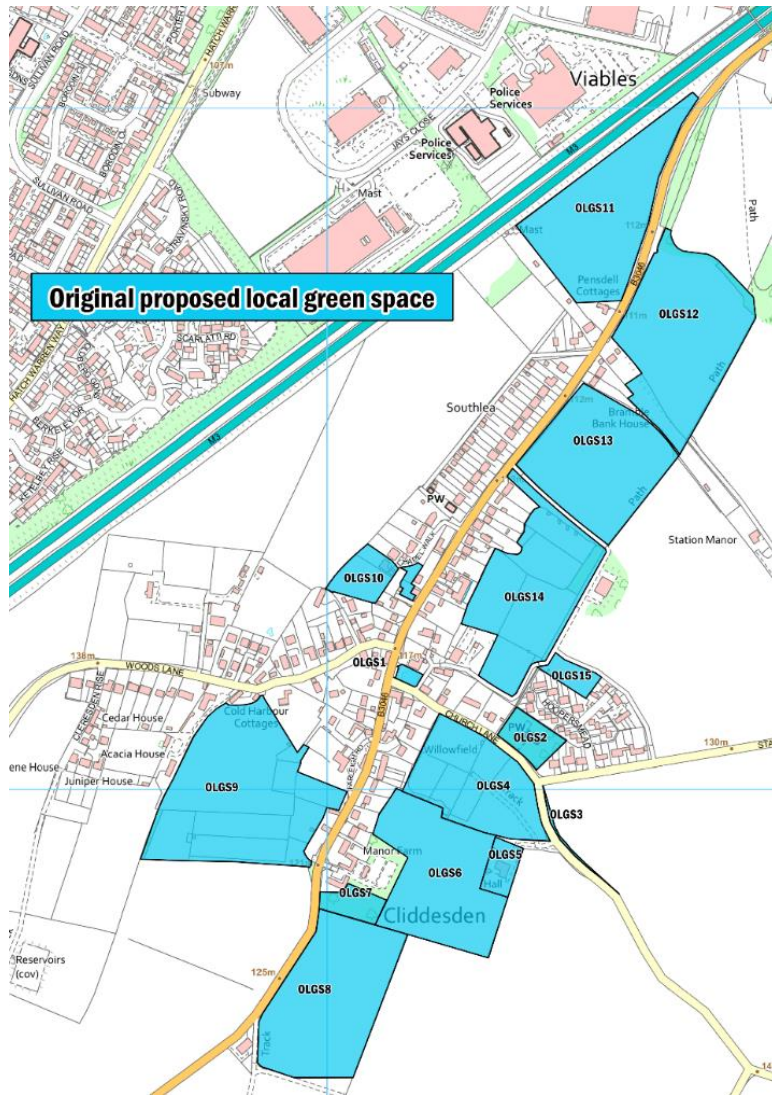
Map 4 shows the reduction in size of LGS3

Map 5 shows the reduction in size of LGS9

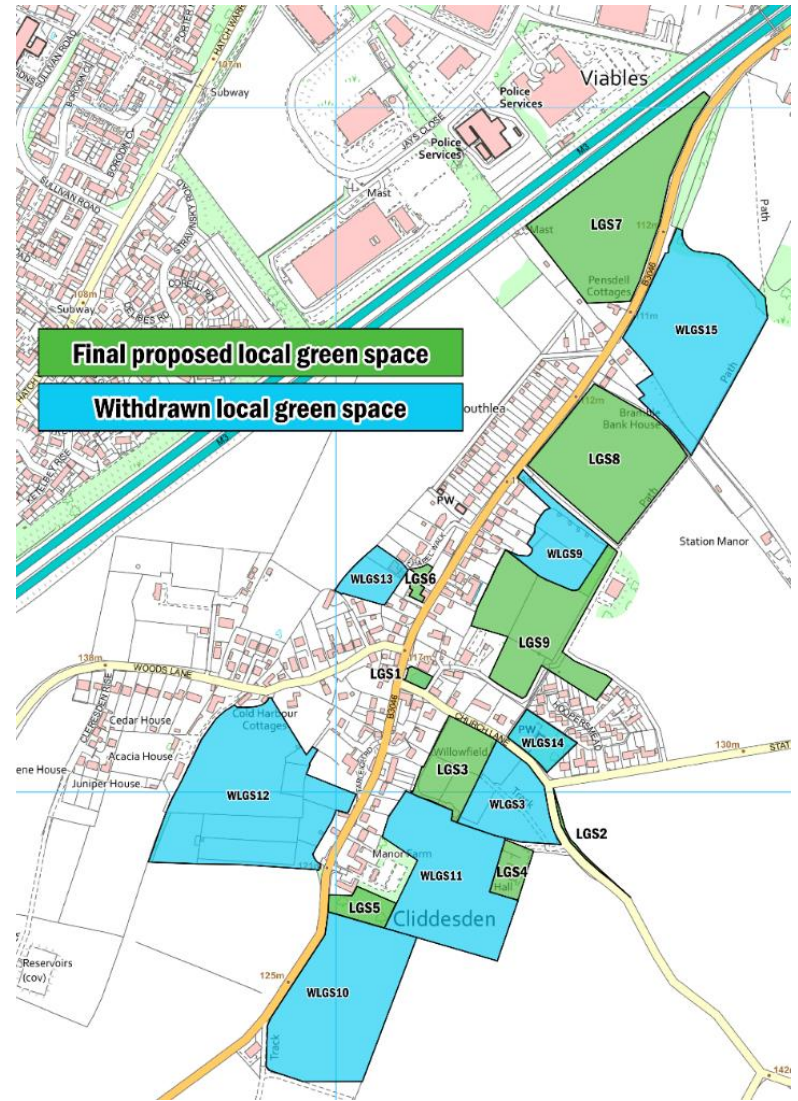
Total area proposed = 27.30 acres which is approx. 2.5% of total acreage of parish (the plan area 1122 acres).

**MAP 1 showing LOCATION of 9 x FINAL PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES (shaded green)**

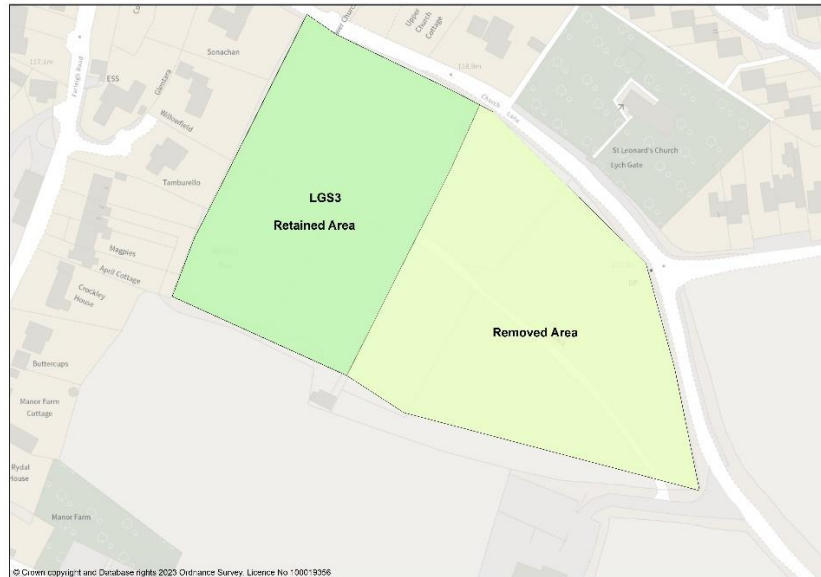




MAP 2 showing LOCATION of 15 x ORIGINAL PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES (shaded blue)



MAP 3 showing the COMBINATION of 9 CURRENT & 6 WITHDRAWN LOCAL GREEN SPACES (to show the extent of withdrawn and reduced LGSs)



**Map 4 LGS3 Paddocks** reduced in size from OLS 4 - 5.4 acres to 2.63 acres in response to consultation feedback. This allows potential for future small scale development with access to Church Lane but would still retain an area of green space close to the centre of the village.



**Map 5 LGS9 grassland and paddocks** reduced in size from OLS14 - 8.2 acres to 5.65 acres to increase the separation between LGS9 and LGS8

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Cliddesden is a rural village lying in a valley surrounded by open field and paddocks, to the south of Basingstoke, Hampshire. However, with the exception of a small area of grass, to the rear of the village hall, there is very little public open space to facilitate social interaction. Even the area around the pond is very limited not supporting anything more than a small social group. This means that the open spaces, footpaths, rights of way and views around the parish are especially important to the community. The amenity value of the local countryside is something not just valued by residents of the village but is enjoyed by the wider community as evidenced by walkers and cyclists from Basingstoke. As a specific example, the annual Basingstoke half marathon passes through Cliddesden. Even the areas without public access provide amenity value because of the views into the sites, their rural character and sense of tranquillity.

A Neighbourhood Plan policy will aim to protect the local green spaces in Cliddesden and supports the aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

In preparing this policy both desk-based and field research has been undertaken. Material has been drawn from previous CNP consultations. The Locality document: *“Making local green space designations in your neighbourhood plan”* has been used as a guide to creating this document.

The CNP team spent much time reading through other NPs, reviewing documents such as the Woodland Trust and CPRE, and contacted Locality for guidance etc.

## 3. EVIDENCE FROM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Consultation undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan has shown both strong support for preserving the “green fingers” and green spaces of the parish in general. Feedback from the Neighbourhood Planning Open Day in November 2018 showed strong support to preserve the green fingers.

Question 2 of the first community questionnaire in 2019 asked “how important do you feel the following environmental issues are for Cliddesden?”.

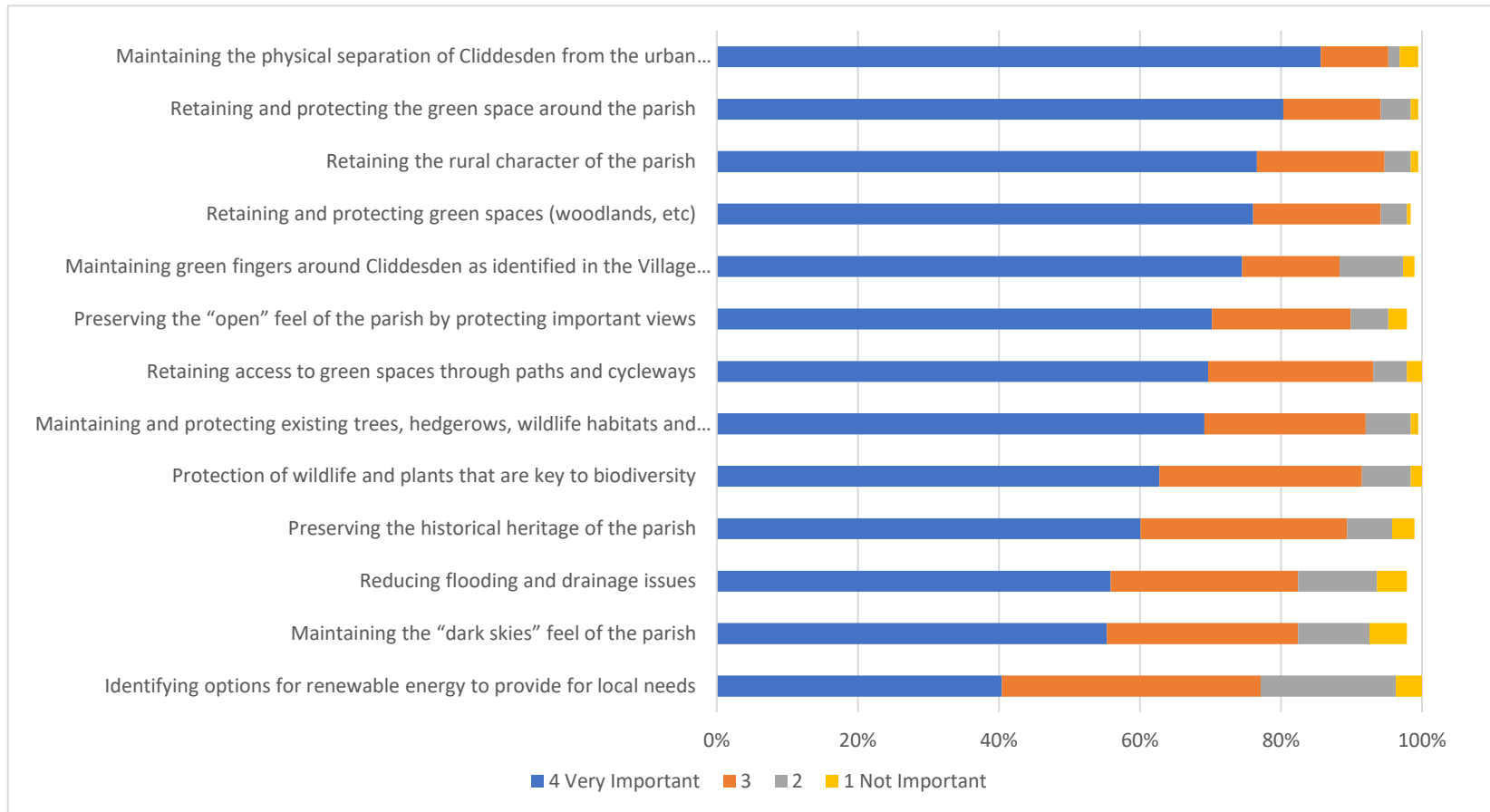
95% of respondents showed strong support for:

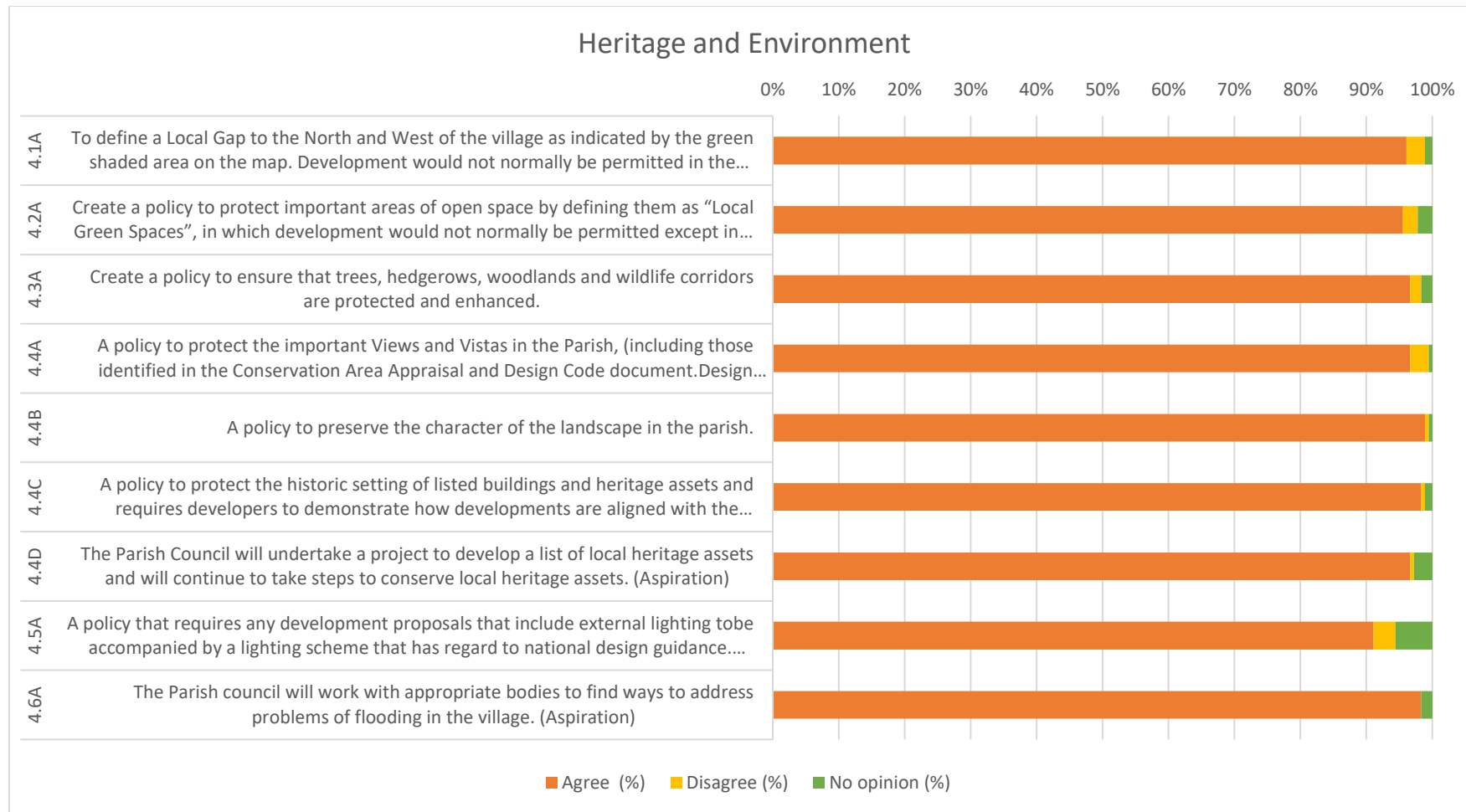
- *“Maintaining green fingers around Cliddesden as identified in the Village Design Statement.”*
- *“Retaining and protecting the green space around the parish”*
- *“Retaining and protecting green spaces (woodlands, etc)”*
- *“Retaining access to green spaces through paths and cycleways.”*
- *“Maintaining and protecting existing trees, hedgerows, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors.”*

These results indicate the strength of feeling and how the green fingers and other green spaces around the Parish are demonstrably special to the community.

**Fig 1**

Question 2 of the first community questionnaire in 2019 95% of respondents felt that protecting the Local Green Spaces was very important.





**Fig 2** Question 4.2A of the second community questionnaire in 2020 95.5% of respondents felt that protecting the Local Green Spaces was very important.



## 4. EVIDENCE FROM OTHER SOURCES

**THE CLIDDSDEN VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (VDS)** (the result of community consultation and adopted by B&DBC in 2004) identifies a number of green spaces; the “green fingers” on page 9.

*“Cliddesden is fortunate in having several extremely valuable publicly visible open spaces which are exhibited as swathes of green grassland or “green fingers”, extending from the open countryside into the middle of the village. These fingers integrate Cliddesden with the surrounding rural landscape and include Southlea Meadow, the fields north-east of Woods Lane, those behind the garage and the Meadow south-west of Church Lane. All descend from higher ground and are a prominent feature of the village. Some of these spaces are still farmed but others are now pony paddocks. Views from the village are mostly to the ridges via the green fingers and not to the countryside beyond. This enhances an impression of enclosure and rural remoteness.”*

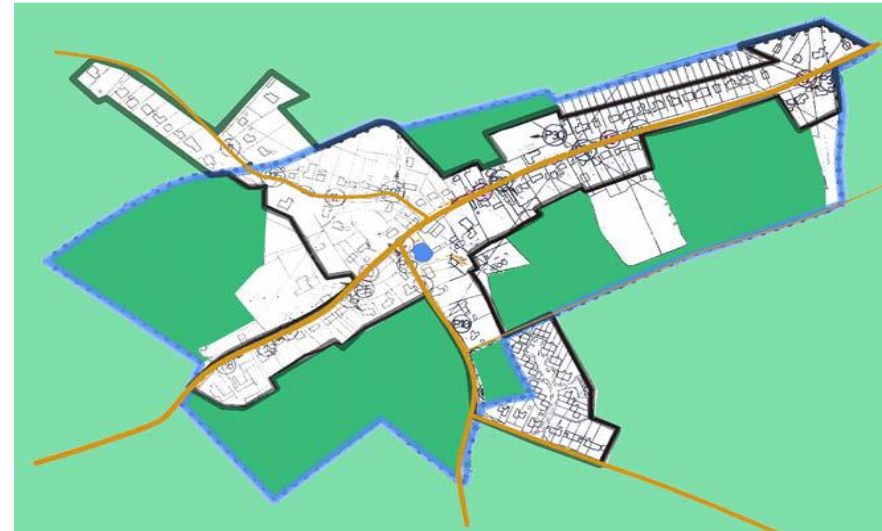
Many of the LGSs correspond with the “green fingers” and the VDS shows how the green fingers have been valued for at least a generation.

Table 1 in section 5 provides a summary of the green space audit and analysis work undertaken. Further details of each LGS are provided in Section 5, which includes additional information to support the NPPF criteria.

### VDS Green Fingers

In the Village Design Statement (adopted by B&DBC in 2004), 6 separate areas of land are identified as “green fingers”. The VDS states that sympathetic development should: *“retain the green fingers which are important to the village character. These should be maintained and continued in further developments to provide views of the surrounding fields from between buildings”* pages 17/18. However one of the green fingers, the field behind the Jolly Farmer, was subject to a development planning application (20/00489/TDC Land Rear of The Mount). This was approved and development of two houses is complete. LGS3, LGS4, LGS5, LGS6, LGS8 and LGS9 all include areas that were identified as being “Green Fingers” in the VDS.

**Fig 3**



**NATURAL ENGLAND** includes green spaces in its Green Infrastructure as follows:

*“Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high-quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.”*

*“Green Infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently, it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both **accessible natural green spaces** within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.”*

**BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL’S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY** states:

*“Accessible and cared-for green spaces provide opportunity for physical activity and contact with nature which has direct health benefits, reducing (in combination with other factors) the occurrence of heart and respiratory disease, stress, mental illnesses and obesity and associated economic benefits Recreation and Leisure Green spaces close to residential areas.”*

*“Green spaces and habitat networks are essential to healthy ecosystems. Habitats are essential for the species that they support and connectivity allows for foraging, dispersal and reduces vulnerability to local species extinction through genetic exchange and repopulation. Accessible green spaces allow people to experience nature, which in turn encourages environmental stewardship.”*

## CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Cliddesden Conservation Area was designated in 1981 by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in recognition of the special architectural and historic interest of the village. The Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) document as adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 20 February 2003 and complements the policies of the Borough Local Plan

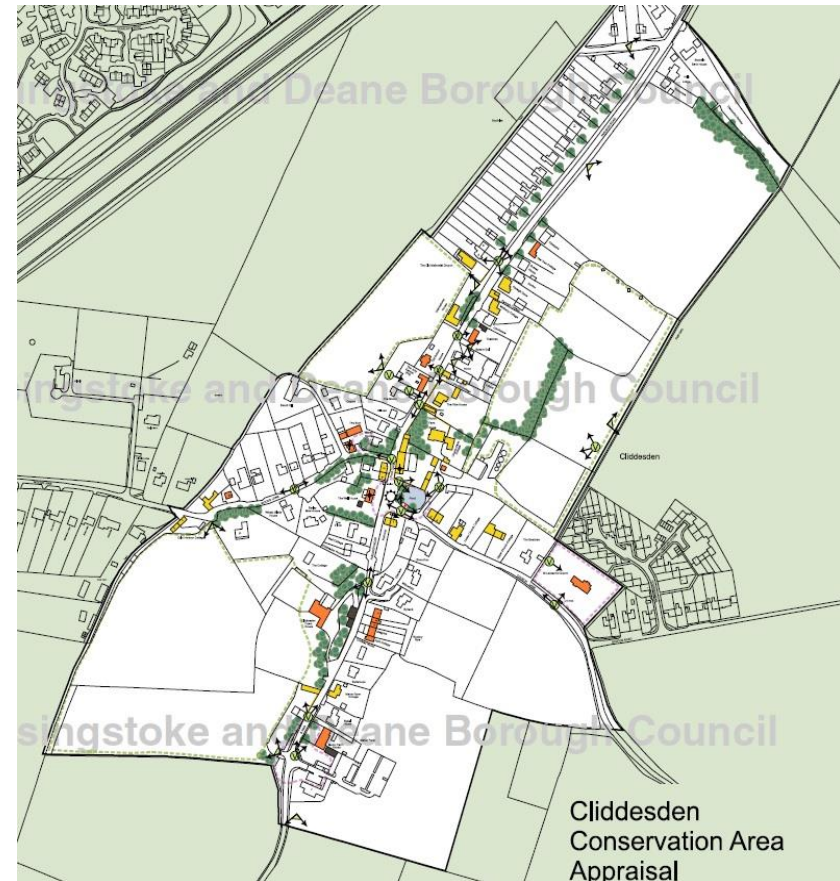
All the LGSs identified are contained within the Conservation Area with the exception of LGS4.

*“Open spaces are an essential component of the development and character of the Conservation Area. In Cliddesden many important views, or the setting to key buildings, are derived from the relationship of the buildings and the spaces formed around them.”*

*“The contribution of the open land, which surrounds the settlement, cannot be underestimated. The fields, pastureland and wooded clumps to the north-east are key in views into, through and out of the Conservation Area. These spaces provide context to Church Farm and setting to the vernacular buildings along the valley. These qualities apply to the open fields to the south-east and Manor Farm. An example of the relationship between the countryside and village are the glimpsed view between buildings on Church Lane from the pond, which visually leads to the fields beyond. The open land to the west of Cliddesden Down House also shows the village in its outstanding landscape context, as does the field opposite the Southlea development.”*

Views identified in the CAA look out across many proposed Local Green Spaces.

This lends further weight to the demonstrably special nature of the green spaces.



**Fig 4**

The Cliddesden Conservation Area Appraisal makes several references to the importance of the setting of the village in relation to open spaces:

*“Although mainly residential in character, the overall appearance of the Conservation Area is informal. This is a result of the vernacular form and traditions of the historic buildings. In particular the prominent contribution of the farm complexes and thatched cottages; the integral relationship of key spaces, mature*

*trees and hedgerows in the streetscape; and the overall situation of the settlement within a rolling farmland setting. Indeed, the landscape contributes significantly to views into, through and out of the village.”*

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The setting of the village and the conservation area and its relationship with the open spaces, supports the LGSs as being “Local in character”.

The CAA highlights the importance of spaces to the village character:

*“Although mainly residential in character, the overall appearance of the Conservation Area is informal. This is a result of the vernacular form and traditions of the historic buildings. In particular the prominent contribution of the farm complexes and thatched cottages; the integral relationship of key spaces, mature trees and hedgerows in the streetscape; and the overall situation of the settlement within a rolling farmland setting. Indeed, the landscape contributes significantly to views into, through and out of the village”*

### **Conclusion from CAA:**

The Conservation Area Assessment has many references to the positive contributions made by the open spaces to the character, attractiveness, landscape and setting of Cliddesden. The CAA also references Important Views, many of which are across Local Green Spaces.

All these Local Green Spaces are rich in wildlife as can be seen from information contained in records collected by the local conservation group, 3CG, over the last 20 years.

It is also worth noting that all the identified Local Green Spaces are within the Cliddesden Conservation Area with the exception of LGS4 and LGS9. They are essential in preserving the character of this conservation area retaining the space around notable buildings and features that characterise the village so they remain uncompromised by development.

**The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2021) states:**

Para 102. *“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.”*

Cliddesden’s proposed Local Green Spaces meet these criteria. NB: The extent of the original local green spaces has been revised and reduced in size.

**The Woodland Trust - SPACE FOR PEOPLE**

*“Scientific studies have shown that ‘green exercise’ – such as walking and cycling – can improve self-esteem and mood, reduce stress and anxiety disorders, and help ease attentional fatigue and depression. And the closer green spaces are to where people live, the more likely they are to use them.”*

This demonstrates the importance of the green spaces with trees and hedges such as those in Cliddesden.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2017/06/space-for-people...>

## 6. Descriptions and photographs of current proposed important Local Green Spaces

### LGS1: Village Pond

Grid Ref: SU 631 491

The traditional village pond and its environs, a small tract of land of 0.2 acres, are located at the heart of the Conservation Area in Farleigh Road (B3046) and mark the staggered crossroads in the middle of the village. It has been here for centuries and is a green break in the built-up environment being surrounded by grass, shrubs and trees and is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village settlement. The village notice-board to advertise community events is sited here as is the iconic red King George V telephone kiosk, painted annually by volunteers, with the only public bench in the village for people to meet, sit and relax. A footpath runs around two sides of the pond and from here one has views of the local pub, a number of listed buildings including the historic black barn.

Being the lowest point in the village, it acts as a “breakwater” against the danger of flooding in the lower section of the village from rainwater rushing down from the hills. It collects excess rainwater from road and field run-off alike and is an historic landmark being used to store rainwater and watering livestock for hundreds of years as old photographs depict (see below).



Village Pond c1905

It is a collection and drop-off point for the school bus and is highly valued by the community as a meeting place as noted in the first consultation.

The Parish Council provides maintenance by mowing the grass and trimming the shrubs to keep this place attractive for residents and visitors alike. Volunteers have planted daffodils, snowdrops and wildflowers in the grass. This area is valuable for its biodiversity being home to families of mallards (often fed by children) and moorhens, providing a spawning ground for frogs and nesting opportunities for many songbirds.

The CAA comments on the qualities of LGS1:

*“The west end of Church Lane meets Farleigh Road at an open area, focused around a pond, and forms the spatial core of the village. The varied mix of buildings that loosely encircle the area are drawn together by trees and vegetation and create a strongly defined space, which nevertheless has an informal character. The pond also creates an important setting for the surrounding buildings, including the reflected gables and chimney stacks of Nos 1 and 2 Church Lane, and the view of Pond Cottages and Church Farm framed by the reeds and trees across the pond. The Church Farm complex to the north is historically related to the pond, which was a former watering place for animals.”*

*“The area formed by, and surrounding, the village pond is of key historic and streetscape importance. It serves as a focus for the settlement in contrast to the otherwise irregular and individual development qualities of the village. It provides a parking area and bus stop and a social space with public telephone box, parish notice board and seating. It provides significant views of, and settings to, the buildings which define its form.”*



**Pond environs**



**Pond**



**Notice board & telephone kiosk at the pond**

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 1: VILLAGE POND</b> &amp; surrounds on Farleigh Rd (B3046 running through the village centre)</p>	<p><b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 631 491  <b>Size:</b> 0.2 acres</p>
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>This is a small body of water surrounded by grass, shrubs &amp; trees. It is fed by drains collecting excess rainwater from road and field run-off and preventing flooding of dwellings in Farleigh Road.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA  Described as the focal point of the village in the Village Design Statement which was formally adopted by BDBC in 2004.</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b>  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  c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) The pond and its environs are the spatial core of the village, located at the heart of the Conservation Area. A beautiful area of water surrounded by trees, ideal meeting place. It is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village settlement and is accessible to the public. Distinct area of land with clearly visible boundaries</p> <p>b) The pond is an historical feature being used to collect rainwater and for watering livestock for hundreds of years. The site gives views of the immediate village. The pond is at the staggered crossroads at the centre of the village and the heart of the Conservation Area. It is an important collection and drop-off point for the school bus and is highly valued by the community.</p> <p>A locally significant landmark, the red King George V telephone kiosk, maintained and painted by volunteers, is sited here with a bench for people to meet, sit and relax in a tranquil spot. Provides a sense of place as the village centre and recreational value, with seating, telephone box, bus stop, parish notice board. The pond is a valuable resource for wildlife including mallards, moorhens and many songbirds.</p> <p>c) Although not an extensive tract of land, it is instantly recognisable and adds to Cliddesden's unique identity.</p>

**LGS2: Wildflower Bank, Church Lane**

Grid Ref: SU 633 489



This is a small 0.4-acre area of unimproved chalk grassland bordering Church Lane opposite the Village Hall within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village. This area is cut twice a year, spring and autumn by HCC contractors. The arisings are removed by volunteers and added to compost heaps to provide extra habitat for wildlife and wildflower seeds are sown as required. It is surrounded by rural views to open countryside.

The grassy bank is full of native flowers and much biodiversity and is a green corridor for many native species of small mammals and invertebrates. It is admired by all who pass by and emphasises the rural feel of the village and features Dark Mullein, the sole foodplant of the Striped Lychnis moth a BAP priority species. HCC have designated this as a Rural Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI).

The road entrance to the Village Hall is another stop-off point for the school bus and local schoolchildren alight here walking past the floral bank on their way home after school.



**Hants CC RVEI designation**



**Wildflower bank**

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 2:</b> Wildflower Bank, bordering Church Lane opposite The Village Hall  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 633 489  <b>Size:</b> 0.4 acres</p>	
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>This is a small area of chalk grassland that has not been improved agriculturally. This area is cut twice a year, spring and autumn by HCC contractors. The arisings are removed by volunteers and added to compost heaps to provide extra habitat for wildlife.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>(HCC) RVEI Rural Verge of Ecological Importance. Within the conservation area.</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b>  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  c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) It is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village settlement and is accessible to all, affording rural views to open countryside. Distinct area of land with clearly visible boundaries.</p> <p>b) This wide grassy bank is full of native flowers in spring and summer many native species of invertebrates. It is admired by all who pass by and emphasises the rural feel of the village. Rich in biodiversity, both flora and fauna, it forms part of a green wildlife corridor from Station Road along Northgate Lane. (see HBIC survey). It is maintained annually by volunteers.</p> <p>c) Considered to be local in character, it is self-contained and has clearly defined boundaries, distinct from the neighbouring arable field and the road. It is not an extensive tract of land and has no existing protection.</p>

**LGS3: Pony Paddocks opposite the Church, bordering Church Lane****REDUCED IN SIZE 5.4 acres to 2.63 acres**

Grid Ref: SU 632 488

These are small grass paddocks where ponies are kept and grazed and are an essential green space in the village centre emphasizing the rural nature of the settlement within the Conservation Area. They are maintained by pony owners and the local farmer, to whom the land belongs, with rural views to open countryside. Horse-riding is a traditional activity and popular in the village. These paddocks, amenities that are now in short supply, are rented out to local horse-owners and emphasise the rural feel of the village. Although private land, they are situated next to the Village Hall so are seen by villagers and visitors alike.



Pony paddocks

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<b>Site Name:</b> LGS 3: Pony Paddocks opposite the Church, bordering Church Lane <b>REDUCED in SIZE</b> from 5.5acres to 2.63 acres <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 632 488 <b>Size:</b> 2.63 acres	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	These grass pony paddocks, bounded by native hedgerows, are specifically used as horse grazing areas and have been rented out to local horse-owners for many years so have become a traditional sight in the village.
<b>Statutory Designation</b>	Within the Conservation Area. CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA

<b>SHELAA / Planning History</b>	SHELAA – CLID003
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b></p> <p><b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b></p> <p>a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) Located in the village centre close to the village hall and opposite the church. The local landowner maintains the field. Horse paddocks are amenities that are now in short supply in the parish as much of the land is in arable use.</p> <p>b) The only other grazing fields for horses are at Pensdell Farm and the stables off Hackwood Lane but neither of these are easily seen by the public. Although the actual field is not publicly accessible, the sight of grazing horses emphasises the peaceful rural feel of the village and adds landscape value as it can easily be seen from Church Lane and the village hall driveway. The open grass and native hedges are of significant importance to the local wildlife.</p> <p>c) This is a traditional use of land and not an extensive tract. It has no existing protection.</p>

**LGS4: Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall Grounds, Church Lane**

Grid Ref: SU 632 488

The Village Hall is an important village amenity sitting in 0.75 acres of garden within easy walking distance of the settlement and is shown in the first public consultation to be very special to the community. It was built in 1999 with funding contributions from the community and the National Lottery on the site of Church Lane allotments. Accessible to all, the garden areas surrounding the hall are vital for recreation and outdoor hall events and many trees have been planted in remembrance of late villagers. The grass is kept mown regularly and the garden areas kept attractively by volunteers.



**Village Hall gardens**

**Village Hall**



**The Earl of Portsmouth officially opening the Millennium Hall 1999**

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 4:</b> Cliddesden Millennium Hall Grounds,  Church Lane  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 632 488  <b>Size:</b> 0.75 acres</p>	
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>The Millennium Hall was built in 1999 to celebrate the millennium and to replace the original hall (built in 1923 from an old WWI Nissan hut).</p> <p>This is a much valued recreational indoor and outdoor area in the only space available for this facility. There is no other area in the village that could accommodate it.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA  Part of the 'Green Fingers' featured in The Village Design Statement</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b></p> <p>a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) Near to the centre of the village and within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village with a carpark. It is accessible to the public</p> <p>b) The Village Hall is an important village amenity and is shown in the first public consultation to be very special to the community. It was built with funding contributions from the community on a gift of land by the Earl of Portsmouth. As the village has no park or playground, it is the only one of two areas in the parish that is accessible for recreational activities.</p> <p>Attractive area with rural views. The gardens are maintained with lawn and flower beds, with memorial benches. The surrounding grassy areas provide space for village recreational activities. The area is bounded by native trees and hedges with cultivate gardens, provide habitat for wildlife. Many standard trees have been planted to commemorate residents who contributed to the village community.</p> <p>c) The hall was designed by a village architect so is unique to Cliddesden. It is not an extensive tract of land and has no existing protection.</p>

**LGS5: Woodland beside Manor Farm, Farleigh Road**

Grid Ref: SU 629 487

This 1 acre woodland was planted by Portsmouth Estates in recent decades forming a buffer between Manor Farm business premises and adjacent farmland and is situated in the Conservation Area.

It is comprised of native trees such as ash, cherry, hazel and field maple. It lies within the Conservation Area and is a habitat rich in wildlife and although not readily accessible to the public it is special to the local community as the only significant woodland within the confines of the settlement.



View of the woodland from the south



Woodland interior



Woodland interior

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 5:</b> Woodland, adjacent to Manor Farm  Farleigh Road  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 629 487  <b>Size:</b> 1 acre</p>	
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>Land planted as native woodland to create a buffer between Manor Farm business premises and Portsmouth Estates farmland in recent decades.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA  Part of the VDS “Green Fingers”</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b>  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  c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) The woodland is situated right at the end of the village next to Manor Farm so close to the village. It is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village and although there is no official public access it contributes to the landscape and is easily visible from the public footpath that runs alongside.</p> <p>b) It is a vital habitat and refuge rich in wildlife and forms part of the “Green Lung” in the village reducing pollution and mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>c) Areas of woodland are in short supply in the immediate village settlement so this one is important as it provides a ‘stepping stone’ between other wooded areas in the parish. It breaks up the wider areas of open countryside in which it is located. It is not an extensive tract of land and has no existing protection.</p>



**LGS6: The Jolly Farmer Public House Garden**

Grid Ref: SU 631 492

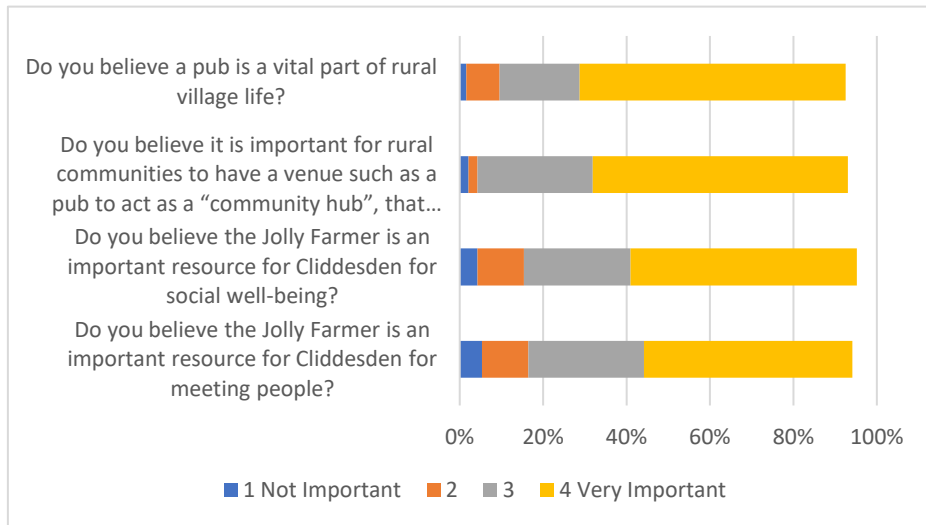


The main social hub and in the centre of the village, the half-acre gardens to the rear of this Grade II listed public house provide a popular area for people to meet and partake of refreshment. 'The Jolly Farmer' began as a retail beer house in the 1840s, then became an ale house in 1868 with John Sparsholt as publican who was granted a full licence which also permitted the sale of wine and spirits. In 1850 it was described as having large gardens, a barn, piggery and over an acre of arable land. The land has seen a reduction in size over the years when the brewery sold off a small area and built a carpark.

'The Jolly Farmer' is the only public house in the village adding to the local character of the settlement. Community engagement shows how important this amenity is. The attractive gardens, shaded by mature trees, are maintained by regular mowing and weeding. Picnic benches provide ample seating areas for customers who wish to dine and drink outdoors and the lawns afford space for children to play. 'The Jolly Farmer' is highly valued by residents and visitors alike as witnessed in the first consultation where the subject of the pub raised great support.

Plans were submitted for the refurbishment of the building's interior 19/02634/FUL (24 Sep 2019) and 19/02635/LBC (24 Sep 2019) although at the time of writing this has been delayed due to the Covid 19 situation of 2020/2021 and may not proceed even if permission is granted.

**Graph of results in response to question 3**



The Parish Council has applied to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for the pub to be designated an Asset of Community Value.



**Pub gardens**



**Pub gardens**



**Pub gardens**

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 6:</b> 'The Jolly Farmer' Public House Garden,  Farleigh Road  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 631 492  <b>Size:</b> 0.5 acres</p>	
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>The gardens to the rear of the Grade II listed public house. Picnic benches provide ample seating areas for customers' recreation.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  The Parish Council has applied to Basingstoke &amp; Deane Borough Council for it to be designated an Asset of Community Value.  Refurbishment of building 19/02634/FUL (24 Sep 2019), 19/02635/LBC (24 Sep 2019)</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b>  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  c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) It is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village with access to the public.  b) In centre of village, as a late 18<sup>th</sup>c Grade II listed building (Historic England Listing), it has historic value for the community. It is the only public house in the village, providing an accessible place for people to meet and partake of refreshment. The pub hosts a weekly quiz night and live music evenings raising money for charity. Community engagement in both consultations shows how vitally important this amenity is.  A valued recreational focus with garden furniture to provide ample outdoor seating for customers, with grassy play areas for children. The attractive gardens shaded by trees are maintained by regular mowing and weeding.  c) It is a noted local landmark of local character and not an extensive tract of land with no existing protection.</p>

**LGS7: Cleresden Meadow**

Grid Ref: SU 633 497

Lowland calcareous grassland is a rare priority habitat supporting priority species that depend on this habitat.

An arable reversion to a traditional wildflower meadow, it is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village. The triangular meadow is bordered by mature trees and hedges on all three sides and is extremely rich in biodiversity. It has become a sanctuary for many protected animal and plant species and is maintained by volunteers, one half being cut in late autumn in alternate years with arisings collected to create compost heaps for animals, such as slowworms and grass snakes, newts and frogs, in residence here. It is a special place; home to badgers, foxes, roe deer, stoats, hedgehogs, field voles, bank voles, wood mice, rabbits grass snakes, slowworms, smooth newts, frogs and toads.

This was the site chosen by Chris Packham, naturalist and television presenter, to launch his UK National 24-hour Bio-blitz in March 2018 and the event itself took place in July 2018. The species records were entered into the UK national database including over 100 species of native wildflowers alone.

It is home to the rare Citron Plume moth (*hellinsia carphodactyla*) common only in the Isle of Wight with only 8 previous records from North Hampshire, and the cobweb beetle (*Ctesias serra*) threatened due to its rare and declining habitat, and listed as Nationally Scarce. A colony of rare Small Blue butterflies, a UK BAP priority species of principal importance, is also thriving here.

The field gateway gives a lovely view into the meadow throughout the seasons for the many walkers, joggers and cyclists who regularly take exercise along Farleigh Road. Further views can be glimpsed through the trees.

The local Cub Scout packs enjoy environmental activities such as bughouse building, bird watching and learning about the flora and fauna in the meadow.

An annual tea-party is held during the summer for the many owners of the meadow, their family and friends to celebrate the rich biodiversity and learn about the importance of conserving our natural environment.



Summer floral display



One of the meadow's wildlife ponds



Smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)



Chris Packham filming his UK Bioblitz 2018



Chris Packham at the Bioblitz



Scouts' bughouse



Cobweb beetle (*Ctesias serra*)



Small Blue (*Cupidus minimus*)



Spring cowslip display



Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)



Annual meadow tea-party

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 7:</b> Cleresden Meadow,  between Farleigh Road at the entrance to the  village and the M3 motorway  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 633 497  <b>Size:</b> 8.25 acres</p>	
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	None
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	None
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b>  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  c) local in character and is not an extensive tract  of land</p>	<p>a) It is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village and can be seen from Farleigh Road.</p> <p>b) It provides an area of tranquillity where trees hide the M3 motorway and is an important carbon sink. Although it can look rather nondescript in winter, it explodes into life and colour in the spring and summer as the photos above illustrate.</p> <p>The meadow, with its copses and wildlife ponds, is rich in wildlife species – see HBIC survey. Home to slow worms, birds of prey, roe deer, foxes and badgers. This was one of the sites chosen by Chris Packham for his UK 24 hour Bio-blitz in July 2018. Species records were entered into the national database. Over 400 different plant and animal species have been recorded. It is home to the rare Citron Plume moth (<i>hellinsia carphodactyla</i>) common only in the Isle of Wight with only 8 previous records from North Hampshire. Also, the nationally scarce Cobweb Beetle (<i>Ctesasias serra</i>) is recorded here.</p> <p>Although access is restricted to the 69 shareholders that live in Cliddesden, their family and friends, an annual tea-party is held here every year to showcase the variety of biodiversity and the importance of conserving wildlife. Educational conservation activities are undertaken here for students and visitors.</p> <p>c) Site of exceptional seasonal natural beauty, unique in the parish. Not extensive tract of land and has no existing protection.</p>

**LGS8: Southlea Meadow, Farleigh Road opposite Southlea**

Grid Ref: SU 633 494

This arable field, sitting within the Conservation Area and bordered by a native hedge to the east and the disused railway line to the north, is an important “Green Finger” valued highly by residents as designated in the Village Design Statement (2004). It breaks up the linear built environment and reflects the historic agricultural nature and local character of the village as described in the Conservation Area Appraisal. The partly hedged western boundary allows a view to open countryside. The field is sown with crops annually and harvested in late summer.

There is a track leading up to the top of the field on the southern boundary bordered by a hedge on the left which is cut back in winter and a grass and wildflower strip with mature trees on the right. The track has been used by walkers for many years as an unofficial footpath leading from Farleigh Road to the official footpath (FP1).

Overflow of water from the village pond runs along pipes at the rear of Farleigh Road gardens and is dispersed at the bottom of the field causing flooding at times of heavy rainfall. The planning application Ref: 16/04690/FUL for 40 houses in 2018 was refused by BDBC. The appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate for the following reasons.

The following are extracts from the report written by the inspector (Rory Cridland) in relation to:

**Appeal Ref: APP/H1705/W/18/3197919 - Land at Farleigh Road, Farleigh Road, Cliddesden, Hampshire RG25 2JN**

This site corresponds to LGS8, and the inspector’s report provides evidence in support of the importance of LGS8 in particular and also the conservation area, green spaces, green fingers and the landscape in general.

*“The majority of the village falls within the CA and although situated close to the more densely populated Basingstoke, it nevertheless retains a traditional rural village character. This is partly due to the positive contribution made by the areas of agricultural land - or ‘green fingers’ - which extend from the open countryside towards the village.”*

*“The site itself consists of an agricultural field with a mature hedge running along its eastern boundary which provides a considerable amount of screening both from the adjacent public footpath as well as from the wider landscape. Similarly, along its boundary with Farleigh Road the site is partially screened from view by the dense hedging which runs for part of its length. There are, however, a number of clear and attractive views across the site both from the road itself and from the elevated footpath opposite. This enhances the rural character of this northern section of the village and positively contributes to the agricultural setting and significance of the CA.”*





**View of Southlea Meadow southwards**



**View of Southlea Meadow north-eastwards**



**View of Southlea Meadow eastwards**



**View of Southlea Meadow from the public footpath**

*“Furthermore, the Cliddesden Conservation Area Appraisal (“the CAA”) notes that the historic character of the CA is enhanced by its rural landscape setting and from the interrelationship between the buildings and the surrounding open spaces. Even though the appeal site itself is not designated as an Open Area of Landscape Significance, it is nevertheless explicitly recognised as an important general view which helps show the village in its outstanding landscape context. While I note the appellant’s heritage statement indicates that an appropriately scaled and planned development could be accommodated without compromising the significance of the CA, I am not persuaded the proposal meets this objective. Instead, I consider it would result in the significant erosion of Cliddesden’s rural setting which would detrimentally impact on the agricultural significance and character of the CA as a whole. This would be exacerbated by the site’s prominent location at the village entrance. While I note the appellant’s assertion that the area of retained paddock would provide some mitigation in this respect, it would not, in my view, be sufficient to outweigh the resultant harm.”*

*“Accordingly, I find the proposed scheme would erode the linear pattern of development in this part of Cliddesden and would be harmful to the landscape setting of the village. Furthermore, it would result in the significant erosion of an important view of the wider landscape setting. This would be harmful to the character and appearance of the surrounding area and the CA as a whole. As such, I find the proposal would be contrary to Policies EM1, EM10 & EM11 of the LP which, taken together, seek to ensure that new development positively contributes to local distinctiveness, is not detrimental to the setting of a settlement and conserves or enhances the quality of the borough’s heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. Consequently, I do not consider the character and appearance of the CA would be preserved or enhanced.”*

*“However, Section 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires me to give special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the CA and I give this considerable importance and weight. Furthermore, the Framework makes clear that heritage assets, including conservation areas, are an irreplaceable resource and while I note that the Framework advises that local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas to enhance or better reveal their significance, Paragraph 193 makes clear that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance. In addition, Paragraph 194 indicates that any harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification.”*

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 8:</b> Southlea Meadow, Farleigh Road  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 633 494  <b>Size:</b> 7.92 acres</p>	
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>Arable field 315 metres from the village centre, adjacent to settlement edge, sown with crops annually and harvested in late summer. It is bounded on 3 sides by mature native hedgerows distinctive of local characteristic hedges, and on the left side by the tree-lined now disused Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway. There is a track leading up to the top of the field bordered by a hedge on the left, cut back in winter, and a grass/wildflower strip and trees on the right.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA  VDS Green Finger</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>SHELAA – CLID010. Planning Application 16/04690/FUL refused.  Appeal Ref: APP/H1705/W/18/3197919 dismissed.</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b></p> <p>a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>a) In the centre of the village, this is an important “Green Finger” as designated in the Village Design Statement (2004) as it breaks up the linear built environment and reflects the historic agricultural nature and local character of the village.</p> <p>b) This field is an important “Green Finger” valued highly by residents as designated in the Village Design Statement (2004) as it breaks up the linear built environment  It is sown with crops annually and harvested in late summer.. The track is used by walkers as an unofficial footpath leading from Farleigh Road to the official footpath (FP1) at the top of the field. Overflow of water from the village pond is dispersed at the bottom of the field.  The planning application in 2016 to develop the land was strenuously objected to by local residents. There were 275 formal objections on BDBC’s planning portal and a local petition gathered 215 signatures from the village (pop 490) demonstrating how highly the meadow is valued.</p> <p>In both community questionnaires in 2019 &amp; 2020, 95% of respondents responded that protecting the Local Green Spaces was of great importance.</p>

	<p>Rising from the valley floor, it is visible from the main road through the village and the row of Southlea Cottages opposite and makes an important contribution to the physical form and layout of the settlement. This area of green space provides the rural setting to the edge of the settlement in this location with a sense of tranquillity and enhancing the rural aspect of the traditional farming.</p> <p>An Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP) runs the full length of the village on both sides of the main north-south road, covering the buildings facing this road. This area also extends to cover the first part of the road to the west; the plots on the northern side of the road to the east; the church; and the unoccupied land on the south side of the road running to the east. An Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) is located around the eastern extension of the AHAP to cover the possibility that there was an area of settlement around the church in the past. (CCAA)</p> <p>Camera footage shows there is an abundance of wildlife on this site such as badgers, foxes, roe deer and stoats, buzzards, kestrels, red kites and tawny owls. The wide grass and wildflower area on the right of the field hosts many invertebrates and small mammals such as voles and woodmice.</p> <p>c) This field reflects the historic agricultural nature and local character of the village. It is not an extensive tract of land.</p>
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**LGS 9: Grass Areas and Paddocks behind Farleigh Road houses**  
 Grid Ref: SU 632 493

**REDUCED IN SIZE from 8.2 acres to 5.65 acres**

**At 5.65 acres, LGS9 comprises grass areas and paddocks.**

Three adjoining stretches of rough grassland, rich in wildflowers and invertebrates, is divided by footpaths giving a sense of space and airiness behind the linear settlement of Farleigh Road. A public footpath (FP1) traverses its length past the grain-dryer bordered on the west side by hedging and trees, and has remained uncultivated for many years. It is cut once a year by the local farmer and many native wildflowers grow here providing nectar and pollen for a host of different insects. There are wide rural views from the well-used public footpath to open countryside emphasising the agricultural nature of the landscape.

Privately owned grass paddocks are screened in part by mature trees behind respective Farleigh Road dwellings.

LGS8 is an arable field and LGS9 is rough grassland so visually very different in character. The two areas are separated by a wide track for farm vehicles and a grass strip with two native hedgerows.

**LGS9: Grass areas either side of the public footpath**



**Grass areas to the east of the public footpath**

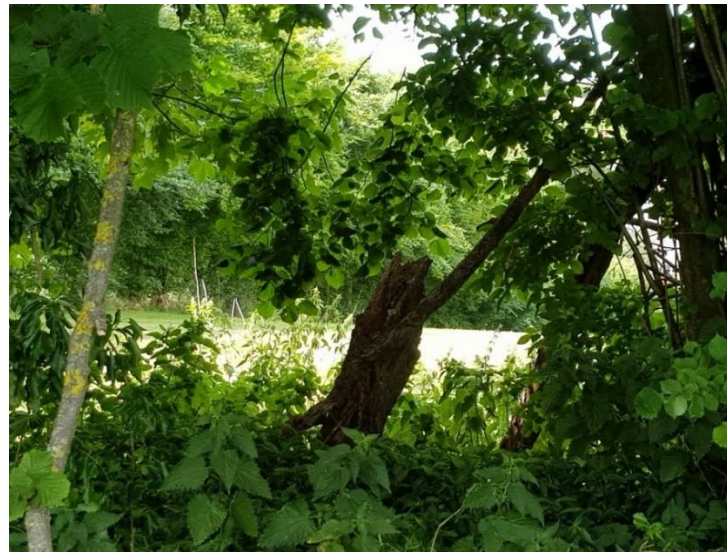


Grass areas to each side of the public footpath



Track and hedges separating LGS8 arable field from LGS9 grass areas

**LGS9 Grass paddocks**



**Paddock 1****Paddock 2**

**GREEN SPACE AUDIT** - The table below outlines the justification for the inclusion of the Local Green Space identified.

<p><b>Site Name:</b>  <b>LGS 9:</b> Grass Areas and Paddocks behind Farleigh Road houses to the south and by the grain-dryer to the rear of Hoopers Mead and Century Close.  <b>Grid Ref:</b> SU 632 493  <b>Size:</b> 8.2 acres reduced to 5.65 acres</p>	
<p><b>Description and purpose</b></p>	<p>The grass paddocks behind houses along Farleigh Road are maintained by householders and the remaining grassland flanking the public footpath is mown annually by the local farmer. Some hedges are trimmed each year and some left as native trees.</p>
<p><b>Statutory Designation</b></p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area.  CAA Conservation Area Appraisal. Views identified in CAA  A VDS Green Finger  Footpath FP1 is a Public Right of Way</p>
<p><b>SHELAA / Planning History</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Value, benefit and proximity to the community</b>  <b>NPPF criteria para 102 a) b) c)</b>  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,</p>	<p>a) This area is easily accessed and links up with other open spaces and woodland affording views through and beyond the settlement which are highly valued locally. It is within easy walking distance from anywhere in the village. Only the private paddocks have restricted access.  b) The public footpath FP1 brings interest from further afield to the local area as it is easily accessed from Basingstoke and beyond for recreational purposes such as dog-walking, jogging and walking. Although the footpath is protected, the open grassy areas to each side provide important space for children and pets to play so should be retained.  c) It is a tranquil area bounded by hedges and open countryside offering a peaceful feeling of</p>

<p>recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife</p> <p>c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>remoteness. The flower-rich grasslands and ancient hedgerows, so characteristic of the parish, are home to interesting wildlife such as badgers, foxes, roe deer, pipistrelle bats and a wide variety of invertebrates. It is not an extensive tract of land with no existing protection.</p>
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