

# Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031

## Section 9 – Green Infrastructure and Spaces – addendum

### Objective:

1. To protect important green and open spaces within Wymondley Parish and its villages and establish new green and open spaces around and within any new developments.

The areas listed below in the table are designated Local Green Spaces which are protected from new development unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. The creation of new green spaces within any new development within the Parish is encouraged.

Please also see the two Maps provided for reference with Section 9 – we have had to split this into two maps to show adequately the green spaces, as they are very small in relation to the overall size of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Designated Local Green Space	Significance /how it meets the conditions of the NPPF 2012	Owned by and size
Tower Close central green, Little Wymondley Map location: 10	A main feature of Tower Close. Maintains tranquillity and openness of the close. Populated by a number of large, native trees and planted with spring flowers. Provides a safe play area for local children, and also used by dog walkers. Not an expansive tract of land.	Owned by North Hertfordshire Homes  Consulted on 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2019. No response received to date (23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2019)  Size: 1,432 square metres
Tower Close Green, Little Wymondley Map location: 5	This green space was transferred from North Herts District Council (NHDC) to WPC in November 2007, and has Village Green status. Features a memorial bench and is also has high visual value for residents and users of the Plume of Feathers Public House, particularly in the summer as provides a rural village feel and open space for relaxing. Also used by local children as a play area. Not an expansive tract of land.	Owned by Wymondley Parish Council (the qualifying body for this plan – not specifically consulted as by including their land in the NP it follows the Council approves of their designation).  Size: 1,863 square metres
QE2 Playing Fields, Little Wymondley Map location: 6	The playing field has, since 29 September 1947, been leased by its custodial trustee Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) to its managing trustee Wymondley Parish Council. The lease runs for 99 years, with an annual peppercorn rent of 2/6d, which is not demanded. In July 2012, the playing fields acquired Queen Elizabeth II Field status, as part of the Fields in Trust Challenge, which established a grass-roots legacy of protected land in connection with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and Olympic and Paralympic Games. Consequently, it is protected in	Owned by Fields in Trust  Consulted on 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2019.  Response: " <i>As a charity that has a long history of advising planning authorities on the provision of outdoor space through our '6 acre standard', we</i>

	<p>perpetuity for use as a public playing field and recreation ground. It is in very regular use by local sporting teams for football, tennis and other groups for recreational use for disadvantaged youths from neighbouring urban towns to get some peace and tranquillity and open space for mindfulness. Site of the village pavilion, tennis courts and tennis hut and MUGA. Also used by local dog walkers as a route to public footpaths and other areas of countryside around the Parish.</p>	<p><i>support any designation that affords outdoor open space some protection within the planning system, such as Local Green Space, of Green Belt."</i></p> <p>Size: 24,662 square metres</p>
<p>Siccut Road Green, Little Wymondley</p> <p>Map location: 3</p>	<p>This village green is divided by Siccut Road, but counts as one plot of land, not two. It was transferred from NHDC to WPC in November 2007, and has Village Green status. It contains children's play equipment, frequently used by children as a safe play area and also used for the annual Village Day and is also a high risk flood plain (see the environment agency flood risk map). Not an expansive tract of land.</p>	<p>Owned by Wymondley Parish Council (the qualifying body for this plan – not specifically consulted as by including their land in the NP it follows the Council approves of their designation).</p> <p>Size: East is 1,946 square metres; West is 2,246 square metres</p>
<p>Garden Plots /Allotments Siccut Road/ Grimstone Road</p> <p>Map location: 7</p>	<p>Formerly an allotment area. This land was transferred from NHDC to North Herts Homes (NHH) in 2003, and was used 'under licence' by WPC as allotments. This licence was cancelled in May 2012, as the plots were no longer being used. Some residents have lobbied the Wymondley Parish Council to return this land to allotment use, as they wish to grow their own food/produce. It is used frequently by children of the locality, as an alternative area to play on bikes etc. Provides a safe play are, free of flowing traffic. Also provides tranquillity for the local residents and prevents a feel of over-crowded development. Could be better developed more formally as a play are for local children with some allotment area also added back in. Not an expansive tract of land</p>	<p>Owned by North Hertfordshire Homes</p> <p>Consulted on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019. No response received to date (23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019)</p> <p>Size: 1,431 square metres</p>
<p>Allotments, Stevenage Road, Little Wymondley</p> <p>Map location: 9</p>	<p>Main village allotment area - well used by villagers wishing to grow their own produce. The history of these allotments is a little unclear, but they have been in existence for at least a century. They are on land that currently forms part of Wymondley Hall Farm, and leased by allotment holders who pay an annual rent directly to the landowner.</p>	<p>Owned by Steven Foster (Wymondley Parish Councillor)</p> <p>Consulted on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019: <i>"Thank you for your email, we know how hard pressed you are personally for time, however, we are surprised NHDC have only provided 8 days to reply on this.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, no personal reflection on yourself, but</i></p>

		<p><i>having no confidence in the representation we have had on our private land being compulsory included within the Green Spaces for this Parish, we wish to represent ourselves direct to NHDC.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the lack of time and save you further work, we have therefore ccd Clare Skeels to request this.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst writing, we do not accept that privately owned land situated outside the Village border should be included, especially when other green land, far closer to the Village that the Parish Council controls, is not included in the green spaces application. The Parishioners who use these allotments can be counted on one hand, so this does beg the question whether this land's inclusion is due to the personal interest from members of the Neighbourhood Plan committee."</i></p> <p>Size: 8,224 square metres</p>
<p>Church Green, Great Wymondley (Village Green)</p> <p>Map location: 2</p>	<p>Site of the annual Village fete. It was granted to the Wymondley Parish Council (WPC) on 7 August 1968 by a Deed of Gift from the late Captain Wilshere, and is registered Common Land. Not an expansive tract of land</p>	<p>Owned by Wymondley Parish Council (the qualifying body for this plan – not specifically consulted as by including their land in the NP it follows the Council approves of their designation).</p> <p>Size: 1,690 square metres</p>
<p>Recreation Ground, Graveley Road, Great Wymondley</p> <p>Map location: 4</p>	<p>This green space was conveyed from Miss Wilshere to the Parish Council on 1st February 1929, 'for the purpose of playing fields'. In regular use by groups to teach children about nature and also by sports groups and also used as a safe play are for local children.</p>	<p>Owned by Wymondley Parish Council (the qualifying body for this plan – not specifically consulted as by including their land in the NP it follows the Council approves of their designation).</p> <p>Size: 23,363 square metres</p>

<p>Garden Plots (Allotments) Great Wymondley</p> <p>Map location: 8</p>	<p>Main village allotment area – well used by villagers wishing to grow their own produce. Not an expansive tract of land.</p> <p>Meets the terms of the NPPF 2012 due to the close proximity of the community it serves; holds a particular significance because of it's beauty, recreation value, tranquillity and wildlife.</p>	<p>Owned by North Hertfordshire Homes</p> <p>Consulted on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019. No response received to date (23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019)</p> <p>Size: Split sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,667 square metres</li> <li>• 1,102 square metres</li> <li>• 986 square metres</li> <li>• 614 square metres</li> </ul>
<p>Wymondley Woods and Scout Hut</p> <p>Map location: 1</p>	<p>This is regularly used by parishioners for dog walking and general recreation activities and is located with the Parish boundary and NP area. It was planted in two stages between 1997 and 2000, amidst mature woodlands. Consisting primarily of locally grown oak and hornbeam, it was created as an educational resource for managed groups. It features a special nature conservation and field study area, adjacent to existing and newly planted forest environments which provide food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife all year round – in marked contrast to the surrounding arable fields. It forms part of the Garden City Greenway, which was funded (and is owned and managed) by the Heritage Foundation, to act as a permanent commemoration of Letchworth Garden City's first centenary in 2003. Meets the terms of the NPPF 2012 due to the close proximity of the community it serves; holds a particular significance because of its beauty, recreation value, tranquillity and wildlife.</p>	<p>Owned by Letchworth Heritage Foundation.</p> <p>Consulted on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019</p> <p><i>"Do you have a plan of the precise designation and the policy wording which will accompany it? From our perspective I have no objection in principle to the designation. However, we would only be able to formally confirm our agreement once our Board of Trustees have had an opportunity to consider this. Our next meeting is on 12th March, where I can add this to the agenda."</i></p> <p>Size: 123,107 square metres</p>

- Justification and Evidence:
- Green spaces are an essential feature of the parish villages and contribute to its character, adding to the distinctive open rural feel of the parish villages and harmony with the surrounding landscape, while providing tranquillity, quality recreational space, and wildlife habitat.
- The designated Green Spaces listed above which are in close proximity to the community, are demonstrably special to the community, hold a particular significance, provide tranquillity between developed areas, provide safe areas for children to play, are local in character and are not extensive tracts of land. (As per the NPPF 2012 Paragraphs 76 & 77).