

Marton Moss Local Green Space Study Revised Draft

Summary

This is a summary of the report that was produced for the Neighbourhood Forum by planning consultants Envisionuk

National Planning Policy defines Local Green Space as land that is:

- a) *'in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves*
- b) *demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) *local in character and is not an extensive tract.'*

Neighbourhood Plans can designate such land as Local Green Space and so protect it from being lost to development. Outdoor sports facilities are typically safeguarded in this way and there are two premises on the Moss which would appear to qualify – the football ground on School Road with its two pitches used by the two clubs and the South Shore Lawn Tennis Club on Midgeland Road.

The Study considers other possible open space, and a further candidate is the land to the north of St Nicholas School which is used as informal recreational space and owned by Blackpool Council should also be designated as Local Green Space. The adjoining School with its playing field is also appraised but given its limited public access is not proposed for designation. The Study also considers other open space 'amenity green' type spaces but concludes that, although these are fully open to public view and an attractive part of the street scene, this is essentially for the private amenity benefit of the estate residents – so not meriting designation as Local Green Space. In respect of one other piece of land assessed - the Midgeland Road/School Road Bus Turning Circle Green – the Study concludes that this poorly maintained area deserves a different approach to secure improvements.

When the Study was published for consultation in the Summer of 2020 the relevant national agency on protecting sports grounds, Sport England, advised that neither the Football Ground off School Road nor the South Shore Lawn Tennis Club, Midgeland Road should be designated as Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan. This is because the agency considers designating the sites in this way would effectively stifle and restrict any potential future growth of the clubs owing to the fact that they may need to release the existing site to enable them to grow. This means the revised draft of the Study now only recommends the Open Space North of St. Nicholas School should be designated as Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan.

However, before the Plan is finalised there is an opportunity for local people and other interested parties to put forward other suggestions or to comment on the outcomes of this Study within the six weeks set aside from when the report was published. The full report can be viewed on the Forum's website www.martonmossforum.org and comments made using the form available there. The Forum can also be contacted via enquiries@martonmossforum.org or on 07739 517630.

Do you agree with the findings of this Study?

Do you disagree or think that other land should be protected?