

From: Joanna Illingworth [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 March 2019 16:23
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Public open space - Draft SPD
Attachments: Woodmill Meadow open space.jpg

Importance: High

From Joanna Illingworth, [REDACTED]

Comments on Public open space - Draft SPD

1. Page 8 *"It is the Council's intention to continue to utilise the overall standard of 5.47 Ha of unrestricted open space per 1000 head of population that was derived from the Parks and Open Spaces Audit as the basis for seeking open space contributions."*

The Parks an Open Spaces Audit is 10 years old, and its standard of 5.47 Ha per head of population was based on statistics that were older still, i.e. the 2001 Census figures. Surely the SDP should use updates of the District's population to provide a revised figure of open space per head? At a guess I would say that the revised average would be less than 5.47 Ha. In other words, the District would either have to lower its overall standard, or build provision for "catch-up" into its requirements for open spaces within new developments. There are significant variations across the District in the amount of publicly accessible open space. For example, Kenilworth south of Abbey Fields has well below the current standard of 5.47 per hectare. The SDP ought to take this into account so that developers are required to provide more open space in areas with shortages.

2. Page 10 *Residential Developments "Where it is demonstrated that it is impractical or inappropriate to provide open space physically on-site, the District Council may consider commuting the requirement to an alternative location provided that it is within reasonable walking distance of the development. A distance of 480 meters approximately a 10 minutes' walk is considered appropriate for this purpose."*

480 metres, or 10 minutes walk at 3mph, is not a reasonable figure for elderly people, families with very young children, and people who have to cross busy roads or use roads without footpaths. Applying this standard rigidly will encourage people to use their cars to get to open spaces and public footpaths. The SDP should include a policy that allows variations according to the type of homes provided, e.g. retirement homes and traffic volumes/conditions.

3. *Appendix 1 Draft Management Plan*

This section makes frequent reference to "Final Certificates", but as far as I can see does not say what the Council will do if Owners do not fulfill the conditions of the Management Plan and/or neglect to transfer the management of the POS to a Management Company. Will the Council take legal action to enforce the terms of the Management Plan? And what happens if the Owner goes into administration?

