



# SHEARSBY



## Neighbourhood Development Plan

### The Village Green and Open Spaces

At first we identified all the little strips of green grass, paddocks and tree areas within the confines of the Conservation Area of Shearsby. Then we labelled ownership and responsibility and these comments may be seen on the attached spreadsheet.

Upon reading the Harborough District Council guidance notes (2013) for “Local Green Space Call for Sites” we realised that what was required was to identify green areas of particular importance to the village for special protection. Such areas of open space for sport or recreation will be protected under the Core Strategy Policy CS8.

From this we determined that there are two areas in particular to be nominated for protection:

1. The Village Green
2. The planted grass on Welford Road, called, for the purpose of this document, Welford Road Green.

There are specified criteria within the HDC Guidance Notes and we feel the areas nominated satisfy those criteria as follows:

<b>Criteria 1.</b> The green area is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	Both the Village Green and Welford Road Green are easily accessible to all villagers by walking and are used daily.
<b>Criteria 2.</b> The green area is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance.	The Village Green is in daily use as a children’s playground, for sports activities, and for dog exercising. Most especially it is used for community functions such as the Village Fete and the Live on the Green music concert. The green makes a visual impact as the defining heart of the village, and

	<p>the majority of houses are centered around it.</p> <p>From the green may be seen a number of the listed buildings within the village and also the Church. The Village Green has been adopted by and is owned by the villagers.</p> <p>Welford Road Green is more aesthetic than functional. Previously it was the home of the village septic tank but has been grassed and planted by the villagers. The green is now home to Elm trees and many spring bulbs. Wild flowers flourish in the summer months.</p> <p>As the main road into the village from the A5199 it is the green and the accompanying verges that provide the first glimpse of the rural character of the village.</p> <p>The green is more walked around than upon.</p> <p>From adjacent benches there are views across fields and trees and of the Church.</p> <p>Wildlife in the area of the green mainly involves birds such as woodpeckers and moorhen, which frequent the pond on Beeson's Farm. Also protected species of bats which roost in New Inn barn can be seen at dusk.</p>
<p><b>Criteria 3.</b> The green area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</p>	<p>Both greens are local in character being planted with flowers and trees to provide a pleasing countryside aspect, reflecting the village's location in rural South Leicestershire. The Village Green is supported on one side by a wall made from traditional Shearsby Bricks. Neither of the Greens are large and their sizes are in keeping with the small village.</p>

Further to the two aforementioned greens we note that the land behind Elmsbrook at the top of Fenny Lane contains two footpaths on privately owned land which are frequently used, one of which leads to Bear's Hole which is considered to be a wildlife habitat. This may meet the criteria for Open Spaces as follows:

- Bear's Hole may be of historic significance due to the inference of bear baiting in its long established name.
- It is of particular local significance because of its natural beauty and tranquil quality.
- As footpaths they provide value as exercise by walking.
- Bear's Hole in particular has a rich fauna and creatures such as grass snakes, bats, foxes, dragonflies, newts and frogs and many varieties of bird such as pheasants, woodpeckers, sparrowhawks, finches and tits, are to be seen there.

Thus we would look to include Bears Hole and the footpaths leading to it to be included in the areas for special protection too.

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Project	Comments	Action
Village green		
The Green	Ownership being transferred to SPC	Recreational use
Wall	Needs re-pointing or re-building	3 quotations required
Play equipment	is under review, possible swing /new footings	3 quotations required
Doggie bins	Possibly on the footpath to Arnesby or by the green, but who would empty them?	Find out who does it for Harborough
Notice boards	We have had some flyposting. Is there a note on the board as to the key holder?	Key holder address on the board?
Benches	x4. Annual inspection required	No further action
Entrance	Has been muddy this winter, does it need slabs? Check next winter.	No further action
Grass cutting	Mr. Mow-how, annual contract	No further action
Commercial usage of the green	Not desired	No further action
Trees	Are inspected annually by Matt Bills, HDC, but are SPC responsibility	No further action
Rough grass areas	Have tree roots. Are used for grass tipping.	No further action
Water and electric supply	SPC responsibility	No further action
Drainage	Water in Back Lane is from a spring	No further action
Flag pole	Bob Spree has the key. Annually inspected	No further action
Jubilee roses	tended by the Burton family	No further action
Hedge and undergrowth	tended by the Burton family	No further action
Mill Lane		
Grass cutting	Mowing to the bench is desired, currently ending by the footpath sign. Highways responsibility.	We could approach Mow-how or Stuart Burton
Bench	Installed by the Community Association	No further action
Footpath entrance (west)	Land owners are Barkers. Refer to other project.	No further action
Bruntingthorpe Lane entrance	Not part of this remit	No further action
Hedge opposite bungalows	Barkers responsibility	No further action
Private road maintenance	Shared between the 3 houses that use it	No further action
Bank opposite Rose Cottage	HDC responsibility	No further action
Littlejones' Paddock		Agricultural use
Elmsbrook Paddock		Agricultural use
Wisdom's Paddock		Agricultural use
Witting's Paddock		agricultural use
Back Lane		
Wilveys Paddock	Behind Stonebridge House	Agricultural use.
Burton's Paddock		Agricultural use
Border of the green	Contract mowing	No further action
The Square		
Border of the green	Contract mowing	No further action
Fenny Lane		
Coerner opposite Chandlers Arms	Contract mowing / partly by villagers	No further action

Church Lane		
Durrans Paddock	Near the Church	Agricultural use
Timms' Paddock		Agricultural use
Blaine's Paddock		Agricultural use
Churchyard	Belongs to the PCC	No further action
Footpath at end of road	Unadopted. Refer to other project.	No further action
Spring Cottage / Lake View	Noted that they are outside the Conservation Area	Propose to include them
The Bank		
Path maintenance	Highways responsibility	No further action
Border opposite houses	Kept by villagers	No further action
Footpath and trees	Kept by villagers	No further action
Jitty to The Square	Highways responsibility	No further action
Jitty to the garages	Private ownership	No further action
Copse	Seven Locks responsibility	They are to lop the conifers. Verify ownership.
Welford Road		
Allen's Paddock		Agricultural use
Beeson's Paddock		Agricultural use
Grass adjacent to The Butterpot	contract mowing	Amenity
Garages	HDC leasehold	No further action
Grass opposite bungalows	contract mowing	No further action
The Narrows	Kept by villagers / HDC lopping sycamores	No further action
Verges up to A5199	Contract mowers	No further action
Septic tank	Manhole covers require inspection	No further action
Bench	x2	SPC to adopt
Parking on the grass verges	Not desirable, but how to delineate?	Kerb? Borders? Lines?
Trees	SPC responsibility	Verify if Roger Charles is Tree Warden
A5199		
A5199 and farms	Verges maintained by farmer	No further action