Publication of Draft Supplementary Planning Document: Greenspace

Mendip District Council is publishing a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Greenspace.

The protection of existing greenspaces, green networks and the creation of appropriate new greenspaces is essential to healthy and vibrant local communities. This SPD provides guidance on the implementation of policies in the Mendip Local Plan Parts I and II relating to the provision and protection of open space and greenspace.

This document covers Local Plan policies relating to new and existing open spaces identified under Policy DP2, recreational spaces identified under Policy DP16, and other greenspaces subject to Policy DP1. The SPD provides a description of the valued characteristics of sites designated by Policy DP2. The SPD also covers council requirements and approach in relation to new informal and formal space/facilities where national standards have been updated or revised.

The Council is also preparing a Greenspace Audit, mapping greenspaces across Mendip, with a focus on the settlements. The audit updates previous open space studies undertaken in 2008 and 2012 and consolidates and aligns with the assessment work carried out whilst preparing the Local Plan Part 1 and Local Plan Part 2.

The Audit also notes open spaces which have been identified by policies DP2 or DP16. These spaces are designated by the Local Plan and have been subject to consultation and Examination. The boundaries of these designations cannot be amended within this Supplementary Planning Document process.

The Council is asking for views on the new Supplementary Planning Document and comments are also welcome on the audit of greenspaces.

Comments on the SPD and Audit are invited and the consultation will run between Friday 14th October and Friday 25th November. Representations received outside this period may not be accepted.

The SPD is available on the Council's website www.mendip.gov.uk/sci and the Audit can be viewed at www.mendip.gov.uk/evidencebase