

Sandra Hutchings

From:
Sent: 13 August 2013 13:36
To: DPD
Subject: LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE
Attachments: Bickleigh_Green_Open_Spaces_Map.pdf

Please see below our response. Kindly use the following email address for future correspondence:

Bickleigh Parish Council
 Derek Harrison
 Chairman
 The Old Bakery
 Bickleigh
 EX16 8RH

Mid Devon District Council
 Forward Planning and Conservation
 Phoenix House
 Phoenix Lane
 Tiverton
 Devon
 EX16 6PP



13 August 2013

Dear Madam/Sir

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - LOCAL GREEN SPACE ALLOCATION

The Parish Council has been asked by Mid Devon District Council, as part of the forward planning process beyond 2015, to comment on the review.

We refer to the Local Plan Review - Scoping Report of July 2013 and in particular Section 3.28 - Villages. Whilst the Parish Council accepts Bickleigh is not one of the existing villages as being "suitable for limited development" we feel it is important to make Mid Devon aware that Bickleigh is one of the few villages in Devon that is relatively unspoilt. The village itself still retains the characteristics of a typical old Devon village and we are most keen to ensure these characteristics are retained. We are mindful that the general consensus in the village is for a status quo in terms of any development and we would not agree with either of the options suggested on P42. Our option would be to continue with the current settlement limits and constraints.

We wish to designate local green spaces that are of community value and should be protected from any development. The Parish Council suggests the following, in particular, fit your criteria as outlined in your letter of 4 July 2013. We therefore submit them for Local Green Space designation. They are identified as on the map attached, and more detail on each site is also attached. We feel that by retaining these spaces (and understanding that they are all linked) will help ensure that the village can enhance and retain its unique character.

1. **Bickleigh Recreation field.**
2. **Joan's Orchard.**
3. **Church Green.**
- 4 & 5. **Land to north of Highfield.**

We believe that these site allocations for local green space are supported by the majority of parishioners. As part of the forward planning process we intend to approach all residents later this year in order to quantify these submissions and obtain any other viewpoints.

Yours faithfully

Derek Harrison
Chair of Bickleigh Parish Council

LOCAL GREEN SPACE SUBMISSIONS

1. Bickleigh Recreation Field

Location - as attached map to the rear of the Trout Inn (not technically in the parish but within the Bickleigh conservation area)

Ownership - Registered Charity 272898 - BICKLEIGH RECREATION TRUST c/o Mr D Goode, Headteacher, Bickleigh on Exe Academy, Bickleigh.

Criteria:

Donated to village many years ago for recreational use
Used by local teams for football and cricket
Bickleigh School uses it for their playing field and out of school clubs
Important flat green space for Bickleigh and nearby communities

2. Joan's Orchard

Location - as attached map next to Bickleigh School

Ownership - Mr C Taylor, Little Beck, Bickleigh (in conjunction with others) for use as a community facility

Criteria:

Purchased by two villagers for use by the community
Right next to the school and used as extended open play area
Fruit trees planted some years ago now used for community orchard
Used by village for recreation and crossed by public right of way (which would link Joan's orchard with Church Green and other open areas and footpaths around the area)

3. Church Green

Location - as attached map

Ownership - Mr J Hewitt (you will have details from previous planning requests)

Criteria:

Known as Church Green which indicates its historic and heritage value (much information already submitted to Mid Devon)
Used by villagers for many decades for events such as fetes etc
Right in the centre of the village and surrounded by many listed buildings - unique
Village support very high to keep as community asset - group set up in early 2000 but outbid in 2003, and subsequent group set up in 2010 with potential finances available to keep as village green

4 & 5. Land to north of Highfield

Location - as attached map between Highfield and Over Beck

Ownership - 4 in ownership Mr J Hewitt, and, 5 Ms L Rowe/Mr H Gardner, Milestones, 15 High Street, Halberton EX16 7AF

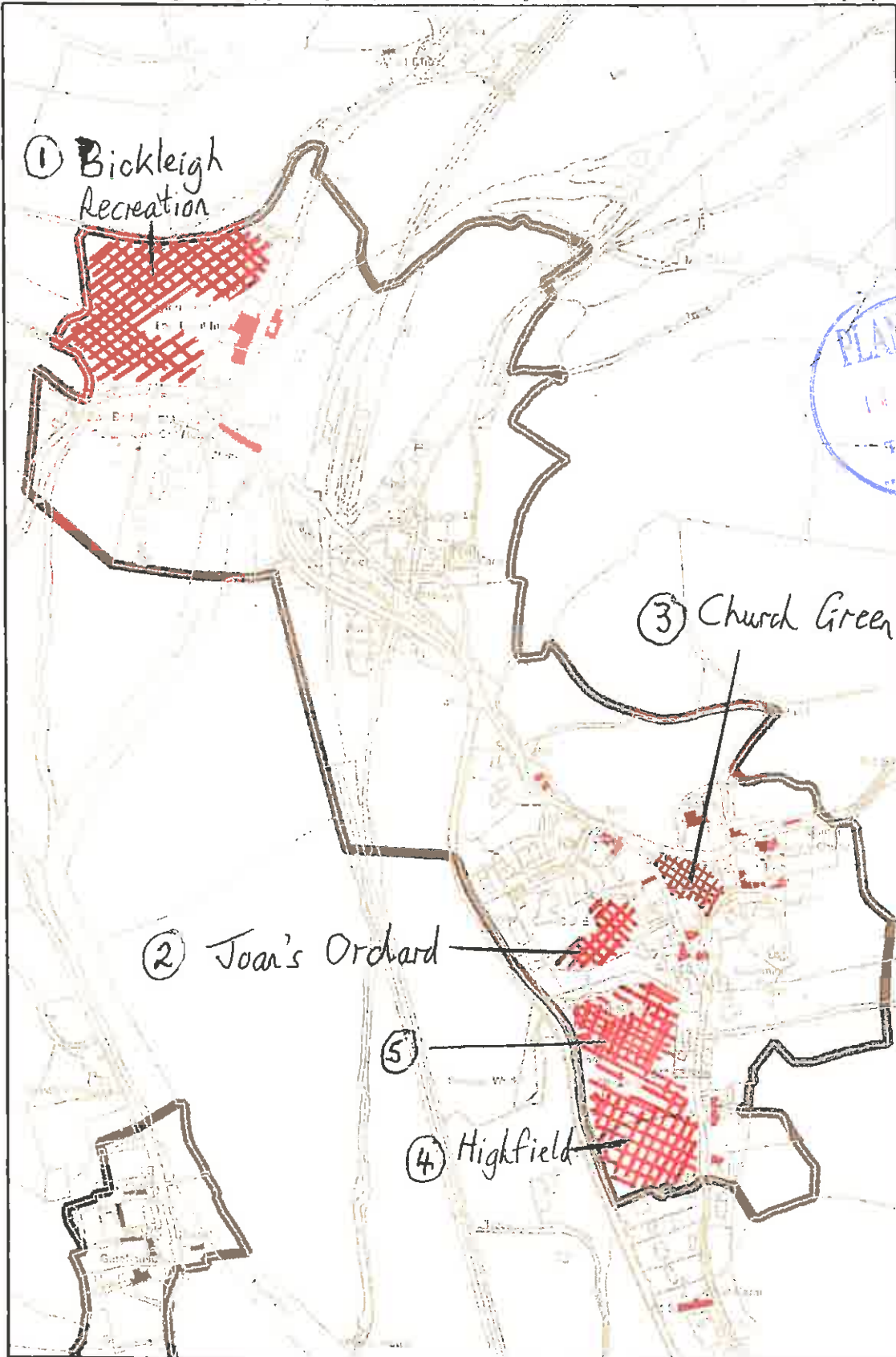
Criteria:

In the heart of the village
Lovely open space with extensive views of the village, castle and valley
Important open space in the conservation area
Valued by villagers as integral part of the village landscape

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BICKLEIGH



