

Pendle Core Strategy Plan Examination – Written Statement on behalf of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, 18 March 2015

Session 9 –14.00 Thursday 16 April 2015

Matter - Tourism/Leisure/Culture and Community Facilities

The purpose of this session is to explore CS policies on tourism/leisure/culture and the provision and protection of community facilities including open space.

Policy WRK5 supports the provision of new or improved tourism, leisure and cultural facilities where they meet criteria relating to sustainable development.

Policy ENV1 refers to the protection of existing open space and Policy LIV5 to the provision of open space in new housing development but no specific requirements are set out in the CS.

Issues

1. Does the CS place enough emphasis on the tourism role of the Borough's towns, as well as the rural areas?
2. Does Policy WRK5 provide the appropriate means of making the most of the asset of Pendle Hill and the associated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?
3. By what means will development contribute towards the provision of any community needs generated by the development (Policy SUP1)?
4. How are deficits in open space and outdoor recreation in certain parts of the Borough to be made up during the Plan period? *See in particular C/004 for Council's response and the intention to produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy.*
5. Will the Plan be effective in ensuring that new development contributes to the provision and/or enhancement of open space? *See in particular C/004 for Council's response.*
6. Should the CS identify areas for special protection as Local Green Space?

Main Evidence Base

CD/09/01 – SCS

CD/09/04 – Strategy for the Provision of School Places

CD/05/03 – Pendle Jobs and Growth Strategy

CD/08/10 – Pendle Open Space Audit

C/004 – Council response to Inspector's Further Questions

Suggested Modifications

A Modification is proposed to Policy LIV5 to clarify that the Council envisage that there will be a policy in the SAP to deal with the amount of open space to be provided in developments.

Session 9, Issue 4. How are deficits in open space and outdoor recreation in certain parts of the Borough to be made up during the Plan period?

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I am aware from the Council's response (C/004) that there is an intention to replace The Pendle Open Space Audit (CD.08.10) with a Green Infrastructure Strategy, which will include a new assessment of the need and demand for open space in Pendle. The Open Space Audit (2008) identified and mapped areas of woodland, green corridors and other areas of natural greenspace within 300m of the defined settlement boundaries. The Wildlife Trust recommends that the new assessment identifies the households that do not have an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares (ha) in size within 300m, in accordance with the government's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt), and that these areas are targeted for the creation of areas of accessible natural greenspace of 2ha or more in size. A single development need not provide the whole 2ha but could make a contribution to a smaller adjacent area of natural greenspace that would make the combined site up to 2ha or more. The Wildlife Trust also recommends that the new assessment tests all of the ANGSt, not just the 300m threshold, and identifies candidate/potential extensions to, or designation of new, Local Nature Reserves (LNR) as a step towards meeting the target of 1ha of LNR per thousand population.

The deficits in open space should also be considered in relation to the ecological networks in the Borough.

Written Statement prepared by:

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Session 9, Issue 6. Should the CS identify areas for special protection as Local Green Space?

Paragraph 76 of the NPPF states that “*Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them*” and “*Local Green Space should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*” The Wildlife Trust recommends that local people and/or community groups have the opportunity to nominate sites to be considered for designation as Local Green Space, the sites being evaluated against the guidelines in paragraph 77 of the NPPF and included in the Core Strategy, or elsewhere in the Local Plan, as appropriate.

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