

Kenilworth Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Plan Dated March 2018)

Response 3 by KTC to queries raised at Examination – July 2018

Here are further responses to matters raised in your email of 12 July 18

Policy KP1: Town Centre

1. As you will have gathered from Section 4 and also from the list in the evidence base “planning” whether formal or informal seems to have been a continuous process over many years in Kenilworth resulting in a plethora of plans. We confirm that the “original plan” referred to here was the Kenilworth Town Centre Development Plan produced by Warwick District Council in 2004 and which first floated the idea of a Civic Centre at Smalley Place to mixed reception. This is also the basis of the development plan policies referred to in paragraph 5.7. It would read more clearly in paragraph 5.8 if “that original plan and” was changed to “these existing development plans which was” to tie in with the previous paragraph.
2. The Action Plan only ever existed in Draft form and although aspects of it both positive and negative have been reflected in the new WDC Local Plan it was never actually adopted by WDC. It will be totally superseded by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Local Plan however is light on detail on Kenilworth Town Centre.
3. The red copy does indeed indicate amended copy but as the Action Plan was only ever a draft it now has no significance. You may have noticed that significant parts of the Action Plan, albeit often in edited form, were carried forward to Section 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan. There were of course no formal policies as such.
4. We are too close to the various proposals to step back and see it as you do. The Arts Centre and Hall is proposed to fit in between existing buildings with incorporation of the existing library rather than cover the whole area, but the details are still fluid. It would indeed be sensible to simply allocate the whole area for “civic and community” use as you suggest, thereby retaining flexibility. This would presumably neatly include the medical facilities you previously questioned.

Policy KP 15: Local Heritage Assets

We find ourselves in an odd situation here as we are between three professionals who all seem to be offering different advice and interpretations. We will obviously accept your decision.

There has been talk for many years of the District creating a Local List of buildings and similar heritage assets and this has now been introduced as a new policy HE3 supported by a set of criteria. When in draft form with the full knowledge of WDC Conservation Section these criteria were used for assessing the suitability for our list. Having created our list and subjected it to public consultation we are loath to lose the status it has achieved by removing it totally from the Neighbourhood Plan in order to apply to WDC for Local Listing particularly as their Local List has yet to appear in any published form.

Is it possible therefore that we could alter the Policy so that it relates to a list of locally identified non-designated heritage assets which we intend to submit in due course to WDC for Local Listing now that there is a new relevant Policy in the adopted Local Plan?

Such an approach would have two further advantages in that it would authorise the Town Council to put the assets forward on behalf of the Town, and it would not preclude additional assets being forwarded in the future should they be identified. Furthermore the rewording, being justified by the new WDC policy only recently adopted, would still maintain the spirit of the policy which was consulted upon and so would surely avoid the need for any further consultation.

If you will accept such an approach we will quickly work up a detailed Policy and commentary.

Policy KP20: Local Green Space

We may have misunderstood your previous comments on this Policy. Do you wish us to submit the missing report now or are we to await your recommendations?

The area of land identified as enjoying no current protection (after the loss of the Area of Restraint Designation in the previous Local Plan) is shown in the map below within the green dashed lines and between the brown lines.



The total area sought to be designated as Local Green Space, which is marked by the dashed green lines on the map, follows the valley of Finham Brook and consists of several significant areas which from West to East (following the flow) are:

Kenilworth Castle	Scheduled Monument in Conservation Area
Abbey Fields	Scheduled Monument in Conservation Area
Land behind School Lane	No designation
Odibourne Allotments	Active Allotments in Conservation Area
Kenilworth Common	Registered Common Land

The whole sequence is linked by footpaths and for some section by shared cycleways and meets the requirements of paragraph 77 of the NPPF in several ways having historical, recreational and community benefits in the heart of the town.

The relatively narrow section of the sequence having no current protection or designation (or even name) links Abbey Fields to the Allotments with a shared cycle and pedestrian route alongside the brook in a tranquil setting. It even has heritage assets with the stone remains of an old mill race next to the Washbrook Bridge.