

View Response

Response Details

From Vigo Parish Council (Joanne Glass)

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Status Complete

Response ID #875666

Site Details

Please answer the following questions (1-7) and attach a location plan of the designated site.

1

Description of Site (including location)

You must provide an answer to this question.

The site is located adjacent to The Bay, Vigo Village DA13 0TD.

It comprises the Village Green, Children's Playground, access road to the public house and Village Green, car park (for the public house) and woodland surrounding the Village Green and Playground areas.

In addition, the access road provides emergency access to the Village Hall.

2

Location Plan - Please attach a location plan on an Ordnance Survey base

clearly showing site boundaries, access to the site and the area that the site does or will serve

You must upload between 1 and 5 files.

 play park photo village green.JPG

 Village Green OS map.pdf

 village green photo.JPG

 village green google maps.pdf

 Map Vigo Green from Review.pdf

3

Site Area (Hectares)

The site is approximately 2.2 hectares

4

What is the current use of the site?

The site is very well used. The largest areas are the Village Green and Playground area.

The Playground area was enlarged and improved in 2018 to make it accessible to a wider age range and to provide some equipment that children with disabilities could use. Our KCC member, Bryan Sweetland, contributed towards the cost of the renovated Playground.

As well as the fenced off playground area, there is a zip wire, situated on the

western side of the Village Green. There are also football goals and benches around the Green.

There are 2 pétanque pitches, one on the north side of the Green and the other on the north side of the access road.

In the woodland on the eastern end of the Green there is an area where children have a 'free cycling' area, with trenches and hillocks.

This area is an essential part of Village life.

5

Who owns the site at present?

It is owned by Vigo Parish Council

6

Is the owner of the site aware of this application?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please enter any additional comments

Vigo Parish Council is making this application

7

If yes, does the owner support this application

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please enter any additional comments

Vigo Parish Council fully supports the application

Site Assessment Criteria

Please answer the following Criterion 1 - 7

Criterion 1

Does the proposed site benefit from an existing planning permission?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please enter any additional comments

«No response»

Criterion 2

Is the proposed site a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please enter any additional comments

«No response»

Criterion 3

Is the proposed site protected under existing policies or legislation?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please enter any additional comments

At the time of this Green Space application, the land is protected by being in the Green Belt and in the Kent Downs AONB.

It is for this reason that we did not apply for it to be designated as a Green Space in the consultation that took place in September. At this time, we had no knowledge that a Green belt review was taking place and, if we had, we would not have expected to find our only communal, recreational area at risk of being removed. Had we been aware of this, we would definitely have applied at the time of the earlier consultation.

In the Green Belt review of August 2020, it was decided that “AONB would not be treated as an absolute constraint” (Gravesham Stage 2 Green Belt Study, pl 20, 4.15), thus removing one of the protections for this area.

Additionally the Green belt study states that “the assessment has assumed that any land released from the Green Belt would, unless constrained, be ‘developed’ and would not retain any ‘openness’” (Gravesham Stage 2 Green Belt Study, pl 19, 4.13)

As a result of this study the area comprising our Village Green and associated areas has been designated as Low-moderate in terms of the harm it would do to the Green Belt if it was to be removed from it. Should this designation result in its removal from the Green Belt, it would no longer be protected and the implication from the statement above, is that it would be developed!

Hence we are now applying to have the Village Green & surrounding woodland designated as a Green Space.

Criterion 4

Does the proposed site have clearly defined edges and feel local in character?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please enter any additional comments

Most of the site has clearly defined edges, having Waterlow Road on the southern boundary, Erskine Road on the east and The Bay (Village shopping square) on the north. The western boundary merges with some woodland.

Criterion 5

How close is the proposed site to the community it serves? (you may wish to point out if you live close by and how frequently you or others you know use the proposed site.)

The proposed site is an integral part of Vigo Village, being in close proximity to the all the major amenities in the Village. It is next to The Bay, where the Village Hall, Vigo school, Vigo shops and The Villager pub are situated. The Green is always well used.

Criterion 6

Will the proposed site endure beyond the emerging plan period?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please enter any additional comments

The proposed site will continue to be used as a Village green beyond the emerging plan period. There are NO plans for this site to changed into anything other than the Village Green. There may be plans to enhance the Green, by adding more exercise equipment.

Criterion 7

What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:

Beauty - Please explain why you think the site is beautiful, for example you

may wish to comment on the wide nature of the site, number of trees, wildlife etc.

Historic Significance - You may wish to comment on the historic use of the land by the community, links with a historic person or event, heritage features etc.

Recreational Value - You may wish to comment on the level of recreational activities undertaken at the site e.g. walking, community walks, bird watching etc and how this affects health and well-being.

Tranquillity - You may wish to comment on the tranquillity of the site and how it differs from other locations within the local area and wider Borough.

Richness of its wildlife - Please comment on any wildlife you are aware of on the proposed site.

During the day in term time, the main use is for adult residents taking exercise. After school, children use the Green to play games, including football, to use the zip wire, to go into the Playground and use the equipment there and to ride bicycles on the wooded area track. The Sticky Fingers' pre-school, who meet in the Village Hall every day during term time, also make use of the Green.

During school holidays and at weekends, the Green, Playground and wooded areas are in constant use.

The Green is also used to hold Village events, such as the Village Fete and occasionally hired for use by other bodies.