

Moretonhampstead's Special Qualities

Statement in response to the Parish Housing Report, 2017

Synopsis

The parish council began a process in November 2016 to identify sites that could be developed for local housing. Ten green-field locations were considered and a report compiled following a public consultation. On 7 March 2017 the parish council agreed to accept the report and to open discussions with the owners of the sites. At the same time the council also resolved 'to consider providing an alternative site or sites for public allotments and utilise the existing allotment site for development'.

In response to the large number of sites put forward, and the sensitivity of many of them, this statement was drawn up and considered by the steering group of the 'special qualities' network from 8-15 September 2017. All eleven sites identified in the parish council discussions were considered in respect of their special qualities, and graded according to whether they were 'Valued', 'Highly Valued', 'Very Highly Valued' or likely to arouse no more than neutral feelings amongst local residents. While it goes without saying that all such gradings and the evaluations of their merits are subjective, and certainly not everyone will agree with every grade of value, it is felt that such a system might help planners to see clearly which sites are likely to cause the greatest loss of local amenity, and to understand the reasons for such a view.

Given the complicated, varied and extended natures of some of the sites, some of the sites were considered in parts and two were considered as one. Thus fifteen sites were graded in all, as follows:

Area A: Highly Valued	Area E: Valued
Area B: Very Highly Valued	Area Fi: Very Highly Valued
Area Ci: Valued	Area Fii: Very Highly Valued
Area Cii: Valued	Areas G and H: Very Highly Valued
Area Di: Very Highly Valued	Area Ii: Valued
Area Dii: Very Highly Valued	Area Iii: Highly Valued
Area Diii: Highly Valued / Very Highly Valued	Area J: Neutral
	The Allotments: Very Highly Valued

Details of the reasoning underpinning all these grades will be found in the report, which was published on www.moretonspecial.org.uk on 15/09/2017.

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