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WICKERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SUBMISSION VERSION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO POLICY GS2; LOCAL GREEN SPACE WITH REGARD TO THE BOUNDARY OF WICKERSLEY PARK

Background

Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and is now undergoing consultation until 25 October 2021.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes policy GS2 which seeks to designate three Local Green Spaces which would be protected from development except in exceptional circumstances. One of those designations is Wickersley Park where the policy seeks to build on the existing green space designation in the Rotherham Local Plan to reflect its' importance as a local facility valued by the local community.

However, the Parish Council have now realised that there has been an oversight in that the proposed designation erroneously includes a parcel of land which should not have been included within the boundary of the designation, this being the site of the former village hall. It is therefore now proposed to exclude the land in question from the proposed Local Green Space designation with the amended boundary shown on the attached plan.

Reasons for the proposed amendment

The basis for proposing this amendment to the Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:

- The land comprises the site of the former village hall which was demolished in 2008 and replaced by an improved community facility elsewhere within Wickersley (the current library and community centre on Bawtry Road). It has not had a community function since that time.
- The land is hard surfaced and includes the concrete base of the village hall. It is a brownfield site and has never formed part of Wickersley Park.
- There has been a longstanding acknowledgement by the Parish Council and Rotherham MBC that the land is surplus to requirements and suitable for development with residential consent being granted on a number of occasions from 1998 through to 2011.
- The boundary of the proposed Local Green Space designation was erroneously drawn to include the former village hall site because it followed the green space designation in the Rotherham Local Plan. It is only recently that the Parish Council has realised that it is not appropriate to provide the additional protection proposed by policy GS2 to that area of land given its history and the fact that it does not form, nor ever has been, part of Wickersley Park and does not have a green space function.