

Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan

Consultation Statement

November 2020

- 1.1 The consultation for Melton's Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan was for an 8 week period which commenced on 20th July 2020 and concluded on 14th September 2020.
- 1.2 An article and a press notice appeared in the Melton Times and was advertised on 'The Eye' radio station to notify members of the public of the consultation. An email was sent to all stakeholders to notify them of the consultation. This included Councillors; Parish Councils; developers; house builders; planning and land agents; registered providers; Homes England; the County Council; neighbouring Councils; Leicester City and Leicestershire Councils and relevant internal members of staff.
- 1.3 A copy of the draft Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan was made available online and paper copies were available on request. A survey monkey questionnaire was also made available and advertised within the press notice, radio announcement, on social media and online.
- 1.4 Three separate Zoom consultation meetings took place for members, stakeholders and the general public. These events were also advertised within the press notice, radio announcement, on social media and online.
- 1.5 Amendments have been made to the Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, having considered the representations from the consultation. A full schedule of the comments received and the Council's response to them can be found in the schedule of responses at Appendix 1 to this Statement.

Appendix 2 - Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan consultation responses

Reference number	Summary of representation	Response
01	Melton CP –highlight the quantity of semi natural open space in the CP and the characteristics of both types. Also the benefits of this mixed approach and explain why it is classified as parkland.	New paragraph at 5.7
02	New Natural Park south of town – make clear this does not imply a ‘square’ block of 50 hectares but could be linear and incorporate existing spaces along the River Eye and to the SW of the town. Stress however the need to be cohesive and not fragmented (so it can act as GI) – also reinforce the need for safe and green crossing(s) of the new MMDR.	New paragraph in Melton Mowbray Natural Park.
03	Reinforce message about the focus being on Melton Mowbray but at same time reinforce need to extend to whole Borough.	Several inserts added to stress this point.
04	Mention ‘raised beds’ for disabled persons participation in community gardening when re-engineering amenity open space,	Added text to 7.3
05	Tentative support from friends of CP for cemetery extension as long as new extension made elsewhere in the CP,	Noted and referred to planning service.
06	Benefit of wildflower meadows to pollinators and strong support for roadside verges being planted with meadow plants (distinguish between annual meadows and perennial meadows)	Added text to 7.4
07	Converting amenity open space to semi-natural open space – still need for clear management and signage such as mown paths to avoid public criticism.	Added text to 7.4
08	Need for a public information campaign to accompany the new Strategy to raise awareness especially of need for more semi-natural open space and the urban landscape implications.	Added text to 7.9
09	Need for an open space design guide to accompany the design guides in preparation.	New 9.8
10	Tree corridors needed for connectivity – also some imagination as what might be possible. Mention role of highways authority.	New 5.8
11	Encourage the adoption of open space by the Council as well as the management of open	See Quality strategy 7

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	space by the Council, as Developers tend to lose interest after X number of years.	
12	Concern over the maintenance of existing open spaces including the quality of equipment in children's play areas.	Quality overall is very good in Melton Mowbray however the need to inspect and replace play equipment is raised in Figure 18 along with the need for regular monitoring.
13	Provision for disabled people including disable parking spaces.	New section 7.21
14	Suggestion of a rewording of the 'vision statement' so that a time limit is not included.	9.1 amended.
15	Emphasize encouraging wildlife	See all sections on semi natural greenspace which is strongly emphasised in the strategy.
16	Concern over the lack of public transport services into the town centre to support an early evening economy.	Referred to Melton Borough Council Planning service.
17	Focus is required on the smaller issues, such as litter, weeding, streetlamps, appropriate size bins and seating.	New section 9.8
18	Concern that the Strategy is a 'paperwork exercise' and that nothing will come from it.	Referred to Melton Borough Council Planning service.
19	Open spaces need to be as accessible as possible, highlighted by the current pandemic.	7.19 amended.
20	Allotments and community growing areas should be linked to food sustainability.	Added text to 7.4
21	Melton in Bloom are keen to involve the community more through projects to maintain open spaces.	Added text to section on Community engagement in section 9.3.