

**Telford & Wrekin Local Plan**  
**Examination in Public**  
**Matter 8 EiP Ref: K19a**

**The Newport and District Civic Society representative attending the EiP for Matter 8 submitted a written statement to the inspector on 10 February<sup>1</sup> in connection with Site H13 but did not supply a copy to the Council on the day. It has only come to the Council's attention that this statement is on the Local Plan website. The statement contains matters not covered in earlier representations and it makes a number of assertions which the Council does not consider to be correct. This statement provides the Council's brief response to the statement provided.**

1. It is unclear how the Civic Society come to the view that Newport has a shortage in the quantity or quality of open space. The evidence base broadly shows that while the tightly drawn administrative boundary of the Newport Town Council area (the basis for the 2013 Local Green Infrastructure Needs Study<sup>2</sup>) shows a deficiency of 25% of amenity space relative to national standards, there are substantial amounts of green infrastructure and recreational space contiguous with the town council boundaries.
2. The Civic Society has not presented any evidence relating to the quality of open space provision either. The Council's evidence base shows that the quality of space in the Newport area is good and the town's residents have good access to sporting facilities too<sup>3</sup>.
3. Site H13 is not designated as an OL6 site on the Proposals Map of the existing Wrekin Local Plan<sup>4</sup>. The site is not well used apart from rights of way across it. A recent public inquiry determined that it was not a village green<sup>5</sup>.
4. It is unclear how the Civic Society come to the view that provision has worsened since 2013. Newport, like many towns across England, has seen a growth in planning applications consistent with the release of the NPPF and the policy shift directing councils to boost significantly the supply of housing. Building on the 2008 *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Assessment* findings, the Council has approved a number of schemes for housing where substantial new areas of public open space has been planned for within or contiguous with the Town

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<sup>1</sup> K19

<sup>2</sup> C3d - June 2016 update

<sup>3</sup> C3

<sup>4</sup> A11

<sup>5</sup> K23a

Council boundaries to serve future residents and address deficiencies. These are at:

- i. Land off Edgmond Road (TWC/2013/0297), Site I<sup>6</sup>;
- ii. Land at Wellington Road (TWC/2011/0821), Site C;
- iii. Land to west of Station Road (TWC/2011/0871), Site D.

- 5. The current planning application at Site H13 (TWC/2015/0057) makes provision for some extra amenity space too.
- 6. The evidence submitted with the current application on Site H13<sup>7</sup> does not accord with the purported observations of the Director of Shropshire Wildlife Trust that the site be designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The Council's Ecologist and Green Infrastructure Specialist concurs with this view.

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<sup>6</sup> All sites can be see on Appendix 3 to J8/55/1.

<sup>7</sup> K23a