**Agenda item 15b**

**Shropshire Green Infrastructure Study - Stakeholders**

***(Town Clerk’s suggested response in italics)***

**Shropshire Green Infrastructure Study - Stakeholders Welcome to Our Survey LUC has been commissioned by Shropshire Council to prepare a green infrastructure strategy to support the Shropshire Local Plan Review. The purpose of this online survey is to gather evidence on green infrastructure and open space assets in Shropshire, which will inform the green infrastructure strategy and Shropshire Local Plan Review.**

**3. Please provide the following:**

Your Name (or the name of a key contact if responding on behalf of an organisation)

Telephone

Email address

**4. What geographic area would you like to comment on?**

All of Shropshire

Parish council area **Wem Town Council**

A specific development site Other (please specify)

**5. If selected in the question above, please name the parish council, town council, development site or other area that you are commenting on.**

*Wem Town Council*

**6. Please list the key green infrastructure and open space assets within the area you are commenting on (parish / town / site / other) and say:**

Please note, we are interested in both green infrastructure and open space, please see the definitions below.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines green infrastructure as: ‘a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’. According to the Town and Country Planning Association, ‘green infrastructure is not simply an alternative description for conventional open space, it includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, but also street trees, allotments and private gardens. It can also include streams, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and walls’.

The NPPF defines open space as ‘All open space of public value, including not just land but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs), which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity’.

In short, some green infrastructure assets cannot be considered as open space, such as street trees, green walls, green roofs etc. Similarly, not all open spaces may necessarily contribute to green infrastructure, such as large paved areas, Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) or artificial pitches.

*Wem Recreation Ground, Trentham Road Public Open space, The Wheatfields Public Open space*

*Wilmott Meadow Public Open space, Cordwell Park Play Area, The Grove Play Area, Lowe Hill Gardens Play Area, Isherwoods Way Play Area, Wilmott Meadow phase 2 Public Open Space,*

*Fothergill Way Public Open Space, Millennium Green*

*Love Lane allotments and Cemetery*

**a) Which of these (if any), you feel are currently performing well; and**

*Wem Recreation Ground, Trentham Road Public Open space, The Wheatfields Public Open space*

*Wilmott Meadow Public Open space, Cordwell Park Play Area, The Grove Play Area, Lowe Hill Gardens Play Area, Orchard Way Play area, Wem Millennium Green, Love Lane allotments and Cemetery.*

*Butler Sports Centre football ground*

**b) Which of these you feel are under performing. It would be helpful if you could also briefly explain why the asset is under performing.**

*Wilmott Meadow phase 2 Public Open Space*

*Fothergill Way Public Open Space,*

*Isherwoods Way Play Area*

*Orchard way Play area*

*These areas are underperforming as they are managed by management companies appointed by the developer who often do the bare minimum to manage the sites as public open spaces. In the case of Isherwoods Way the play area is often litter strewn making the site look neglected*

**7. What are the main pressures and threats to green infrastructure / open space provision in the area you are commenting on (parish / town / site / other), both now and in the future?**

Now

*Lack of maintenance on sites not under control of Town Council*

In the future

*Developers bending the definition of Green Infrastructure – new developments need usable public open space for recreation and enjoyment, not features that they cannot access that have been primarily developed to manage the water table on development sites e.g swales and balancing ponds*

**8. What are the key opportunities for green infrastructure or open space creation and enhancement in your area (parish / town / site / other) over the next 5 years and beyond? If you consider that any of these projects require special priority in the area, please use an asterisk '\*' to identify these projects.**

*Creation of more space for informal recreation within the town possibly along the River Roden to link with the towns existing public open space to the SW of the Town*

*Creation of Green Network link through town – space has been left for this by developers but has never been joined up.*

*Proper planning of new development to include usable open spaces*

9. Are you aware of any initiatives or projects underway in your area (parish / town / site / other) which might be relevant to the green infrastructure strategy e.g. green space creation/enhancement, access improvements, habitat creation or flood alleviation?

**Deadline for comments 4.3.20**