
From:
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To:
Subject:

Dear Consultation Team on Green Spaces in London

I am writing in response to the Draft London Plan consultation. I am pleased that the Draft recognises the importance of Green Spaces but policies need to be stronger to give them adequate protection, in particular:

* It should not be possible to 'swap' designated Metropolitan Open Land.

I welcome recognition that Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) should be protected from inappropriate development but this policy is undermined by Policy G3 C and the provision to allow 'land swaps' because MOL is characterised by its 'permanence'.

Proposed changes: Policy G3 C should be deleted along with the sentence in paragraph 8.3.2 "The principle of land swaps could be applied to MOL where the resulting MOL meets at least one of the criteria set out in part D of this policy".

Policy G3B should be amended to read: 'The extension of MOL designations should be undertaken through the Local Plan process, in consultation with the Mayor and adjoining boroughs.'

* Private and public gardens should be protected alongside other local greens and open spaces.

I am concerned that Policy G4 contains insufficient recognition of the contribution of private gardens to the extent of green space. A policy is needed to prevent extensive 'garden grabbing'. Proposed change: Policy G4 A should be revised to include reference to private gardens to read: 'Local green and open spaces, including public and private gardens, should be protected'.

* Policies and funding are needed to improve the quality of green space by reducing noise, light and air pollution, increasing biodiversity, and by giving stronger protection to mature trees and especially hedgerows.

I welcome support for the creation of new areas of accessible green and open space.

These provisions should be strengthened by requiring measures in Policy G4 to improve the quality of green space.

* Outdoor sports facilities should be protected and enhanced.

* Intensive housing developments should be resisted to protect the local character of London's neighbourhoods.

Yours sincerely

Resident of Bexley London Borough

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