

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

Comments

In a previous submission I explained my early involvement with the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum and how the Neighbourhood Plan was put together based on consultations with residents and stakeholders. As I said in that submission, I SUPPORT the Plan and its Policies and believe that the NP is a good reflection of what people have expressed throughout the process.

Upon a close re-reading of the text, I have the following additional detailed comments, which I would ask you to take into consideration.

Policy Section 1 - Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity in our Green Infrastructure Network.

SNNP1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

This is a key policy and there has never been a more important time for it to be expressed and incorporated in planning decisions, especially as it goes to a granular level in the section 'Creating Local Green Spaces', referencing modest but important spaces largely maintained by community volunteers, e.g. the 'green islands' dotted around the area. These green spaces communicate to residents and passersby the importance that South Newnham places on nature and biodiversity.

Policy SNNP11 - Protecting and Enhancing Local Character Through Design-led Development

The principles listed in (e)-(h) are especially important in the Conservation Areas and where, for example, there is an existing architecturally coherent row of terraced or other houses.

I suggest that some additional wording could make this policy even more 'future-proof'. New materials are being developed rapidly now, especially in terms of those that can mitigate against heat/cooling loss and are sustainably sourced and use novel materials and methods. Perhaps wording along the following lines could be added:

- (i) Other building materials employing new technology to improve sustainability in terms of sourcing, manufacture, long-term viability and more effective mitigation of climate-change effect will be supported, so long as they complement or appropriately contrast with their context.*

Policy SNNP14 - Protecting the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries.

This is another policy I strongly support. And, following wording elsewhere in the NP on this subject, I suggest strengthening it by adding wording to say:

'applications to pave over front gardens for car parking will not be supported'