

**Response from Hengrove and Whitchurch Park (HWP) Neighbourhood Forum to Question from
the Examiner of the HWP NDP on Local Green Spaces July 2018**

The Examiner has asked the the Forum to explain and justify the proposed designation of '*Hengrove Park (as remodelled in new development) and Green Fingers, St Giles Estate*' in Policy HWP5. The issue is that the NPPF deals with designating existing sites as Local Green Space (LGS), not future proposals. Our response to this is as follows:

We understand that the proposed designation is unusual, and agree that LGS designation cannot be applied to future green spaces. However Hengrove Park has been the most important green space in the local area for many years. Our consultation work on open space showed it to be the most used green space, and the most valued, in the neighbourhood area. In the absence of any other planning considerations we would have proposed the whole area of the Park be designated as a LGS. Besides the recreational value of the Park, there is an important local history link, in an area lacking in heritage assets.

However there are planning considerations that would make designation of the Park in its current extent contrary to the Development Plan for the City of Bristol. The Local Plan has allocated the Park for development as "Housing, offices and open space in the form of a large high quality park". An outline planning application for this development has just been made, and while the Forum would like to see a larger area of Park, the key attributes of the retained Park can be seen in it, and they are reasonably uncontentious. There will be a link through to the Mounds and Children's Play Area, the runway area will be retained and parkland will extend from the current edge of the Park with Hengrove Way to the north and the boundary of Banfield Road to the east, where it is close to the St Giles Estate. Linking through to the other LGS designations of The Mounds and the Children's Play Area creates a coherent open space, the runway space is a heritage asset. The eastern section of the retained Park is dictated by infrastructure, besides preserving the parkland setting of the St Giles Estate, the rationale for the 'green fingers'. A large water main serving much of South Bristol runs under the site between Bamfield and Hengrove Way, through the Park just to the west of the St Giles Estate.

Thus the designation of Hengrove Park (as remodeled) is not designation of a future area of LGS, it is the designation of a key existing LGS, but one that the Forum acknowledges will become smaller. The key attributes of the space such as the runway will remain, and additional works like tree-planting and water and planting features will be consistent with the policy that allows for development on LGS where 'it enhances the use and reason for designation of the site'. We note that Bristol City Council in their comments at Reg16 (and other times) have not objected to the designation. They do have concerns about Table 1 giving an estimate of remaining area, we are relaxed about whether this stays or goes.