



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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3 May 2016

I am aware that Chislehurst Recreation Grounds, Walden Recreation Grounds, Whytes Wood and Walden Woods have recently been nominated for designation as Local Green Space by the Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Grounds (FOCRG). I wish to place on record my support for this proposal, which has already secured the backing of Cllrs Bosshard, Boughey and Payne, the Chislehurst Society, VisitChislehurst, as well as key stakeholders.

These sites are much cherished green spaces used extensively for recreation by the local community. They form part of the South East London Green Chain, and many residents frequently tell me that this local woodland proved a significant draw when moving to the area, remaining one of Chislehurst's definitive features.

As you know, these spaces all boast an impressive range and variety of habitats and wildlife, recognised by their designation as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the London Borough of Bromley's Biodiversity Plan 2015-2020. Indeed, in recent years they have been the subject of significant woodland management by the Forestry Commission, the Council's contractor, The Landscape Group (TLG), and FOCRG's fantastic team of volunteers.

As the consultation on the Draft Allocations, Further Policies and Designations document set out, the Council are considering the viability of a school on Bushell Way. In my response to the consultation, dated 31 October 2015, I put forward the case that if this is to be taken forward, only the minimum land necessary should be released from Urban Open Space (UOS), with the remainder being upgraded to Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) status.

Given the value of Walden Woods and Chislehurst Recreation Ground to local residents, I believe this continues to be a priority, with these areas compliancy to the Local Green Space criteria, set out in paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework, clearly demonstrable. They are a considerable asset to the local community, their recreational value and biodiversity is of local significance, and the space is in very close proximity to the people it serves.

I would be grateful if you could keep me updated on the progress FOCRG's nomination.

Bob Neill MP