

Community cohesion note

Land south and east of Adastral Park, Martlesham

There will be many ways to encourage the integration and cohesion of both the new and existing communities. This note will not detail all, including how activities and school attendance across the new and existing communities can help to foster friendships and how parish councils and activity clubs can look to encourage membership and involvement across boundaries.

The note instead concentrates on the management of open space and community facilities within the development and how the development design and the governance arrangements and activities of the appropriate management body ('body') can assist in instilling a sense of responsibility, influence, pride and belonging in residents together with a desire to share facilities with adjacent communities.

The body would adopt responsibility for managing and maintaining all open space (both amenity and usable space) and community buildings including the pavilion/changing facilities on the formal playing fields and the community hall. Maintenance responsibility is normally sub-contracted to others except where the steering group seeks to organise volunteer parties for specific roles such as countryside management.



Design

The emerging design as illustrated in the DAS and other support documents associated with the application emphasise an understanding of the need to design places in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner ensuring that people living, working and enjoying leisure time can value, appreciate and access easily their environment, community facilities and open space. Well designed places can:



- promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles;
- reduce pressures and costs on public services;
- attract additional investment and create opportunities for local people and businesses;
- create a sense of belonging, identity and community cohesion;
- reduce crime and anti-social behaviour;
- support biodiversity.

Governance

The body is likely to be a charitable organisation but does not need to be. The normal governance arrangements include the appointment of a local managing agent bringing day-to-day and strategic expertise. The managing agent is directed by a local steering group made up of nominees from the residents, organisations such as sports clubs, parish council and district council.

Funding

Prior to taking responsibility and 'ownership' the body will identify and secure appropriate long-term funding and management regimes ensuring that the open space and facilities have a long-term sustainable future. Funding is likely to be a combination of a commuted sum paid in phases by the developer, a service charge applied to the sale of all residential and commercial properties on the site and fees earned from the hiring of space.

Integration mechanisms

The body will seek to involve as many people of the new community and existing communities as volunteers and will organise open days and activities inviting attendance from both the new and adjoining communities.

The asset of the main SANG area and lake is expected to be a considerable attraction for such community involvement. Bodies of this kind also organise community outdoor maintenance details for residents interested in countryside conservation. The extensive areas of SANG and areas of habitat enhancement are again expected to be a considerable attraction in this regard.