



# Swale Borough Local Plan Examination

Day 4: Matter 6 – Local Green Space designations

Tuesday 7 February

The Crown Estate (ref: 73427)

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Question 6.1 Is the designation of local green spaces through MM 268 consistent with national planning policy and has the process to identify and designate sites been consistent, transparent and inclusive?

- 1.1 The open space to the north east corner of proposed housing allocation AX2 land at Belgrave Road Halfway/Minster, is proposed as Local Green Space (LGS) through proposed modification 391. Whilst The Crown Estate does not object to this designation, the Plan will need to ensure that the LGS designation does not preclude the provision of an emergency access through Rosemary Way if required to support housing allocation AX2.
- 1.2 Policy AX2 identifies a possible need for an emergency/cycle/pedestrian access on to Rosemary Avenue, crossing a small part of the existing open space. The proposed extent of this proposed LGS designation does not currently extend further south than Rosemary Avenue and therefore the emergency access could be provided on land outside of the LGS designation. It is essential that the LGS boundary is not increased further southwards. Alternatively if the whole area of open space is designated, wording could be added to modification 391 allowing the creation of an emergency access on part of this designation if required at the planning application stage.
- 1.3 Although the open space is owned by the Borough Council, given the need to bring forward sites to boost housing supply, it should be facilitating the delivery of new homes. Development of the site could compensate for the small amount of open space lost through the creation of an emergency access by enlarging the open space on land owned by The Crown Estate. The emergency access would also create greater permeability, thereby improving pedestrian and cycle access to facilities in Halfway/Minster.

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