

Matter 12 Hearing Statement – Steve Walters

Policy OSSR01

MIQ 412

With reference to the Kirby Frith Green Wedge.

The extent of the Kirby Frith Green Wedge is defined in para 4.34 Green Wedge Addendum Report February 2020. The adjacent Blaby Green Wedge to the NW of the city boundary is shown on the same document. However, the Masterplan shown at EXAM 49 shows development of the Blaby Green Wedge, which is beyond the City boundary. What authority do Leicester City Council possess, to include a neighbouring authorities Green Wedge in their Masterplan? The aforementioned Masterplan is also not in accordance with the defined SL02 Strategic Site area shown on the Leicester Local Policies Map January 2023, which correctly shows the site limited to the City boundary. An amendment is also required to delete the reference to a Household Waste Recycling Site on the Masterplan. (Related to Action 40 MIQ 45)

At the hearing of Matter 2 on 3rd October, the City Council asserted that Kirby Frith Green Wedge is private land with limited public access rights of way. Indeed, there are existing public rights of way and unopposed public access to the course for many decades. You should be made aware that a further public right of way claim across the Kirby Frith Green Wedge is in the approval process with Leicestershire County Council reference M1228. This was applied for in April 2021.

Furthermore, according to the Government website: Rights of Way and accessing land, it states: the public may access private land “if the land was accessed by the public for at least 20 years and nobody has asked them to stop.” There is ample evidence that the public have accessed the course for over 20 years.

MIQ 409

“In order to be effective, should Policy OSSR01 include a criterion requiring an ecological survey to be submitted alongside any planning application for development in the Green Wedge?”

The answer to the question is a definite yes. However, the Local Plan has obviated this requirement with its Local Plan policy of de-designating Green Wedges prior to any planning phase!