

## **Save Combe Down Allotments. Bath Allotments Association**

### **How to respond online to the New Local Plan Options Consultation.**

The AA has suggested some words for you to use and given links to the relevant paragraphs. We would like you to comment in **two** places. However, you are urged to read the Options and use your own words. This consultation is not like a petition-the number of responses is less important than what they say. Keep it short.

#### **1st Response: To the rejection of the designation of Combe Down as a Local Green Space**

Go to this link to Local Plan Options Consultation on the Council's website:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-options/policy-hvclgs-local-green-spaces>

Scroll down. Choose the "Your response" box.

#### **Suggested response - make sure you include the paragraph numbers.**

9.329. The Combe Down allotments site was accepted in-principle for the Place Making Plan in 2015, but was withdrawn at a late stage with no in-depth examination of the issues. New evidence from the Allotments Association now justifies a full re-examination of those issues.

9.334 - 9.337. Combe Down should be included in the list of supported designations because it is an historic site which has been an important community asset for 130 years. It is under real and immediate threat. The maximum level of policy protection is urgently needed. The community has shown its grave concern and is preparing an application to have it listed as an Asset of Community Value. A petition has attracted over 5,300 signatures.

Policy LCR 8 (*Protecting allotments*) coverage of the Combe Down allotments site is welcomed, but is not strong enough to protect the ploholders from eviction. No other site is currently identified within the area which is available to replace it, or to satisfy the increased demand on the waiting list.

The Minerals Policies will protect the Bath stone resources under the allotments for the very long term. Retaining the site as allotments is the best way of protecting the Bath stone below ground and the biodiversity above. The adjacent Rugby club is also covered by the same Minerals Policy. It is also protected by policy as a sports facility, and it is in the Green Belt. Green Belt status has the same effect as Local Green Space designation, so Local Green Space designation on the allotments would be no different.

#### **2nd Response: To Support strengthening Policy LCR.8 (Protecting Allotments).**

Go to this link to Local Plan Options Consultation on the Council's website:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-options/policy-hvca-protecting-allotments>

Tick the Strongly Support Box.

Scroll down to the Extra Comments Box.

Add:

Unless the wording of Policy LCR 8 (*Protecting allotments*) is strengthened, it is not strong enough to protect the ploholders at Combe Down from eviction. No other site is currently identified within the area which is available to replace it, or to satisfy the increased demand on the waiting list.

Landowners/developers should be required to provide a replacement or new high quality allotment sites within the area, not just pass money to the Council. Currently there are long waiting lists in Bath, but the Council is unable to find new sites.

## **Further Information**

1. A full briefing note has been prepared by the AA to help explain the complexities.  
<https://banes-allotments.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Combe-Down-Allotments-LGS-status-and-Minerals-policies-1.pdf>
2. Please note that email responses or feedback that isn't linked to individual Policy and Site Options will NOT be accepted.
3. If you need to ask any questions please text me first on 07969 785929 (What's App) or email me on [jackywilkinson99@gmail.com](mailto:jackywilkinson99@gmail.com)
4. Consultation closes 5pm, 8 April, 2024.

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10/03/24