

5.41 this much needed development for sport, recreation and community resources forward. Currently, the preferred site for such development is site K10Bii, east of Old Road South and north of Pixham Ferry Lane, identified on Figure 5. Such enabling development will only be supported on this site, when the criteria in Policy K10 can be met.

**Comment [Robert Ga1]:** Add'... enabling ...'

5.42 The preferred enabling development site portion of site K10Bii has emerged following a site appraisal and selection process undertaken by the Parish Council. This considered all sites identified as possibly suitable for development for additional community, sport and recreation facilities. The appraisal process is set out in the Site Appraisal (available at [www.kempseyhub.co.uk](http://www.kempseyhub.co.uk)). Only site K10Bii was considered available and suitable in terms of size (minimum 5 hectares), topography, flood risk, national and local policy designations, access, location and possible impact on residential amenity for such uses, with possible future enabling development, if necessary.

**Comment [Robert Ga2]:** Replace '... are ...'

**Comment [Robert Ga3]:** It is not a portion of K10Bii, it is all of it and, as below, there was no appraisal of possible housing enabling sites, only community etc sites. At best it should read 'The preferred site for additional community, sport and recreation facilities emerged following a site appraisal ....' which is consistent with the next sentence and the remainder of 5.47. Another para explaining what influenced the selection of site K10Bii would be of considerable interest!

**Comment [Robert Ga4]:** Surely this should be site KB10Bi, there is no evidence that sites for enabling development have undergone this scrutiny.

#### Objective 5 – To conserve and enhance green spaces and green infrastructure

#### POLICY K11 – LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The following Local Green Spaces identified in Table 1 and shown on Figure 5 the Policies Map, will be protected. Inappropriate development, as defined in the Framework, that would be harmful to these Local Green Spaces will only be supported in very special circumstances.

**Comment [Robert Ga5]:** Add '...on...'

**Comment [Robert Ga6]:** Not recognised, unless a mistaken reference to Green Belt inappropriateness. Just 'Development that would be harmful ...' is sufficient

K11/1 Kings Hill  
K11/2 The Limes  
K11/3 St Mary's Close  
K11/4 Christina Close  
K11/5 The Oaks  
K11/6 Bannut Hill

#### Background/Justification

5.48 National planning policy allows for the identification of Local Green Spaces (the Framework paras. 76 and 77):

“Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.”

**5.49 Identifying land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Once identified local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.**

**5.50 The Framework para 77 states that Local Green Space designation should only be used:**

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

**5.51 In identifying Local Green Spaces, we have used the criteria in the Framework to assess green spaces in the Parish. Only those qualifying against the criteria have been included for protection under this policy, see Table 1.**

**Table 1 - Proposed Local Green Spaces.**

<b>Open space/map reference number</b>	<b>Close proximity to the community</b>	<b>Demonstrably special to local community</b>	<b>Local in character and size</b>
<b>1.Kings Hill</b>	Within the Kings Hill housing estate	Designated public amenity land used as Children’s Play Area	0.22 ha grassed area
<b>2.The Limes</b>	In one corner of the Limes housing estate bounded by Main Road (A38) and Brookend Lane	Public amenity land used as informal area for children’s games and dog walkers	0.2ha grassed area with footpath across
<b>3.St Mary’s Close</b>	In the centre of St Mary’s close housing estate	Designated public amenity land used as informal play area and quiet space	0.15ha grassed area
<b>4.Christina Close</b>	Within Christina Close housing estate	Designated public amenity land used as Children’s Play Area	0.02ha grassed area

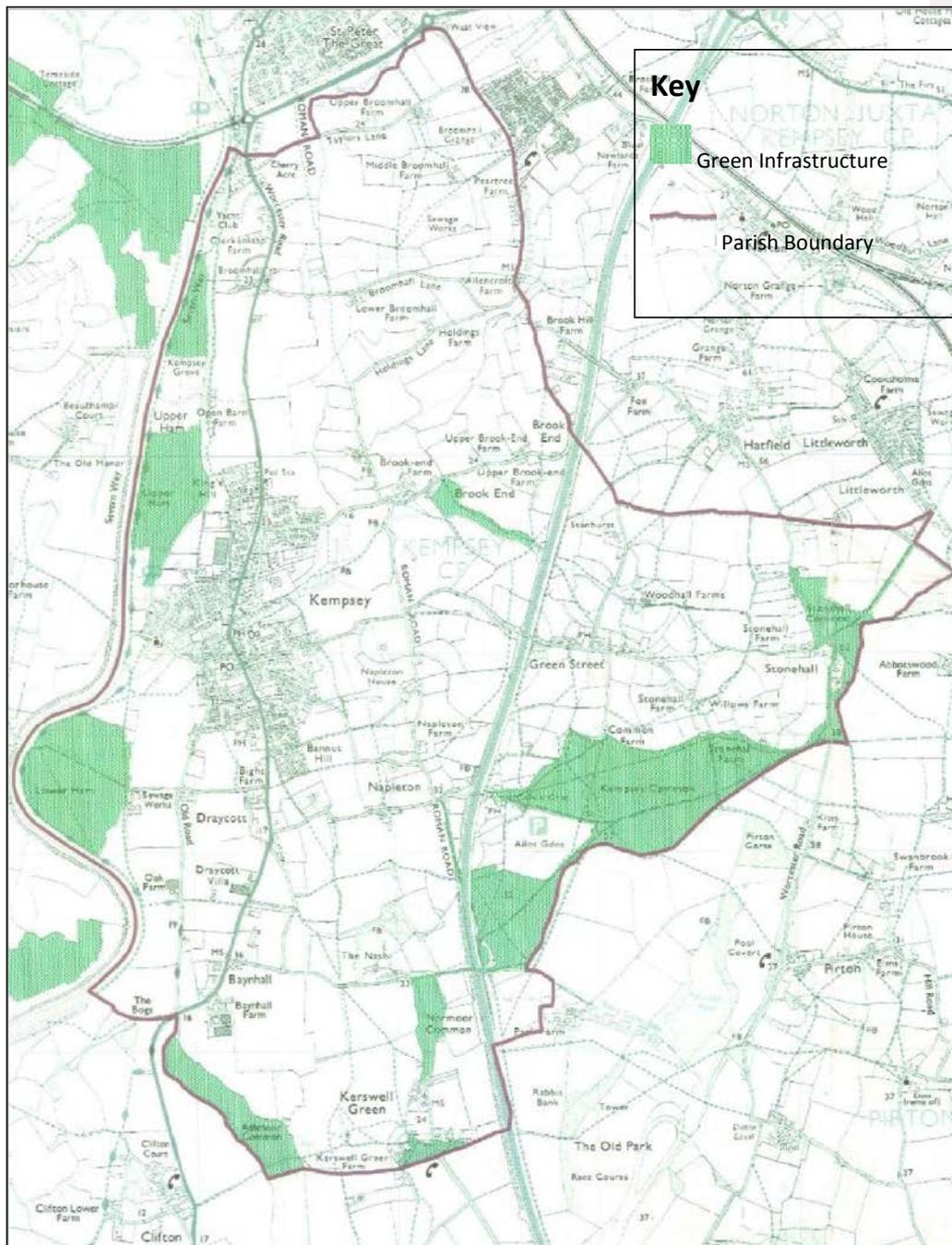
<b>5.The Oaks</b>	Immediately across access road from a row of houses	Provides a break between main road and houses and provides a sound buffer. Has a historic hedge and oak tree and is a popular bird nesting site	0.07ha grassed area with hedge
<b>6.Bannut Hill</b>	Enclosed by houses and a road	Forms an integral part of the estate and is a quiet space surrounded mostly by bungalows	0.15 ha grassed area with bench

### **POLICY K12 – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

**The Green Infrastructure Network identified on Figure 11 will be protected and enhanced in accordance with Policy 5 of the SWDP.**

### **Figure 11 Green Infrastructure Network of Commons and Hams**

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### Background/Justification

5.52 It is not only the open spaces that make the Parish special. It is also the network of spaces, footpaths, lanes, hedges and other “green infrastructure” that link all of these green assets together that make the area special, act as

recreation routes, quiet lanes and areas for wildlife. All these functions are equally important. Figure 11 shows all commons in Kempsey parish, and Figure 12 the local footpaths and bridleways, this information can also be found on Worcestershire County Council's web site, in particular the Severn Way which runs through the length of the parish on the east bank of the River Severn.

5.53 The parish's biodiverse habitats, trees, woodlands, hedgerows and wildflower meadows<sup>1</sup> should be protected, enhanced, and, where possible, extended. Our plan seeks to protect existing green infrastructure and, where possible, will encourage new links and routes to strengthen the Parish's green infrastructure network and access to it.

5.54 The village of Kempsey also lies at the centre of a web of rural footpaths, (more than 200) all numbered and preserved, giving 65 miles of access through and across 5 square miles of land in which Kempsey Parish is sited. Taken together with the common lands they provide a unique and valued right to roam on a scale not matched by many settlements.

5.55 Policy SWDP5 seeks to protect and enhance important Green Infrastructure in these areas. Development will not be supported unless:

- i. following a robust, independent assessment of community and technical need such sites are surplus to requirements in a particular location; or
- ii. Replacement of, or investment in, Green Infrastructure of equal community and technical benefit is secured.

**Comment [Robert Ga7]:** Not sure how the footpaths have been 'preserved'!

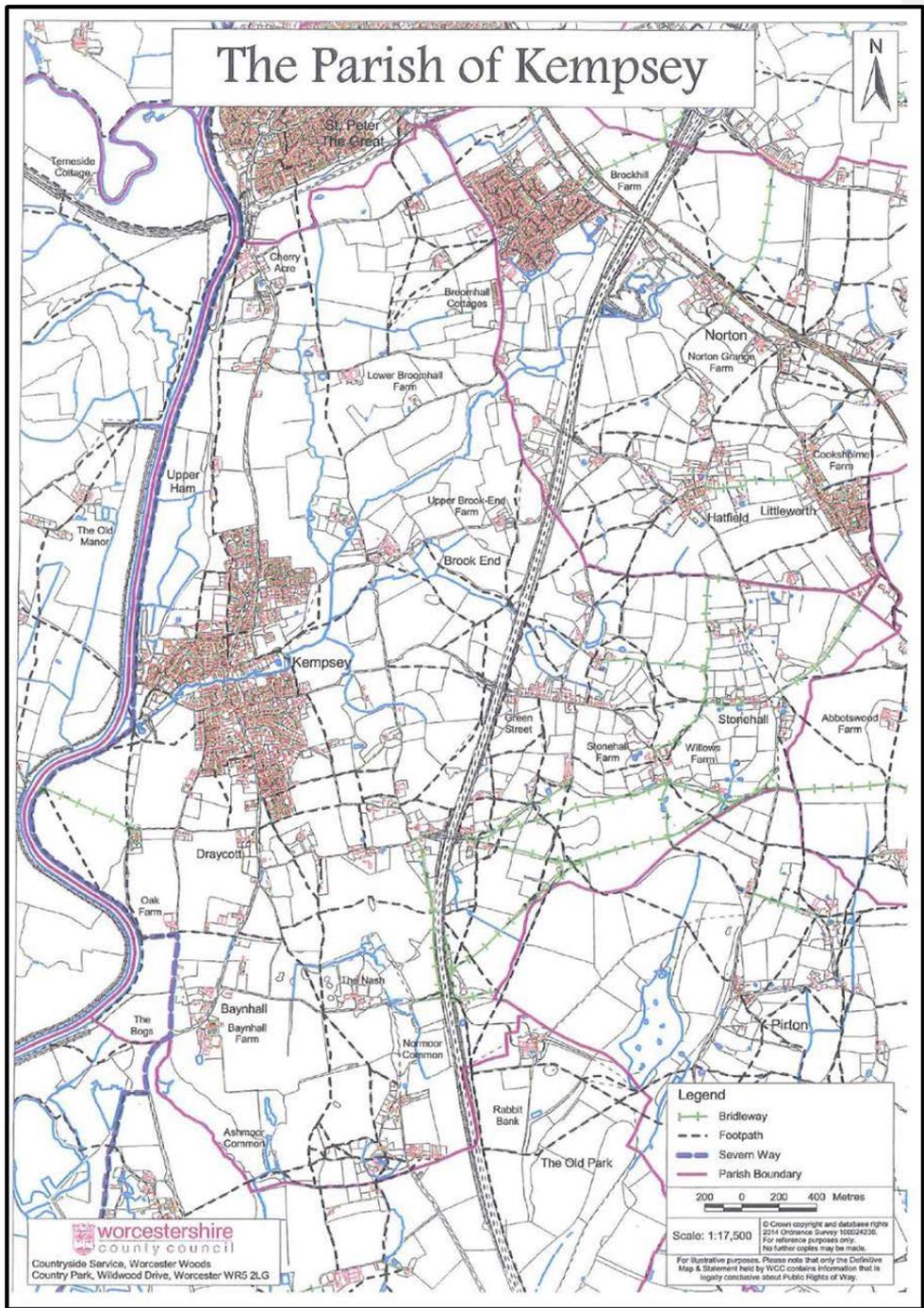
**Comment [Robert Ga8]:** Is this meant to be a KDNP policy – in which case it should be added to K12 or cross-referenced as SWDP Policies are elsewhere. If it is simply an extract from SWDP, say so but why is it needed?

**Comment [Robert Ga9]:** Add '...which would adversely affect the Green Infrastructure ...'

<sup>1</sup> Wildflower meadows as described in Quatermain, S. "Grassland Restoration" *Worcestershire Wildlife Magazine*, no. 130 (August 2014).

## Figure 12 – Footpaths and Bridleways

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**Objective 6 – To support opportunities for the development of existing and new businesses**

**POLICY K13– DEVELOPMENT OR RE-DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR EMPLOYMENT USES WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY**

Proposals to develop or redevelop land for employment purposes within the Kempsey village development boundary (Figure 5) will be supported when:

- a) They re-use existing land or buildings, and do not have an adverse impact on residential amenity, traffic flows or highway safety; or
- b) They are for the diversification of an existing rural enterprise.

In assessing such applications, proposed uses should not have a significant adverse impact on the residential amenity or character of the area through their scale, nature of operation, access, car parking, noise or traffic generated by visitors, staff and deliveries.

**Background/Justification**

5.56 There are over 150 businesses in the Parish. To support the retention and growth of these businesses and encourage the development of new businesses and to create a more sustainable community Policy K13 seeks to promote employment opportunities within the settlement boundary defined for Kempsey village.

5.57 The Framework seeks to ensure that planning does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth, including in rural areas. Policy K13 supports these aims by supporting suitable, sustainable economic development within Kempsey village, where this reuses previously developed land or allows an existing rural enterprise to diversify. By adopting this approach Policy K13 supports and complements SWDP Policy 8.

**POLICY K14 – DEVELOPMENT OR RE-DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SITES OUTSIDE THE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY**

Extension proposals that would support the retention of existing employment sites or development of new sites outside of the Kempsey village development boundary will be supported when they satisfy criterion C in Policy 12 of the SWDP and where they do not have a significant adverse impact on local roads, residential amenity, enjoyment of the countryside, landscape, heritage assets or wildlife.

**Comment [Robert Ga10]:** Replace with '... Kempsey Village...'

**Comment [Robert Ga11]:** Questionable since it is unlikely to be a 'rural' enterprise subject to diversification considerations if within the village development boundary. More appropriate to K14.

**Comment [Robert Ga12]:** This higher requirement is not used in a), which is level of adverse impact is the threshold?

**Comment [Robert Ga13]:** Add, '... , disturbance...'

**Comment [Robert Ga14]:** Replace with 'development'

**Comment [Robert Ga15]:** The justification refers only to economic growth, it is assumed therefore that this policy is for that purpose. Add '... for employment purposes ...' or similar

**Comment [Robert Ga16]:** Add '... for employment purposes ...' unless the policy is meant for

### **Background/Justification**

**5.58 As already stated above, the Framework seeks to ensure that planning does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Policy K14 further supports this aim by setting out the circumstances in which expansion of existing rural businesses will be supported. By adopting this approach Policy K14 supports and complements SWDP Policy 12.**