Werrington Parish
Local Green Space Assessment

September 2026

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assess the potential of local green spaces across Werrington Parish for designation as Local Green Space in the emerging Werrington Neighbourhood Plan. These will be made in addition to the following Local Green Spaces already designated by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council addressed in the adopted Local Plan policy 'Local Green Space DC4':

- Millenium Garden; and
- Meigh Road Playing Fields.

We are proposing to extend the two SMDC designations as evidenced and demonstrated later in this report.

There were also other potential Local Green Spaces identified, however they did not meet the LGS, NPPF Criteria. These have been covered by other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, relating to the natural environment and landscape character.

National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework, August 2026 sets out the criteria for designating Local Green Space, in 'Policy HC2: Local Green Space' as follows:

1. Local and neighbourhood plans may designate land as Local Green Space where this would safeguard green areas of particular value to the local community. Local Green Space should be limited to situations where the land concerned is:

a) In close proximity to the community it serves;

b) 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), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and

c) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

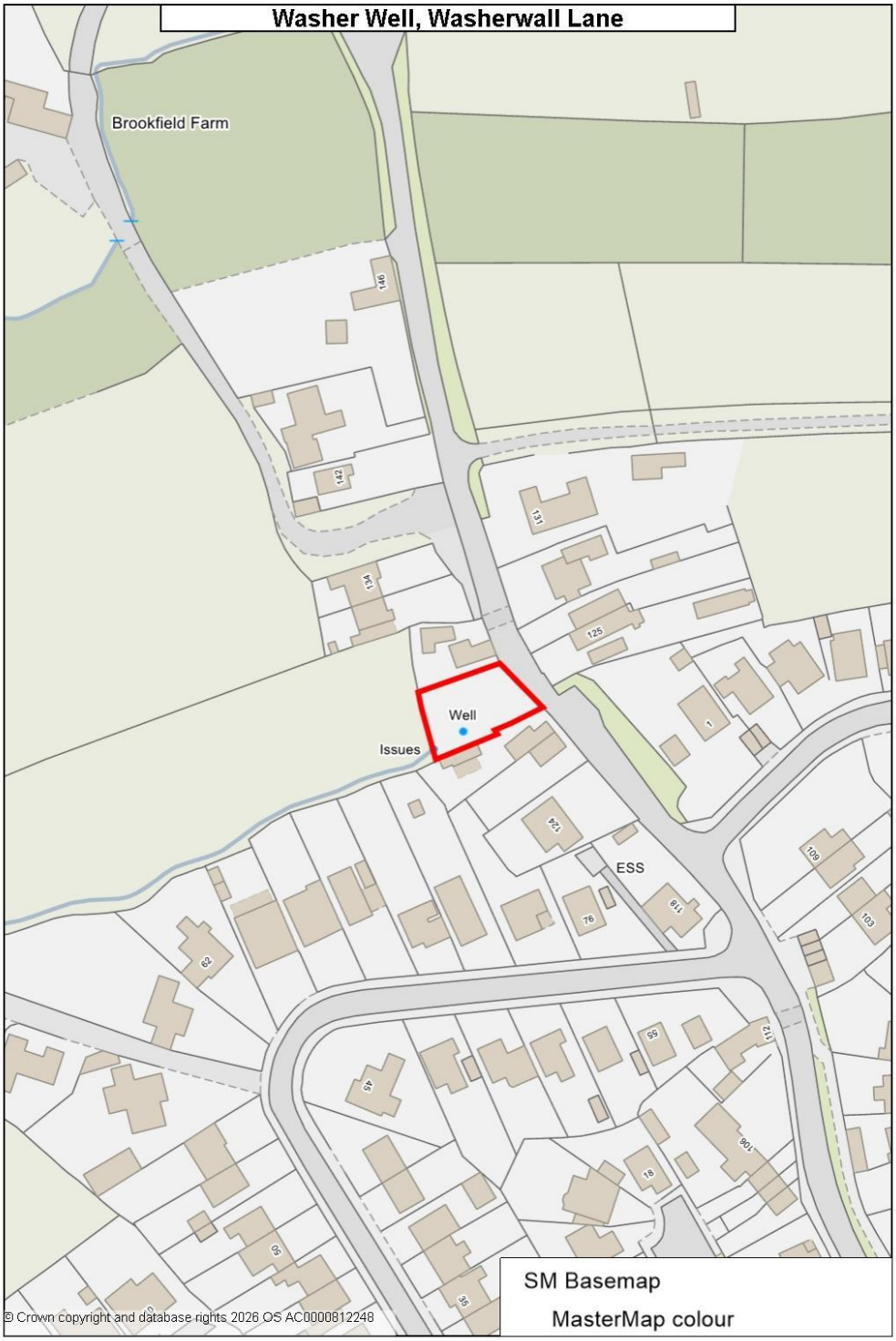
2 . Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and the provision of sufficient land for homes, jobs and other needs. Local Green Space should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Analysis of Sites

The following is an analysis of each site against the NPPF criteria. These will be tested through informal community engagement with landowners, stakeholders and the wider public.

1. Washer Well, Washerwall Lane, Werrington

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The site includes a well that is still operational. It has been part of the local well dressing festivals and is one of 7 wells in the Parish. The site includes the well and a bench in a green setting with small mature trees. Washer Well is one of the well's that formed part of the local tradition of well dressing in the Parish. People have taken the waters here for over 100 years. It appears in the Domesday book and has been used by Drovers. It is made of local sandstone and the waters have been taken by the Monks of Abbey Holton.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.035 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Local List item.
Close to the community it serves	It is within proximity to the community it serves.



2. Meigh Road Playing Fields, Werrington

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space already forms part of a LGS designation by SMDC in Local Plan policy Open Space C2 'Werrington Playing Fields'. However, this does not include the land also owned by the parish council gifted to the Scout Hut to provide outdoor recreation space to support the community uses. The Scouts have used this for ball games, activities and outdoor cooking. The wider Meigh Road Playing Fields is situated on a large plot its perimeter is surrounded by housing abutting onto Meigh Road, Penmere Road and Ashbank Road. There are 3 entrances situated at different parts of the park 2 footpath entrances 1 with emergency vehicle access should it be required, the main entrance which is situated at the top of Meigh Road and which leads onto a large gated car park. Adjacent to the car park there is a large garden space surrounded by well establish trees, next to this is the lengths mans hut used for storage of minor repairs to park furniture etc. The park features are: • Large Car Park • Young Children's playground • Playground for older children both of these playgrounds would benefit from refurbishment. • Mugga • Pump track • Bowling Club • Within the park is a small arboretum and wild meadow land. Wherever your vantage point is in the park it commands the most amazing views over Stoke on Trent, and surrounding areas encompassing the Wrekin, and on a clear day into the Welsh Hills. The park is an ideal place to visit, it has many features. There are paths to walk on it is reasonably flat, and people find it a pleasant and safe place to relax. Children of all ages use the park and its facilities. It is often the venue and focal point for village events, such as the Fun Day, or in the holidays it is the venue for the local space activities that attract many of the locals. It is the home of the local bowls club which is attended by all ages. It has the benefit of a small wooded area.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	3.73 Hectares

Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	Partially forms a Local Green Space Designation Policy C2
Close to the community it serves	It is within proximity to the community it serves.

The Map below is an extract from the SMDC interactive map that shows with the green dotted line the extent of the existing SMDC Local Green Space reference 'Meigh Road Playing Fields' and the blue line of the proposed extension, sown in the previous plan above.



3. Millenium Rock and Werrington Parish Allotments, Oak Mount Road, Werrington

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space already forms part of a LGS designation by SMDC in Local Plan policy Open Space C2 'Oak Mount Road'. However, this does not include the adjoining allotment space. The allotments consist of 17 plots used for over 50 years and they are well used with a large waiting list. This provides an opportunity for local food growing, health and mental well-being. They are in walking distance of the community that use them. The site has been a community space and village green for many years and used to gather for community events including the Queens silver jubilee and the lighting of our beacon at the highest point of the parish. It was also a community orchard that now includes a few mature fruit trees. The Millenium rock was donated to the Parish Council by The Dale Family to celebrate the millennium and installed on the site which is now engraved with the Royals. The site is a grassed area, including the stone, VE day memorial bench for the Queens jubilee and flower boxes.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.76 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	Partially forms a Local Green Space Designation Policy C2
Close to the community it serves	It is within proximity to the community it serves.



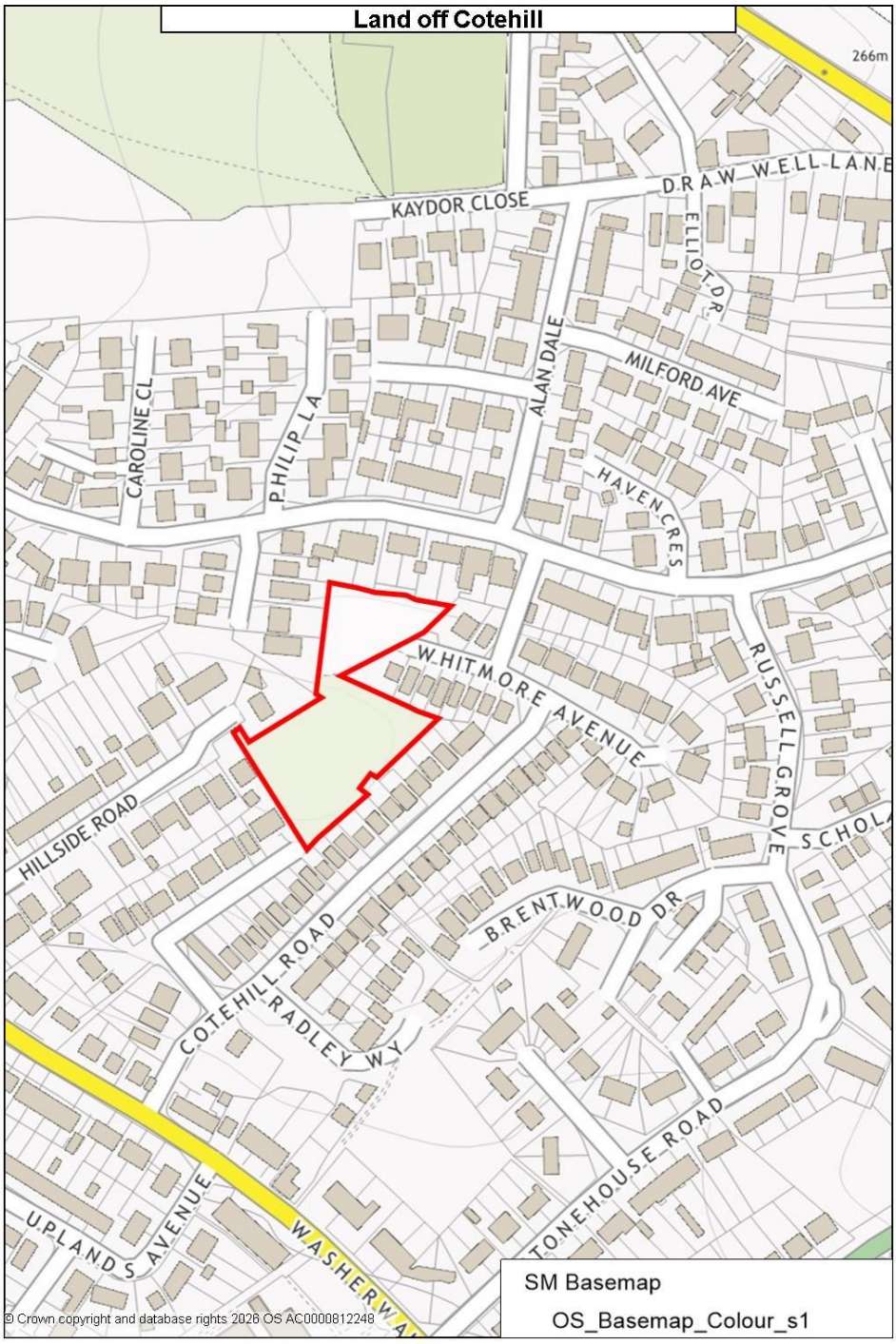


The Map below is an extract from the SMDC interactive map that shows with the green dotted line the extent of the existing SMDC Local Green Space reference ‘Millenium Garden’ and the blue line of the proposed extension, sown in the previous plan above.



4. Land off Cotehill, Werrington

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space already forms part of a LGS designation by SMDC in Local Plan policy Open Space C2 'North of Coathill'. The site is linked parcels of land that includes a PRoW, used as a thoroughfare between the houses, used by children for informal play, part of a circular walk used by dog walkers, including an area of mown grass (by the Parish Council) for ball games. Includes wild grasses, mature trees and fruit trees contributing positively to nature recovery and local wildlife habitats.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.55 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	Partially forms a Local Green Space Designation Policy C2
Close to the community it serves	It is within proximity to the community it serves.





Number 6. White Bar, Chatsworth Drive, Werrington

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This space is useful for picnic and playing area's As well as a wonderful space for birds and local wildlife Informal play space, used for wild play and picnics. The site has good natural surveillance and is used by local families as a safe place in walking distance to many homes. The site is mown grass with mature trees and hedges around the edges that form part of the wildlife value and contribute to the rural landscape character of the area. They provide shady spaces for picnics in the summer months.
Area of space (Ha)	0.16Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	
Close to the community it serves	They are both surrounded by domestic housing and their associated back gardens , in walking distance to those who use the space.

