

Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan Examination January 2023 Update

Under Regulation 17 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Development Plan was submitted for examination in late December 2022. The examination began in January 2023 by an independent examiner.

The examiner wrote to the Borough and Parish Council setting out these [procedural matters and questions](#).

The Borough Council [replied](#) to the examiners questions on 11/01/2023

The Parish Council [replied](#) to the examiners questions on 21/01/2023

The independent examiner asked the following follow up questions, and the Parish replied with the following formal answers:

Examiner:

“Policy DEC3 is referring to community use facilities within the former Abbots Bromley School Site. Are the spaces referred to in the answer (The Anglesey etc) all within the school site and how can the examiner identify them?”

Abbots Bromley Parish Council:

“Just to clarify matters, The Anglesey and The Lowers are open green spaces that formed playing fields to the former Abbots Bromley School and are within the school site. The Anglesey field is located on the north side of the school and The Lowers to the south side. Both are traversed by public footpaths. Access to The Anglesey can be gained off Radmore Lane by the old tennis courts, and The Lowers from the public footpath off the west side of Lichfield Road opposite the Top Shop convenience store.

The Nuttery is sited on a separate parcel of land off School House Lane opposite the Richard Clarke First School. The Parish Council leases the land from the owners of the Abbots Bromley School and it is used as an infant's playground.”

Examiner:

“In relation to Para 1b of Policy DEC3 what are the community use facilities (as referred to in Para 1b)) within the former school site that must be retained or replaced?”

Abbots Bromley Parish Council:

“Community use facilities" was originally taken to include the school swimming pool and gym as well as the playing fields as the public were allowed access to these when the school was open. As recently as the Regulation 14 consultation, residents were still requesting that these facilities were retained for community use.

Subsequent discussions with ESBC have clarified that the pool and gym could not be considered "community use facilities" and indeed the developer of the AB school site has since indicated their intention to demolish both buildings.

The Parish Council would suggest an additional note being added to the Interpretation section of Policy DEC3 to make clear that "community use facilities" just relates to the playing fields."