



Rolvenden Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018

ROLVENDEN LOCAL GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT, 2018

**COMPILED BY:
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
AND ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

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Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	4
3. Local Green Spaces	5
Appendix 1 - Map of Local Green Spaces - Rolvenden	6
Appendix 2 - Map of Local Green Spaces - Rolvenden Layne	7

1. Introduction

One of the distinctive features of Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne identified in resident surveys undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Character Area Assessments is the importance of open spaces within the built-up areas of the villages.

Through neighbourhood plans, local communities are able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities are able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.

Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared and should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the Plan period.

The 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), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

There are only a limited number of Local Green Space sites. All are relatively small but, being within the built-up confines of Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne, all are in close proximity to the community they serve. They are important for a number of sometimes overlapping reasons which are outlined below:

Local Green Spaces of Historic Importance

The relationship of buildings and open spaces within Conservation Areas is important in creating their special character and in some cases in contributing to the setting of listed buildings.

Local Green Spaces Contributing to the character of an area

Open spaces can play an important role in creating the distinctive character of an area which is not designated as a heritage asset.

Local Green Spaces of Local Visual Amenity Value

A number of open spaces within the built-up confines provide important visual amenity.

Local Green Spaces of Recreational Value

Most open spaces act as informal recreational amenity space to the adjoining residential development. St Mary's Churchyard and Sparkeswood pond area provide more tranquil spaces.

Local Green Spaces of Wildlife Value

St Mary's Churchyard is a designated Local Wildlife Site. The pond at the entrance to Sparkeswood Avenue also has wildlife value.

A distinction has been made between open spaces within the village built-up confines of Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne and those located outside. Open space outside the village built-up confines (such as the sports grounds on Regent Street and the Recreation Ground at Rolvenden Layne) is defined as part of the countryside where the aim is already to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the countryside more generally. These public open spaces outside the village built-up confines are also important to leisure and wellbeing in the Parish and are consequently to be protected in the Neighbourhood Plan (Policy RNP10 - Recreation and Leisure Open Space). Thus, the focus of the Local Green Space Assessment is those open spaces within the built-up confines of the villages which contribute to local character and amenity.

2 Methodology

2.1 Public Engagement

A number of open spaces were identified during the course of public consultation at meetings held in the Village Hall, both during the early Rolvenden the Future exercise where they were asked to identify what was important to the parish and, subsequently, as part of the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan exercise.

2.2 Site visits

The Steering Committee undertook a number of field surveys to assess the open spaces put forward. Only open spaces within the village built-up confines were appraised. Site visits were conducted in groups, with one person taking notes and another taking any additional photographs needed.

2.3 Criteria used for Defining Local Green Spaces

All the Local Green Spaces had to be public spaces, i.e. either a Public Open Space or space to which the public has unfettered access (such as the Churchyard). Private spaces, to which the public had no access or access only under licence, were necessarily excluded. In addition the spaces had to be within the village built-up confines rather than being within open countryside

If the spaces met these initial criteria, they were carefully assessed for their contribution to one or more of the following purposes recorded as follows:

- a) contributes to the character of the Conservation Area
- b) contributes to the setting of a listed building
- c) contributes to a Character Area
- d) provides local visual amenity
- e) has a recreational value
- f) has wildlife value

3 Local Green Spaces

The table below summarises all open spaces classified as Local Green Spaces and the reasons they have been designated using the categories listed in the methodology such as a) important to the character of the Conservation Area.

The Appendices map the location of the Local Green Spaces within Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne.

LGS Ref No.	Open Space Description	Category
ROLVENDEN		
1	High Street, east side. Green Verge, containing Village Pump and Telephone box	a b d
2	High Street, east side. Wide green in front of Nos. 1-23 running north from c/o Maytham Rd	a b d
3	Maytham Road, north side. St Mary's Green running from c/o High St to Sparkeswood Avenue	a b d e
4	Sparkeswood Avenue, east and west. All green areas on both sides of road, including the Pond	c d e f
5	High Street, east side. Green outside Tanyard Flats	c d
6	Hastings Road, east side. Green around the War Memorial	a b d
7	Maytham Road / Sparkeswood, north east corner. Corner seating area adjacent Village Hall	a b d
8	St Mary's Churchyard	a b d e f
ROLVENDEN LAYNE		
9	Frogs Lane / Maytham Road junction, west side. Green area in front of Oakfield	a c d e
10	Frogs Lane / Maytham Road. Triangle of grass at road junction	a b d

Map of Local Green Spaces – Rolvenden Layne

