

Open Green Space Protection

Purpose of Briefing

To consider and suggest areas of Public Open Space within the parish for potential inclusion for protection under Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan

Further information

Current local Green Spaces in Arlesey in need of protection are: -

- 1 Marys Meadow
- 2 Etonbury Wood
- 3 Arlesey Recreation Ground
- 4 Woodland Chase
- 5 Green Lagoon
- 6 Blue Lagoon
- 7 Arlesey Glebe Meadows Nature Reserve
- 8 Arlesey Old Moat Reserve
- 9 Arlesey Meadows (including Mill Pits)
- 10 Arlesey Common.

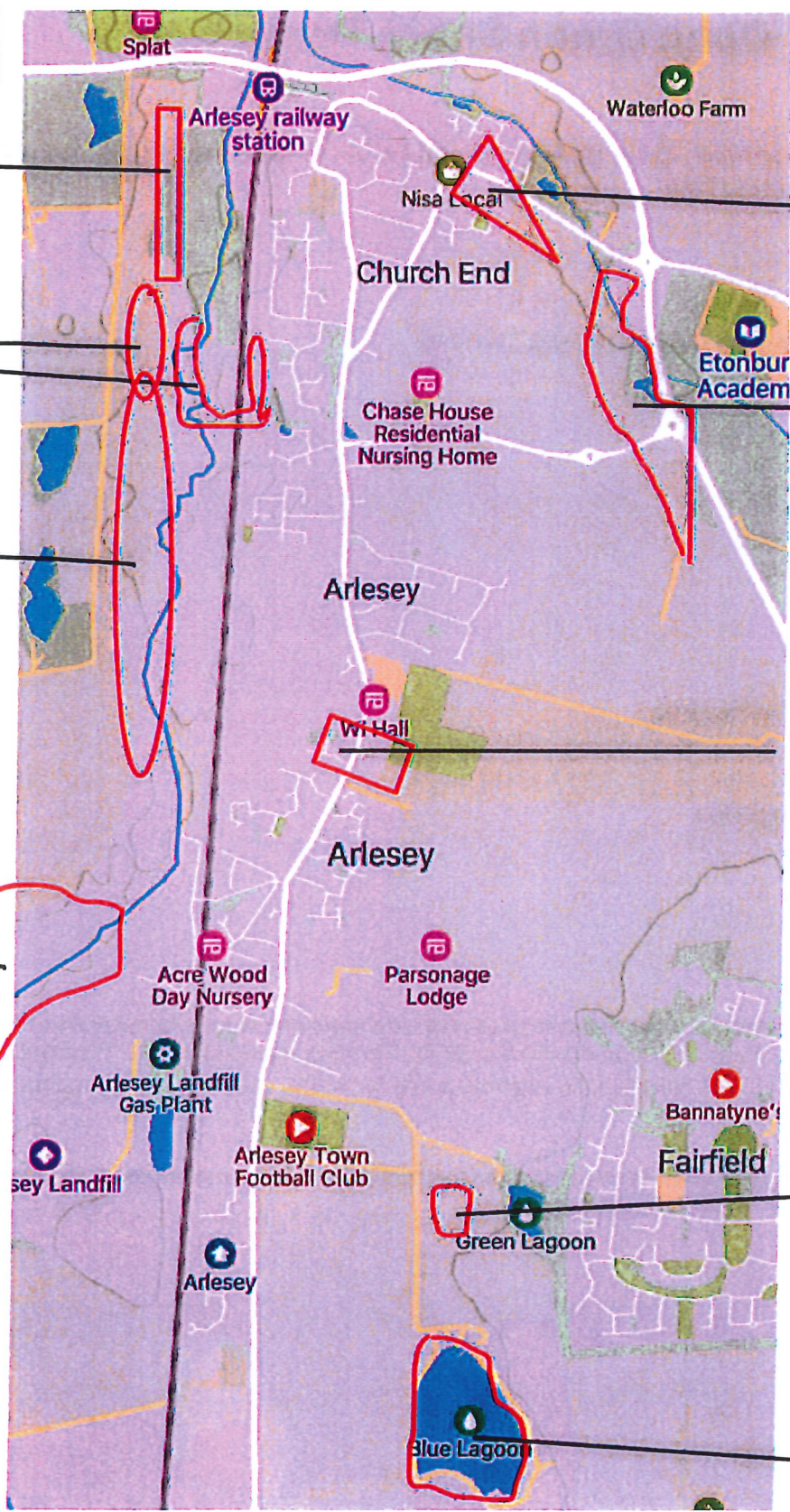
(See map)

Recommendation: Council to request protection of Recreation Ground, greenspace to the front of Community Centre and the entirety of Hillary Rise Allotment site including extended area not currently developed as allotments.

Briefing prepared by:

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11th September 2025



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NEW PLANS TO PROTECT OUR GREEN SPACES

After a reshuffle of committee members at CBC earlier in the year I now sit on the Sustainable Communities Committee again (I'm pleased to back on it) and next week's meeting we will have the opportunity to discuss a report from officers that advises how the new Local Plan will be designating Green Spaces and protecting green areas of particular importance.

CBC are launching a new plan to help us all protect valued green spaces.

All too often we find ourselves bemoaning the latest government scheme which threatens to concrete over our countryside. On this occasion, as councillors we are promoting a new way of protecting our valuable green space via a Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) plan.

There is national legislation which can be used to help communities protect valuable community green space. The government has told us that to be designated as 'Local Green Space', land needs to meet strict criteria set out in Paragraph 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [1]:

- The green space needs to be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- It should be demonstrably special to a local community and hold 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
- It is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Once land is formally designated as Local Green Space, it is afforded much the same protections as Green Belt and thus exceptional circumstances would apply before development is permitted [2].

It's not just about trying to protect against inappropriate development; it's also about providing the space for people to exercise, and relax; to allow wildlife to flourish and to guard against environmental damage and even flood risk.

It's well worth taking a look at your the Neighbourhood Plan(s) as well, as this may highlight local green spaces which already have such protection e.g.

Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan <https://www.fairfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/>
Arlesey Neighbourhood Plan <https://arlesey-tc.gov.uk/arlesey-town-council-neighbourhood-plan/>

