

Landscape and Outdoor Recreation Programme
3/B Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR



Telephone 020 7238 3000
Website www.defra.gov.uk

Date 25 July 2011

CONSULTATION: THE REGISTRATION OF NEW TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS

I am writing to invite views on proposals to reform the system for registering new town or village greens under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006.

The Government is seeking an improved balance between protecting high quality green space valued by local communities and enabling the right development to occur in the right place at the right time. It also seeks to reduce the burden on local authorities which are responsible for implementing it, and on landowners who are affected by applications. The case for change and proposals for achieving improvements to the current system are set out in the consultation document. The consultation is being launched on the same day as the Department for Communities and Local Government publishes for consultation a draft of the National Planning Policy Framework, which gives more details of the Government's commitment, announced in the [Natural Environment White Paper](#), to introduce a Local Green Spaces Designation through the planning system.

2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/open/

- Consultation document
- Impact assessment
- This consultation letter
- List of consultees

3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

Responses

4. Please send responses to either:

ELM/ASU
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
3/C Nobel House
17 Smith Square



LONDON
SW1P 3JR

Or email: commonsact.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

5. Responses should be received by 17 October 2011.

Consultation Criteria

6. This consultation is in line with the Code of Practice on Consultations. This can be found at www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/consultation-guidance.

7. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation. If you do not want your response — including your name, contact details and any other personal information — to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your IT system automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

8. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra
Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575

Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

9. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

10. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Hugh Craddock
head of commons and access implementation team