The following comments are being made in the event that there are objections to the proposed designation of Jubilee Field as a Local Green Space.

It is considered that the proposed designation of the Jubilee Field in Upper Boddington is sound as the objective assessment underpinning the proposal is based on the criteria set out in the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework.

The site has local significance & is demonstrably special to the local community. The site has effective status as public open space based on Change of Use from agricultural land to public use (applicant Boddington Parish Council) Permission was granted in August 2016 and it is therefore publicly available.

Local family events held on Jubilee Field since SNC’s Local Green Space Assessment in July 2018 include:

- Wednesday picnics throughout the summer holidays where as many as 30+ enjoyed the sunshine & children delighted in the water slide which the sloping land lends itself to so well.
- Friends Of Jubilee Field held a Halloween village treasure hunt beginning and ending on Jubilee Field with children running wild on the field on a pumpkin hunt. 50+ attended.
- On November 11th Jubilee Field will feature in the Nationwide Battles Over Event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. This is a Parish event with many village groups playing a part. Boddington Parish Council refused permission for a beacon of fire so the event will go ahead with a beacon of fairy lights. A bugler will sound the last post and the WI will be singing before the church bells ring out in celebration of peace.

The site is an Asset of Community Value.

In response to the PC giving notification to dispose of the site (under the requirements of the Asset of Community Value designation) Friends of Jubilee Field, Community Benefit Society, launched a share offer. Shares could be purchased from £500 - £13,000. The share offer reached its target of £75,000. An astonishing figure given the size of the Parish. This was raised entirely by residents and their families demonstrating a real commitment as parishioners are investing their own money to save this land. Given the level of support for this initiative the site is demonstrably special to the local community.

A bid of £75k was placed by Friends Of Jubilee Field to Boddington Parish Council to purchase the land for the benefit of the community. Sadly Parish Council turned down our offer stating they would not accept this offer from anyone. There is legislation in the ACV to enable PC’s to accept a lower figure if it is of value to the wellbeing of the community. However as Jubilee Field has been independently valued at £75,000 we believe our offer is fair.

Friends of Jubilee Field are currently in discussion with their shareholders regarding the possibility of placing a higher bid and are still hopeful Parish Council will open lines of communication to enable the community to purchase this treasured piece of land rather than sell to developers or put a solar panel farm on the site which has been suggested by PC in their September 2018 minutes.

Jubilee Field continues to be well used by the local population including children, families & dog walkers. It is a popular meeting place for people of all ages. Importantly it continues to be used by Boddington Primary Academy who have regular sessions on the field for their Forest School. Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem. There is an increasing body of research that says that children and young people are stimulated by the outdoors and typically experience, over time, an increase in their self-belief, confidence, learning capacity, enthusiasm, communication and problem-solving skills and emotional well-being.

In recent months since the previous consultation Fields in Trust and My Locality, along with national newspapers, have run campaigns drawing attention to the benefits of open green spaces to communities for both adult and children’s wellbeing. These campaigns have particularly raised the issues of Parish Council’s and District Councils selling off their parks and green spaces to the detriment of their communities and how short sighted this is. Fields in Trust particularly suggest that this costs the NHS increasingly with mental health issues on the rise. The Banbury Guardian
wrote an article raising this issue and relating it to Jubilee Field. More recently the Loneliness initiative has been launched by Theresa May.

The Parish Plan showed that more people use Jubilee Field more than once a week than both the Village Hall and Charles Cowper Playing Field. It is considered that Jubilee Field benefits the public through its multi-purpose recreational use and offers something different to that provided by the Charles Cowper Playing Field which is a flat sports field with a football pitch and rugby posts. In August 2018 a play park was installed on the CCPF which was partially funded with a £75k grant from HS2. This is the initial stage in the hope that a sports facility on the field can be created and there are plans for a Multi-Use Games Area to play sports such as 5 a side football/ touch rugby/hockey. The CCPF is a facility that focuses on sports & fitness, offering structured activities for children and adults. The Jubilee Field is about wildlife, a natural environment for learning and creative imaginative play, a tranquil beautiful space to spend time, enhancing the wellbeing of our community. Both are assets for our community. However as stated in the Change of Use document in 2016 access to the CCPF is more difficult as it outside the village confines, to the west of the village, accessed via a busy main road with no footpath in parts and is therefore less accessible for many residents particularly the elderly, those with younger children and without access to a car. Unlike the Jubilee Field it has no historic significance, limited wildlife or biodiversity value, is less tranquil and is far less beautiful.

Fundamentally the Jubilee Field brings very different important qualities to the community. 115 individuals have written to SNC to propose Jubilee Field is designated an LGS and 146 parishioners chose this option on the Parish Plan demonstrating the communities support. Far more than the few houses surrounding the field as suggested by the Parish Council. Given the level of support for the continued use of this site as LGS it can reasonably be concluded that its designation could endure beyond the plan period.

Since the site was purchased in 2012 over 70 volunteers have transformed the overgrown field and this work is on-going. The Parish Council have previously allocated funds for improvements and used grants from the New Homes Bonus Fund, the local Turbine Fund and supported grant applications made by the volunteer group maintaining the field. These have funded the car park, picnic tables and benches etc. Parish Council approved memorial trees & plaques and planted Elm trees in a 10 year study. Parish council disbanded the volunteer group in 2017. Despite this the group continues to maintain the field and holds monthly working parties where volunteers help.

Pre 2016 it is minuted on several occasions that Boddington Parish Council wished to save the field as an open green space and did not want to see the site developed. Indeed the minutes of July 2014 show the council unanimously agreed that Jubilee Field should be designated a Local Green Space. However since many new councillors joined Parish Council in 2016 they have different plans for the site and claim it was purchased in 2012 to control development not to save it as a green space. It is surprising that the Parish Council having stated their aim is to develop the site since there have been no planning or pre planning applications since it’s purchase in 2012.

During SNC’s Local Plan Part 2 consultation in July 2018 Boddington Parish Council sent letters to all households in the Parish urging them not to support designation of Jubilee Field as an LGS, asking those that already had to change their minds. Included was a pre written objection letter that parishioners could simply sign.

Planning permission has been refused several times since 1978, the most recent in 2010 and dismissed at appeal three times. Comments from the inspectors at appeal include:

• *Would not be sufficient to outweigh the harm the proposal would cause to the character and appearance of the area.*
• *Although a relatively modest number of dwellings are proposed the development would nonetheless erode the open verdant character of this open space.*
• *Consequently the proposal would fundamentally and detrimentally change the character of the area.*
Sue Jobbins (The independent advisor BPC used for the Parish Plan) said in her results summary. “As far as potential sites for housing was concerned, the most preferred sites were Highlands Farm, Stoneleigh Farm in Upper Boddington and the Old Farm House in Lower Boddington. It is worth noting that these three, together with the Land off Welsh Lane all have more overall positive support, and less negative views than Jubilee Field. Therefore, if only siting of housing was concerned (and not the parish council ownership of Jubilee Field which impacts on funding or controlling the type/amount of housing that could be built), then more favourable sites exist which could better take into account parishioners' views as a whole.”

South Northants Council has met the strategic housing need for the rural areas. Any further development will only be permitted that meets an identified local housing need. Other sites have been promoted within Boddington Parish that could be considered were a housing need established. The designation of Jubilee Field as an LGS would not prevent any further development within the Parish.

The site is a locally distinctive visually attractive area that contributes positively to the local landscape. There is no other site within the Parish where you can picnic, hold events, enjoy a drink or let the kids run wild, in safe natural surroundings with such beautiful views as from Jubilee Field.

Friends Of Jubilee Field fully support SNC’s designation of Jubilee Field Upper Boddington as an LGS. We feel the Parish should be able to continue to have a wonderful green space in the heart of the community, a site of beauty and tranquility with flowers and wildlife, a space to contemplate and get away from it all, a place to play and discover where we can come together as a community.

It is important to consider the previous document (No. 272) submitted by Friends Of Jubilee Field CBS for the July 2018 consultation as it addresses many of the concerns raised by the Boddington Parish Council document (No. 010) also submitted in that consultation.

Kind Regards.
Friends Of Jubilee Field

Friends of Jubilee Field is a Community Benefit Society, registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) 7669 and a member of Co-operatives UK (M045664) HMRC Charities reference EW89951