

# Position Statement on the Green Belt

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Adopted: 20th April 2022**

# Position Statement the Cambridge Green Belt

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Great Shelford Parish Council (GSPC) considers it appropriate to capture its position on the Green Belt to assist those interested in, or dealing with, the village of Great Shelford, especially from a planning and development perspective.
- 1.2 GSPC understand that the Government sees the Green Belt has five purposes:
  - To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
  - To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
  - To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
  - To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
  - To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.
- 1.3 The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, states that the Cambridge Green Belt is there to:
  - Preserve the unique character of Cambridge as a compact, dynamic city with a thriving historic centre;
  - Maintain and enhance the quality of its setting; and
  - Prevent communities in the environs of Cambridge from merging into one another and with the city.

## 2. The Village of Great Shelford

- 2.1 Great Shelford is a village situated in the Green Belt, south east of Cambridge city, linked to it only by a few houses in Trumpington. The village is full of history and character of which some areas are listed below:
  - a large portion of the village is designated as a Conservation area (see appendix 1 taken from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018);
  - [Nine Wells nature reserve](#) is historically important with several chalk springs forming a source of the Hobson Conduit;
  - The Clay Pit belonging to GSPC is a small pocket woodland full of wildlife;
  - Important views over the Gog Magog Hills and the Magog Down situated in the parish of Stapleford;
  - 34 listed buildings and/or monuments in the parish, mainly situated in the Conservation area

## 3. The Village Community

- 3.1 GSPC recognises that many residents have elected to live in the village due to factors including:
  - Village lifestyle, located within the Green Belt;
  - Proximity to amenities above;

- Valued and historic interdependence of city and rural cultures;
- Largely uninterrupted views of the Magog Downs;
- Green space and countryside including fields and farmland;
- Proximity to Cambridge city;
- Respite from the increasing high density and encroachment of Cambridge development; and
- Separate identity to neighbouring villages and communities.

#### 4. Great Shelford Parish Council's Position

- 4.1 Significant development on the fringes, especially to the south of Cambridge looks to impede some of the above which we enjoy. Development of this kind will create a link to other settlements which is something residents are keen to avoid in order to preserve its separate identity.
- 4.2 When considering applications, the parish council is unlikely to support development unless the development demonstrates appropriateness, is in keeping and enhances amenities in the village.
- 4.3 GSPC see development in the Green Belt as a last resort option.
- 4.4 GSPC understand that any potential development in the Green Belt will increase traffic in our village.

#### 5. Planning Applications

- 5.1 GSPC when considering planning applications is obliged to take into account Government policy, legislation and case law. In terms of protecting the Green Belt these specifically include the following excerpts from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), revised July 2021:

Paragraph 145 *"Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land."*

Paragraph 147 *"Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances."*

#### 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Great Shelford Parish Council will strive to preserve the Green Belt for the pleasure and benefit of all its current residents and as custodian for future residents.
- 6.2 GSPC will consider afresh any planning applications and the above includes factors which will be taken into account in the objective consideration of all applications and their merits.

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