

The Trustees  
Gerrards Cross Community Assoc.  
Group  
8 East Common  
Gerrards Cross  
SL9 7AD

Norman Holmes  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering  
  
c/o Town Council, South Lodge  
East Common, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7AD

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Trustees,

I would like to explain the lack of communication expected by yourselves in response to your letter of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to the Town Council. You sought information regarding assets owned by Gerrards Cross Community Association (GXCA) being included in the draft Gerrards Cross Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan).

You may be aware that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is made up of local volunteers but advised by an independent specialist and the Plan is bound by a series of specific regulations. To have responded to comments from all respondents to the recent Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 community feedback event, would have been totally impractical but we are aware that GXCA is special to the Gerrards Cross community. For your information, Regulation 14 is the requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan draft to be presented to residents and businesses for comment.

I wish to apologise for the fact that GXCA did not receive advice that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had included assets in the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and this was an oversight on our part.

However, the omission of informing you of the inclusion of all the green space areas noted in the Neighbourhood Plan, does not affect their inclusion in it. The highlighting of all the areas stated are of community value and part of the regulations state that any area sought to be included in the Plan must be “demonstrably special to the local community” and all the areas you note in your letter are of community value.

GXCA has had an opportunity to respond and to make a representation at the Regulation 14 stage and you will have yet another opportunity at Regulation 16 (the point at which Buckinghamshire County Council, independently, will again seek comments on the draft plan).

For clarity, the Plan has identified historic heritage assets “of particular community value” and two of these are: The Memorial Building and the Memorial Centre.

The Neighbourhood Plan process commenced in 2017 and there have been many opportunities for individuals and organisations to become involved, question or comment and we have always welcomed this. I trust that you will have viewed our website which contains all actions since the commencement. Here is the link:

<https://gxplan.co.uk>

Again, for your information, following the Regulation 16 stage of the Plan, an independent examiner will be appointed who will have access to all aspects of the Plan and will then assess its suitability for presenting to all in Gerrards Cross in the form of a referendum. Once completed satisfactorily, the Plan becomes adopted and becomes legally binding.

I hope that this has indicated at least some of the procedures required in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours faithfully

Norman Holmes

## Gerrards Cross Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group