

Response to Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

Riseholme Parish Council

Matter 15

Issue 15a – Green Wedges – Policy LP22

Q7. What is the justification for including land at the University of Lincoln's Riseholme Campus within a Green Wedge? Is this necessary or appropriate given the existing use of the site and existing designations?

Reply

RPC are aware that the Green Wedge has been a longstanding policy which has been in place and valued by the communities of Lincoln. The purpose of the Green Wedge is to maintain the distinction between the City of Lincoln and the countryside, in particular the "Cliff Villages" to the north of the City of Lincoln. It is not only valued by Riseholme but by the Cliff Villages and the community at large. In view of its close proximity to urban communities this Green Wedge plays an important role in their access and direct link to the open countryside.

As Riseholme is the immediate neighbouring parish to the more urban area of Lincoln, the Green Wedge is ideally located within this parish, as this separation buffer. All the considerations within LP22 are entirely applicable to Riseholme.

Therefore RPC submit that the designation of the area as Green Wedge is entirely justified.

As regards maintaining the Green Wedge for the future, its continued need is evidenced by the overt purpose of the University, which is confirmed by their subsequent planning application, to put wholesale residential development on Riseholme Campus.

This approach would create the "urban sprawl" which the Green Wedge seeks to alleviate.

RPC fully accepts that this process should not consider any particular planning application. However, RPC do think it pertinent to bring to the attention of the Inspector that many consultee responses to the housing planning application cite the importance of, and protection afforded by the Green Wedge as vital to the enjoyment of the wider area. Therefore, the Green Wedge should remain in place. This includes responses from Lincoln City Council who oppose the application and value the green space afforded to those who live in an urban setting.

The University have put forward a proposition to reduce the impact of the Green Wedge (see para 3.20 of their response dated May2016) by curtailing its size. They would be removing from the Green Wedge the Historic Park and Garden Area which is arguably the most valued and visited.

Therefore, RPC do not see how either removal of the designation or reduction in size of the Green Wedge would benefit the wider community of Lincoln and

provide the enhanced amenities and facilities for all to enjoy as well as maintaining the distinctive nature of communities.