

**Craig Solly**

**Matter Statement 15 – Green Infrastructure and Open Space (Policies SP22-SP24,  
SP29-SP32 and GI04-GI07)**

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***Issue 1 – Landscape Character – Policies SP22-SP23***

*Q1. What is the justification for the green wedges referred to in Policy SP22?*

**Response:**

This is to be supported, it is important to mark out areas of importance in the character of Thanet (given the small area of district), separation of the towns is important as this provides area distinctiveness. However this does seem to be based on perpetual protections but does not set out new areas in the local plan. Separation between various towns and Westwood appears not to have been done and the area will sprawl if not controlled. Similarly to areas in North Thanet.

*Q3. Are the green wedges justified, effective and consistent with national policy? Are there any significant factors that indicate that sites should not have been designated?*

**Response:** Paragraph 17 of the NPPF states:

- take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it

Also Paragraph 114 states:

Local planning authorities should:

set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure

The green wedges are enjoyed by the people in Thanet and offers character in its own right as well as offering the separation of the various towns and villages which in turn offers distinctiveness.

*Q4. Is the approach in Policy SP22 to “protect areas of open countryside” consistent with national planning policy in the Framework?*

**Response:**

Paragraph 73 of the NPPF states: Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Open Spaces due to the coastal towns that Thanet enjoys are an important feature of this area. The open landscapes in my view offer many benefits that provides well-being.

***Issue 3 – Protection of Open Space and Playing Fields – Policy SP29 and GI05***

Q1. Are policies SP29 and GI05 consistent with the criteria set out in paragraph 74 of the Framework?

**Response:**

Thanet needs more sports facilities and playing fields and existing areas should be protected and enhanced if development is sought.