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**Media release**

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**New “Local Green Spaces” set to be added to Neighbourhood Plan**

**Four green spaces across Saddleworth are set to get added protection from development in the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan, following consultation with residents.**

The four locations – at Ashfield in Springhead, Dawson’s Field in Scouthead, Diggle Fields (often known as Diggle Tip) and Church Fields in Dobcross were suggested by residents as part of the consultation as being worthy of additional protection.

If that plan is passed, the four locations will be allocated the development status “Local Green Space” – a relatively new category which gives the spaces similar protection to being in the green belt.

Parish Council Chairman Barbara Beeley said: “We listened to residents, who wanted more protection for green spaces in the Parish. These were the first four spaces that we have identified which we think qualify for this extra protection, and despite the Neighbouhood Plan being close to completion, we agreed with residents that adding these sites to it was an important change to make.”

Three of the four locations were not previously green belt, and so will get completely fresh protections. The fourth – Dawson’s Field – is in the green belt, but due to its extensive community use means that it will be given extra protection.

Barbara added: “These were not the only sites under consideration, but with limited time before the Neighbourhood Plan was put forward, we made sure that we aimed to get these through. If people want to suggest other locations which are worthy of protection, they should get in touch with the Parish Council. We can nominate more sites when the local plan for the whole of Oldham is produced, and are already investigating two other locations. We’re here to make sure Saddleworth continues to be the thriving and beautiful place that it is.”

**ENDS …**