

4. Town Park: Policy 4.10D d)

The site, which comprises an area of ~0.13 ha, is located at grid reference SU 28660 95626; X = 428660; Y = 195626; Latitude = 51.658694, Longitude = -1.5870824. Its boundary, shown in Figure ToP1, is defined by a stone wall, fencing and the adjacent library building.

The site is owned by Oxfordshire County Council (the Licensor) and has been licensed to Faringdon Town Council (the Licensee) since 4th September 1987 for use as town park and amenity area only, Document ToP1. The area marked in blue was subsequently transferred back to the Licensor and transferred to Vale of White Horse for use a public car park, Document ToP2. The terms of the licence on the remaining land allow either party to cancel the agreement given six months notice.

The site is adjacent to the Faringdon Public Library and to the Junior School, with woodland, part of Faringdon House Estate, to the northern aspect. As such it provides a tranquil area close to the town centre. It has recently been planted with fruit trees as part of the Faringdon Free Food initiative and is equipped with benches for sitting.

It came under threat in 2011, when the District Council were intending to take part of the park to improve access to a proposed supermarket development although it was not in their ownership.

The justification is:

The park is long established as a public recreation space, providing a tranquil area close to the town centre.

NPPF Criteria

The designation should only be used:

Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

Town Park is immediately adjacent to the community it serves, see Neighbourhood Plan Figure 12.

Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife;

Town Park is open to the public and has been used as tranquil area for 27 years. It is now planted as an orchard as part of the Faringdon Free Food initiative. In term time it is used by families waiting for children to leave the Junior School.

Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The area of the park is ~0.13 ha, so it is not an extensive tract of land. It is local in character being on the northern edge of the development, within the conservation area and about two hundred metres from the town centre.

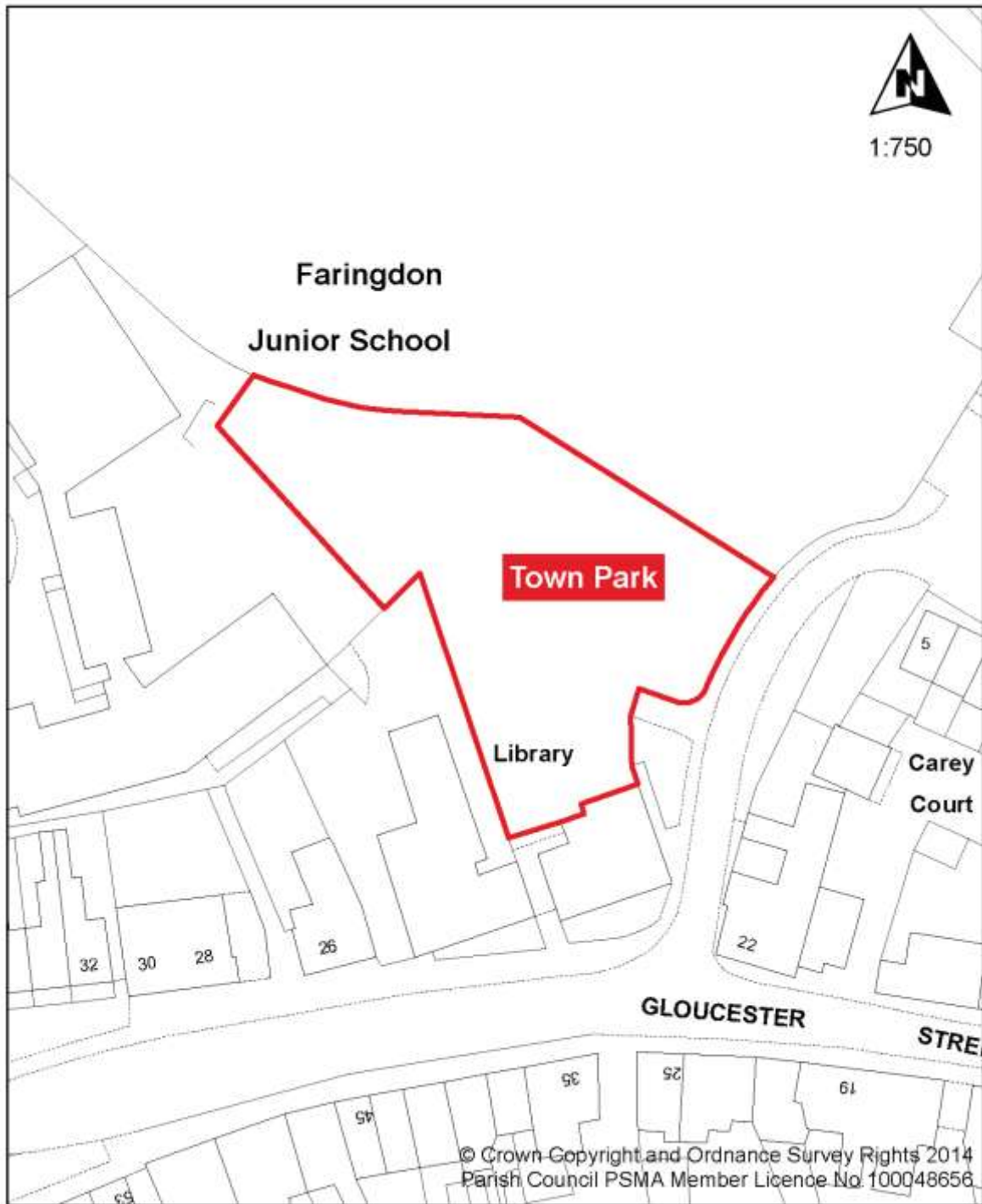


Figure ToP1: Showing the boundary of Town Park.