

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Comments Request – 5 September

Leicestershire County Council is supportive of the Neighbourhood plan process and welcome being included in this consultation.

Highways

Specific Comments

P11 Policy S2: Public Rights Of Way Network (SaS)

Development should protect and enhance the existing Public Rights of Way within Sheepy Parish (as shown on the Policies Map) and wherever possible create new links to the network including footpaths and cycle ways.

P37 Policy S13: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home

The construction of a footpath/cycle path from the site to the south side of Bosworth Road to the point where there is a footpath on the north side of Bosworth Road. The parish must be fully aware of the costs associated with provision of new footpaths/ cycle ways as this would need to be fully funded by a third party and not Leicestershire County Council.

P41 Traffic and Parking (T&S) 6.8 On street parking - A detailed understanding of parking problems is required to initiate discussions regarding these concerns.

Policy S15: Car Parking and New Housing Development (HDM) - At least two off street car parking spaces shall be provided for each new dwelling. At least three such spaces should be provided for four bedroom or larger dwellings.

General Comments

The County Council recognises that residents may have concerns about traffic conditions in their local area, which they feel may be exacerbated by increased traffic due to population, economic and development growth.

Like very many local authorities, the County Council's budgets are under severe pressure. It must therefore prioritise where it focuses its reducing resources and increasingly limited funds. In practice, this means that the County Highway Authority (CHA), in general, prioritises its resources on measures that deliver the greatest benefit to Leicestershire's residents, businesses and road users in terms of road safety, network management and maintenance. Given this, it is likely that highway measures associated with any new development would need to be **fully** funded from third party funding, such as via Section 278 or 106 (S106) developer contributions. I should emphasise that the CHA is generally no longer in a position to accept any financial risk relating to/make good any possible shortfall in developer funding.

To be eligible for S106 contributions proposals must fulfil various legal criteria. Measures must also directly mitigate the impact of the development e.g. they should ensure that the development does not make the existing highway conditions any worse if considered to have a severe residual impact. They cannot unfortunately be sought to address existing problems.

Where potential S106 measures would require future maintenance, which would be paid for from the County Council's funds, the measures would also need to be assessed against the County Council's other priorities and as such may not be maintained by the County Council or will require maintenance funding to be provided as a commuted sum.

With regard to public transport, securing S106 contributions for public transport services will normally focus on larger developments, where there is a more realistic prospect of services being commercially viable once the contributions have stopped i.e. they would be able to operate without being supported from public funding.

The current financial climate means that the CHA has extremely limited funding available to undertake minor highway improvements. Where there may be the prospect of third party funding to deliver a scheme, the County Council will still normally expect the scheme to comply with prevailing relevant national and local policies and guidance, both in terms of its justification and its design; the Council will also expect future maintenance costs to be covered by the third party funding. Where any measures are proposed that would affect speed limits, on-street parking restrictions or other Traffic Regulation Orders (be that to address existing problems or in connection with a development proposal), their implementation would be subject to available resources, the availability of full funding and the satisfactory completion of all necessary Statutory Procedures.

Flood Risk Management Specific Comments

- **Sustainable Development** - The LLFA approves of sustainable development. The LLFA would like to take the opportunity to **welcome the inclusion of environmental considerations in relation to sustainable development on 1.25.**
- **SuDS** - Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be prioritised as a surface water management technique on all major developments, under planning legislation the application is considered to be a major development. As such **the LLFA welcomes the inclusion of SuDS in sections 2.36, 2.37 and 2.38** in the draft document. The LLFA **welcomes reference to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 at 2.38**, and encourages SuDS usage within major development where appropriate. With regard to new developments and surface water drainage, the LLFA refers to the Building Regulations - Approved

Document H (Drainage and Waste Disposal) (2015), requiring the destination for surface water runoff to accord with highest attainable destination. The **LLFA welcomes the inclusion of the National Planning Policy Framework on 2.35 (Page 20)** and encourages the direction of developments away from areas of increased flood risk. The LLFA requires development to not increase flood risk off site.

- **Policy S6** - The LLFA welcome the inclusion of the requirement that development takes full account of flood risk from all sources, utilising Sustainable Drainage Systems manage surface water on site and to minimise flood risk off site. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework point 165, the LLFA would like to restate that “major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate”.
- **Flooding** - The LLFA would like to take this opportunity to **welcome the inclusion of “minimising flood risk” into key issues on 1.27, along with welcoming the inclusion of “New developments will take full account of flood risk” onto page 9 – Sheepy Parish in 2036.** The LLFA are aware of fluvial flood risk from the River Saint and the River Sence within the Sheepy CP boundary. The LLFA holds the following incident reports occurring in Sheepy CP on its records:
 1. The LLFA Holds one record of highway and property flooding on Main Street, Sheepy Magna (2012) attributed to silted watercourses and blocked culverts.
 2. The LLFA holds one record of Highway flooding on Twycross Road, Sibson (2012) attributed to a blocked nearby ditch.

The LLFA’s flooding records are maintained and updated based on flooding incidents reported to the authority by a range of stakeholders. The above may not be an exhaustive list of flooding incidents in the area. Local and parish councils may hold further information in relation to the flooding history of the area. Flood risk mapping is readily available for public use at the links below. The LLFA also holds information relating to historic flooding within Leicestershire that can be used to inform development proposals.

Risk of flooding from surface water map: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map>

Flood map for planning (rivers and sea): <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>

Housing and Policy S10 - With regard to housing and developments, the LLFA would like to reiterate that it requires, where appropriate, for major developments to pay due consideration to flood risk from all sources. **Policy S10: Housing Development** - The LLFA refers to current guidance and standards for development which requires surface water runoff from previously developed sites to be as close as reasonably practicable to Greenfield rates (non-statutory technical standards). Understanding of surface water flood risk and management has developed over a number of years as such the current guidance looks to reduce the discharge from brownfield development sites back to the equivalent un-developed rate. Whilst this is not done to specifically fix any flooding issues, it is intended to reduce existing risk through better management of surface water from these developments. This progressive approach as each brownfield site is re-developed has the potential to reduce the overall flood risk.

General Comments

The County Council are fully aware of flooding that has occurred within Leicestershire and its impact on residential properties resulting in concerns relating to new developments. LCC in our role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) undertake investigations into flooding, review consent applications to undertake works on ordinary watercourses and carry out enforcement where lack of maintenance or unconsented works has resulted in a flood risk. In April 2015 the LLFA also became a statutory consultee on major planning applications in relation to surface water drainage and have a duty to review planning applications to ensure that the onsite drainage systems are designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The LLFA also ensures that flood risk to the site is accounted for when designing a drainage solution.

The LLFA is not able to:

- Prevent development where development sites are at low risk of flooding or can demonstrate appropriate flood risk mitigation.
- Use existing flood risk to adjacent land to prevent development.
- Require development to resolve existing flood risk.

When considering flood risk within the development of a neighbourhood plan, the LLFA would recommend consideration of the following points:

- Locating development outside of river (fluvial) flood risk (Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)).
- Locating development outside of surface water (pluvial) flood risk (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map).
- Locating development outside of any groundwater flood risk by considering any local knowledge of groundwater flooding.
- How potential SuDS features may be incorporated into the development to enhance the local amenity, water quality and biodiversity of the site as well as manage surface water runoff.
- Watercourses and land drainage should be protected within new developments to prevent an increase in flood risk.

All development will be required to restrict the discharge and retain surface water on site in line with current government policies. This should be undertaken through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Appropriate space allocation for SuDS features should be included within development sites when considering the housing density to ensure that the potential site will not limit the ability for good SuDS design to be carried out. Consideration should also be given to blue green corridors and how they could be used to improve the bio-diversity and amenity of new developments, including benefits to surrounding areas.

Often ordinary watercourses and land drainage features (including streams, culverts and ditches) form part of development sites. The LLFA recommend that existing watercourses and land drainage (including watercourses that form the site boundary) are retained as open features along their original flow path, and are retained in public open space to ensure that access for maintenance can be achieved. This should also be considered when looking at housing densities within the plan to ensure that these features can be retained.

LCC, in its role as LLFA will not support proposals contrary to LCC policies.

For further information it is suggested reference is made to the [National Planning Policy Framework \(March 2012\)](#), [Sustainable drainage systems: Written statement - HCWS161 \(December 2014\)](#) and the [Planning Practice Guidance webpage](#).

Flood risk mapping is readily available for public use at the links below. The LLFA also holds information relating to historic flooding within Leicestershire that can be used to inform development proposals.

Planning

Developer Contributions

If there is no specific policy on Section 106 developer contributions/planning obligations within the draft Neighbourhood Plan, it would be prudent to consider the inclusion of a developer contributions/planning obligations policy, along similar lines to those shown for example in the Draft North Kilworth NP and the draft Great Glen NP albeit adapted to the circumstances of your community. This would in general be consistent with the relevant District Council's local plan or its policy on planning obligations in order to mitigate the impacts of new development and enable appropriate local infrastructure and service provision in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations, where applicable.

www.northkilworth.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/nk-draft-low-resolution-1.pdf

http://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/file/3599/great_glen_referendum_version_2pdf

Mineral & Waste Planning

The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority; this means the council prepares the planning policy for minerals and waste development and also makes decisions on mineral and waste development.

Although neighbourhood plans cannot include policies that cover minerals and waste development, it may be the case that your neighbourhood contains an existing or planned minerals or waste site. The County Council can provide information on these operations or any future development planned for your neighbourhood.

You should also be aware of Mineral Consultation Areas, contained within the adopted Minerals Local Plan and Mineral and Waste Safeguarding proposed in the new [Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Plan](#). These proposed safeguarding areas and existing Mineral Consultation Areas are there to ensure that non-waste and non-minerals development takes place in a way that does not negatively affect mineral resources or waste operations. The County Council can provide guidance on this if your neighbourhood plan is allocating development in these areas or if any proposed neighbourhood plan policies may impact on minerals and waste provision.

Education

Whereby housing allocations or preferred housing developments form part of a Neighbourhood Plan the Local Authority will look to the availability of school places within a two mile (primary) and three mile (secondary) distance from the development. If there are not sufficient places then a claim for Section 106 funding will be requested to provide those places.

It is recognised that it may not always be possible or appropriate to extend a local school to meet the needs of a development, or the size of a development would yield a new school. However, in the changing educational landscape, the Council retains a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available in good schools within its area, for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one.

Property

Strategic Property Services

No comment at this time.

Adult Social Care

It is suggested that reference is made to recognising a significant growth in the older population and that development seeks to include bungalows etc of differing tenures to accommodate the increase. This would be in line with the draft Adult Social Care Accommodation Strategy for older people which promotes that people should plan ahead for their later life, including considering downsizing, but recognising that people's choices are often limited by the lack of suitable local options.

Environment

With regard to the environment and in line with the Governments advice, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) would like to see Neighbourhood Plans cover all aspects of the natural environment including climate change, the landscape, biodiversity, ecosystems, green infrastructure as well as soils, brownfield sites and agricultural land.

Climate Change

The County Council through its Environment Strategy and Carbon Reduction Strategy is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Leicestershire and increasing Leicestershire's resilience to the predicted changes in climate. Neighbourhood Plans should in as far as possible seek to contribute to and support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the county's resilience to climate change.

Landscape

The County Council would like to see the inclusion of a local landscape assessment taking into account Natural England's Landscape character areas; LCC's Landscape and Woodland Strategy and the Local District/Borough Council landscape character assessments. We would recommend that Neighbourhood Plans should also consider the street scene and public realm within their communities, further advice can be found in the latest 'Streets for All East Midlands ' Advisory Document (2006) published by English Heritage.

Biodiversity

The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their duties, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly outlines the importance of sustainable development alongside the core principle that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Neighbourhood Plans should therefore seek to work in partnership with other agencies to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local evidence and priorities. Each Neighbourhood Plan should consider the impact of potential development on enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity such as hedgerows and greenways.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) can provide a summary of wildlife information for your Neighbourhood Plan area. This will include a map showing nationally important sites (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest); locally designated Wildlife Sites; locations of badger setts, great crested newt breeding ponds and bat roosts; and a list of records of protected and priority Biodiversity Action Plan species. These are all a material consideration in the planning process. If there has been a recent Habitat Survey of your plan area, this will also be included. LRERC is unable to carry out habitat surveys on request from

a Parish Council, although it may be possible to add it into a future survey programme.

Contact: planningecology@leics.gov.uk, or phone 0116 305 4108

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities, (NPPF definition). As a network, GI includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, cemeteries/churchyards allotments and private gardens as well as streams, rivers, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and living walls.

The NPPF places the duty on local authorities to plan positively for a strategic network of GI which can deliver a range of planning policies including: building a strong, competitive economy; creating a sense of place and promote good design; promoting healthier communities by providing greater opportunities for recreation and mental and physical health benefits; meeting the challenges of climate change and flood risk; increasing biodiversity and conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Looking at the existing provision of GI networks within a community can influence the plan for creating & enhancing new networks and this assessment can then be used to inform CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) schedules, enabling communities to potentially benefit from this source of funding.

Neighbourhood Plan groups have the opportunity to plan GI networks at a local scale to maximise benefits for their community and in doing so they should ensure that their Neighbourhood Plan is reflective of the relevant Local Authority Green Infrastructure strategy. Through the Neighbourhood Plan and discussions with the Local Authority Planning teams and potential Developers communities are well placed to influence the delivery of local scale GI networks.

Brownfield, Soils and Agricultural Land

The NPPF encourages the effective use of brownfield land for development, provided that it is not of high environmental/ecological value. Neighbourhood planning groups should check with DEFRA if their neighbourhood planning area includes brownfield sites. Where information is lacking as to the ecological value of these sites then the Neighbourhood Plan could include policies that ensure such survey work should be carried out to assess the ecological value of a brownfield site before development decisions are taken.

Soils are an essential finite resource on which important ecosystem services such as food production, are dependent on. They therefore should be enhanced in value and protected from adverse effects of unacceptable levels of pollution. Within the governments "Safeguarding our Soils" strategy, DEFRA have produced a code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites which could be helpful to neighbourhood planning groups in preparing environmental policies.

Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council,
County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA

For further information visit:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm>

High quality agricultural soils should, where possible be protected from development and where a large area of agricultural land is identified for development then planning should consider using the poorer quality areas in preference to the higher quality areas. Neighbourhood planning groups should consider mapping agricultural land classification within their plan to enable informed decisions to be made in the future. Natural England can provide further information and Agricultural Land classification.

Impact of Development on Civic Amenity Infrastructure

Neighbourhood planning groups should remain mindful of the interaction between new development applications in a district area and the Leicestershire County Council. The County's Waste Management team considers proposed developments on a case by case basis and when it is identified that a proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the local civic amenity infrastructure then appropriate projects to increase the capacity to off-set the impact have to be initiated. Contributions to fund these projects are requested in accordance with Leicestershire's Planning Obligations Policy and the Community Infrastructure Legislation Regulations.

Communities

Communities

Consideration of community facilities is a positive facet of Neighbourhood Plans that reflects the importance of these facilities within communities and can proactively protect and develop facilities to meet the needs of people in local communities. Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity to;

1. Carry out and report on a review of community facilities, groups and allotments and their importance with your community.
2. Set out policies which seek to;
 - protect and retain these existing facilities,
 - support the independent development of new facilities, and,
 - identify and protect Assets of Community Value and provide support for any existing or future designations.
3. Identify and support potential community projects that could be progressed.

You are encouraged to consider and respond to all aspects community resources as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process. Further information, guidance and examples of policies and supporting information is available at www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/np/useful-information.

Economic Development

We would recommend including economic development aspirations with your Plan, outlining what the community currently values and whether they are open to new development of small businesses etc.

Superfast Broadband

High speed broadband is critical for businesses and for access to services, many of which are now online by default. Having a superfast broadband connection is no longer merely desirable, but is an essential requirement in ordinary daily life.

All new developments (including community facilities) should have access to superfast broadband (of at least 30Mbps) Developers should take active steps to incorporate superfast broadband at the pre-planning phase and should engage with telecoms providers to ensure superfast broadband is available as soon as build on the development is complete. Developers are only responsible for putting in place broadband infrastructure for developments of 30+ properties. Consideration for developers to make provision in all new houses regardless of the size of development should be considered.

Equalities

While we cannot comment in detail on plans, you may wish to ask stakeholders to bear the Council's Equality Strategy 2016-2020 in mind when taking your Neighbourhood Plan forward through the relevant procedures, particularly for engagement and consultation work. A copy of the strategy can be view at:

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/30/equality-strategy2016-2020.pdf

NIK GREEN (MRS)

Policy Officer | E: [REDACTED]

16 October 2018