

## Report for Markfield Parish Council on the responses received to the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Section 16 Consultation

1 It is good to see the level of supportive responses received.

2. When considering the Section 16 comments, it is useful to consider the very detailed report, which our consultant Colin Wilkinson prepared in response to comments received after the Section 14 consultation.

3 As well as referring to Colin's earlier response, in the light of more recent Section 16 consultation comments on housing matters, he has prepared the attached note. Given there are 5 developers looking at the possibility of developing land around Markfield village, there are understandable concerns within the parish council over whether the proposed housing numbers in the Markfield Parish NP are sufficiently evidenced to rebuff any other developer plans. Colin's additional and very clearly structured note shows that our plan to be more than sufficiently evidenced in this area.

4. In addition to the response Colin has prepared on housing, detailed responses are also needed on parts/or all of the following Section 16 submissions:

- Taylor Wimpey (see below)
- Charnwood Borough Council (see below)
- The National Forest Company (see below)
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (see attached paper prepared by Colin)

**Part of the Taylor Wimpey** Section 16 comments refers to the fact that the Markfield Parish NP didn't include either Field Head or Jacqueline Road within the designated plan area. They say that the plan is flawed as a result of this since "they (Field Head and Jacqueline Road) clearly form part of the urban area of Markfield".

### **NPSG response is as follows:**

*Parish councillors may remember between summer 2016 and Spring 2017 – prior to our Neighbourhood Plan boundary being designated – documented detailed discussions were held with Ratby, Groby and Newton Linford Parish Councils. These covered the following options:*

- *All 3 parishes co-ordinating the development of their respective neighbourhood plans*
- *The developed sections of those 3 parishes, which abut Markfield village being included within the Markfield Parish NP. This option would have brought Field Head and Jacqueline Road into the Markfield plan.*

*As well as email exchanges with clerks and councillors from those 3 parish councils, a meeting was held with the chair of Groby PC and his council's planning sub-committee. A meeting was also held with the chair and clerk of Ratby PC. Email exchanges also took place with planning officers at both HBBC and Charnwood BC councils to consider the practicalities of preparing a plan which spanned both parish and district boundaries.*

*For differing reasons none of the 3 neighbouring parish councils agreed to either of the above-mentioned options, so Markfield Parish NP boundary was designated as the parish boundary.*

*It should be noted that over 4 years on from those discussions taking place, neither Ratby nor Newtown Linford PC's have progressed down the NP route. However, in the past few months Groby PC have decided to prepare their own NP, with their parish boundary forming the designated area. The chair of the Groby NPSG has contacted the chair of the Markfield NPSG on a number of occasions for advice.*

**Charnwood Borough Council** provided a short response to the Section 16 consultation. It included reference to the Green Infrastructure shown on Map 3 extending into Charnwood District. They request that any green infrastructure shown over their district boundary be removed.

**NPSG response is as follows:**

*Markfield Parish lies within both Charnwood Forest and the National Forest and benefits from the extensive green infrastructure found across those areas. Map 3 was produced to try and show the parish within the wider GI context. Thus, the fact that GI is shown in several instances outside the designated boundary is irrelevant and does not in any way imply Markfield NP policies would apply outside of the plan area.*

**Part of the National Forest Company** provided a detailed and substantially supportive response. It did raise a question over how a new footpath/cycleway/bridleway between Groby and Markfield might be financed.

**NPSG response is as follows:**

*This proposal has for a long time featured in district council planning policy. It would require the construction of a long off-road route through open countryside and across various landownerships. Although the possibility of developer funding can't be ruled-out, it would at the most only cover short sections of any route close to Groby and Markfield. Although cycling on the footways alongside the A50 is possible it is far from pleasant and the route is often blocked by parked vehicles. With the A50 forming part of a strategic East Midland/West Midlands link, traffic along it is likely to increase further making a cycle journey alongside it even less pleasant. Sadly, the currently proposed A50 improvements appear geared exclusively towards; road traffic and overlook the needs of cyclists. Investment and planning by Leicestershire County Council and other highway authorities is needed to make this link happen.*

Tony Lockley (Chair Markfield NPSG) on behalf of the steering group

8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Attached: Housing report

Response to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council comments