

Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

September 2022

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Melton Local Plan (adopted October 2018) which covers the period 2011-36;
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Melton Local Plan (2011-36);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and
 - Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.
- 1.4 The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Asfordby Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

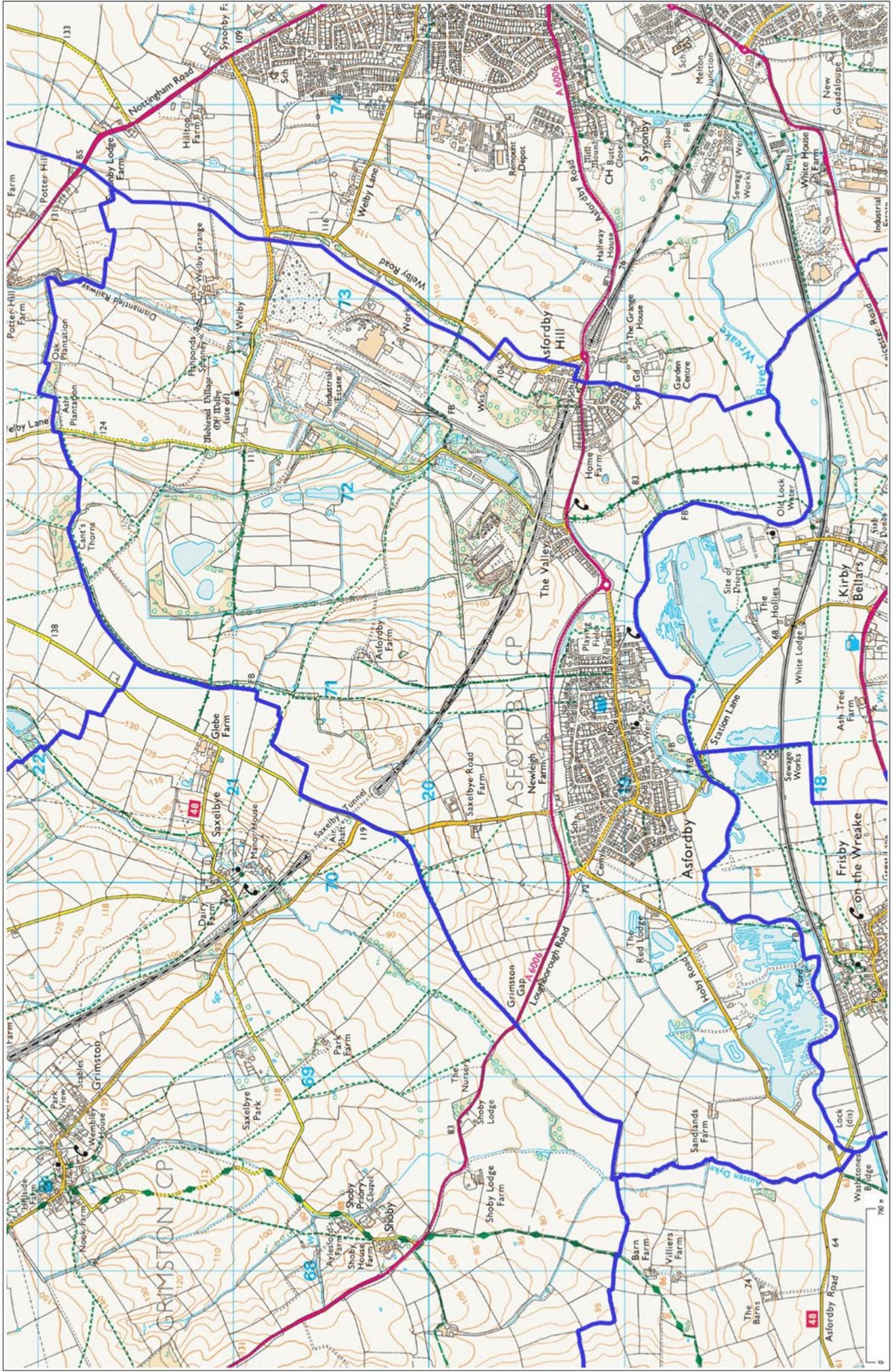
- 1.6 This Plan applies to the whole of the parish of Asfordby. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, Melton Borough Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Asfordby Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The statutory six week consultation period ran from 4 July 2012 to 15 August 2012. No representations were received on the application. Asfordby received its area designation on 30 January 2013.
- 1.7 The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Asfordby and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.
- 1.9 The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2011 to 2036 as does the Melton Local Plan which was adopted October 2018.
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Asfordby: Location

- 1.11 The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area contains three villages; Asfordby Village, Asfordby Valley and Asfordby Hill, which are situated to the north of the River Wreake near to the market town of Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. The parish is in Melton Borough and covers 1,066 hectares.
- 1.12 Most of the residents of the parish live in Asfordby Village which provides a good range of services and facilities. The small settlement of Asfordby Valley is to the east of the main village. Asfordby Hill, also a smaller settlement, is on the eastern part of the parish. Asfordby is a mainly rural parish, and although urban and industrial influences are rarely far away, there remain substantial areas of open, mainly arable farmland.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.13 The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Asfordby Parish Council, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement.



2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1 It is required that the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 20 July 2021 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning has three overarching objectives: economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Brownfield Land Registers
 - Historic Environment
 - Design: process and tools
 - Healthy and Safe Communities
 - Historic Environment
 - Housing Needs of Different Groups
 - Housing Needs of Older and Disable People
 - First Homes
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Damage

- Natural Environment
- Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space
- Planning Obligations
- Town Centres and Retail
- Viability
- Water supply, wastewater and water quality

2.6 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>A1: Areas of Separation – the Areas of Separation have been defined on the Policies Map.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 127 & 174</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>Allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy would prevent the coalescence of the settlements within Asfordby Parish and facilitate community identity as well as the ensuring that Asfordby Hill remains separate from the growing town of Melton Mowbray.</p>
<p>A2: Countryside - Protects the Countryside and development within this designation will be limited to that which requires a rural location. Development in the Countryside should be of an appropriate scale and compatible with its rural location.</p>	<p>Paragraph 174</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment including valued landscapes. In addition it allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>
<p>A3: River Wreake Strategic River Corridor - This policy seeks to protect and enhance this element of</p>	<p>Paragraphs 92, 98, 174 & 179</p>	<p>What can green infrastructure include? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 8-004-20190721)</p>	<p>Policy seeks to protect and enhance the multiple functions and benefits of this resource. It plans positively to retain a recreational facility and improve public</p>

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<p>green infrastructure and its role as a biodiversity and recreational resource.</p>		<p>Why is green infrastructure important? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 8-005-20190721)</p> <p>What planning goals can green infrastructure help to achieve ? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 8-006-20190721)</p> <p>How can a strategic approach be taken to green infrastructure? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 8-007-20190721)</p>	<p>access. It also seeks to protect and enhance an integral part of wider network of green infrastructure.</p>

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<p>A4: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within Asfordby Parish which will be protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 101-103</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Spaces meet the criteria set out in paragraph 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework as demonstrated by Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 1: Local Green Spaces: Summary of Reasons for Designation.</p>
<p>A5: Water Management - This policy seeks to ensure that all new development takes full account of flood risk from</p>	<p>Paragraphs 152, 167 & 169</p>	<p>What is "flood risk"? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20220825)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to take into account of, and manage, flood risk, as well as the sustainable management of water.</p>

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<p>a variety of sources. Development sites should be built to manage surface water sustainably, including the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems.</p>		<p>What are the main steps in assessing flood risk? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 7-003-20220825)</p> <p>How can neighbourhood planning take account of flood risk? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 7-015-20220825)</p> <p>What is a site-specific flood risk assessment? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 7-020-20220825)</p> <p>What are sustainable drainage systems and why are they important? (Paragraph: 055 Reference ID: 7-055-20220825)</p> <p>What sort of sustainable drainage systems can be considered? (Paragraph: 056 Reference ID: 7-056-20220825)</p> <p>How can sustainable drainage reduce the causes and impacts of flooding? (Paragraph: 063 Reference ID: 7-063-20220825)</p>	

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<p>A6: Water Quality and Resources -Seeks to prevent impacts on water quality. Where there is the potential to pollute groundwater, a groundwater risk assessment will be needed to support a planning application.</p>	<p>Paragraph 174</p>	<p>How can the planning system plan positively for water supply and quality? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 34-019-20140306)</p> <p>What are the water supply, wastewater and water quality concerns that plans need to address? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 34-002-20140306)</p> <p>Water quality (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 34-006-20161116)</p>	<p>Policy seeks to prevent new development from contributing to poor water quality as well as help improve water quality.</p>

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<p>A7: Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats, including several identified features. Other than minor development, new development will be expected to include measures to make biodiversity net gain. The priority for biodiversity enhancement is identified.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 174, 179 and 180</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>

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<p>A8: Non-Designated Heritage Assets - The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of Features of Local Heritage Assets.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 190, 194, 203</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723) What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>A9: Design - Seeks development, that is locally inspired, to reflect the distinctive character and characteristics of Asfordby. Development must also have regards to residential amenity, and provide a safe and suitable access with appropriate on-site</p>	<p>Paragraphs 110, 126, 127, 129, 130, 134, and 185</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play?</p>	<p>This policy seeks to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that</p>

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<p>provision for bins and recycling as well as vehicles and cycles.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>What are local design guides? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 26-005-20191001)</p>	<p>reflects the surrounding area and the character of Asfordby Parish.</p>
<p>A10: 'Windfall' development – Supports development within the settlement boundaries of the villages.</p> <p>Outside of the settlement boundaries, housing development will be limited, including First Homes Exception Sites, Rural Exception Housing, Rural Worker Accommodation, enabling development relating to heritage assets, re-use of redundant or disused buildings and the subdivision of existing dwellings.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 78, 79, 80, 119 & 120</p>	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to make the effective use of land whilst safeguarding the environment and takes a positive approach to the re-use of previously developed land and the re-use of redundant or disused buildings. Supports development that would enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>

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<p>A11: Whitlock Garages, Asfordby – identifies this brownfield site as an opportunity for development. Details the amount of housing, highway requirements, footpath/cycleway provision and replacement parking to mitigate the loss of garages. The layout of development should maintain views through to the church spire.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 79, 85, 119, 120 & 190</p>	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What is the setting of a heritage asset and how can it be taken into account? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 18a-013-20190723)</p>	<p>Policy seeks the effective use of brownfield land, with suitable parking and walking/cycling routes. It also seeks the protection of heritage assets.</p>
<p>A12: Asfordby Storage and Haulage Depot, Main Street, Asfordby - identifies this brownfield site as an opportunity for development. Details the amount of housing, maintain views through to the church spire, safeguards its potential for residential and seeks the incorporation of a number of live/work units.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 79, 84, 85, 119, 120 & 190</p>	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What is the setting of a heritage asset and how can it be taken into account?</p>	<p>Policy seeks the effective use of brownfield land, supports the rural economy and seeks the protection of heritage assets.</p>

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		(Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 18a-013-20190723)	

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<p>A13: Housing Mix - Seeks a mix of housing types responsive to local needs, informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence of housing need.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 62 & 78</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan seeks to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand.</p>
<p>A14: First Homes – On housing developments of</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 78</p>	<p>What is a First Home?</p>	<p>First Homes to be provided as part of the affordable housing provision in the district.</p>

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<p>ten dwellings of more, First Homes should account for at least 25% of the affordable homes provided.</p> <p>Allows for the development of First Homes Exception Sites where appropriate.</p> <p>When homes are allocated priority will be given to those with a local connection to Parish Council.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 70-001-20210524)</p> <p>What are the First Homes criteria? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 70-002-20210524)</p> <p>What appropriate methods can local authorities use to set out their local requirements for First Homes, including both local First Homes criteria and local First Homes eligibility criteria? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 70-009-20210524)</p> <p>How should developer contributions be secured for First Homes? (Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 70-012-20210524)</p> <p>How can the 25% First Homes requirement be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 70-013-20210524)</p>	<p>Allows for the development on exception sites of an appropriate scale to the settlement and the inclusion of a small proportion of market housing on viability grounds.</p>

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		<p>How can neighbourhood plans support the provision of affordable homes for sale, including First Homes? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 70-017-20210524)</p> <p>What is a First Homes exception site? (Paragraph: 024 Reference ID: 70-024-20210524)</p> <p>Where can First Home exception sites come forward? (Paragraph: 025 Reference ID: 70-025-20210524)</p> <p>What evidence can be used to in demonstrating that a proposed First Homes exception site is proportionate in size to the existing settlement? (Paragraph: 026 Reference ID: 70-026-20210524)</p> <p>What sort of evidence can be provided in order to justify the inclusion of a small proportion of market housing on First Homes exception sites? (Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 70-028-20210524)</p>	

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<p>A15: Affordable Housing – Allows for the development of Rural Exception Sites adjacent to the settlement boundaries of the villages.</p> <p>When homes are allocated priority will be given to those with a local connection to Parish Council.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 78</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What types of households are considered to be in affordable housing need? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 67-005-20190722)</p> <p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>
<p>A16: Bradgate Lane Shops - This policy supports the role of Bradgate as a Local Centre and the retention of its diversity of uses whilst ensuring Class E uses remain its dominant use.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 86 and 93</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p> <p>Planning for town centre vitality and viability (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 2b-001-20190722)</p>	<p>The policy supports sustainable economic development and the designation of Bradgate Lane as a Local Centre. It seeks an appropriate mix of main Local Centre Uses to support its vitality and viability.</p> <p>Supports the provision of local service that meet day to day needs, the role this has to play in supporting the local community as well as providing opportunities for social interaction.</p>

Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>What planning tools are available to local planning authorities to help them shape and support town centres? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 2b-002-20190722)</p> <p>When is planning permission not required for changes involving town centre uses? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 2b-007-20190722)</p> <p>What is the sequential test? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 2b-009-20190722)</p>	
<p>A17: Children's Play Areas - This policy seeks appropriate provision of areas of open space for young children as part of new housing developments. They should be designed so as to provide a safe and attractive environment.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 92, 93 & 98,</p>	<p>How should open space be taken into account in planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306)</p>	<p>This policy supports health and social wellbeing and to deliver community facilities to meet local needs. It recognises the importance of having access to open space as well as the opportunities for sport and recreation.</p>

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A18: Travel Packs - This policy encourages the use of sustainable transport through the provision of Travel Packs for the occupants of new residential development.	Paragraphs 104 & 105	N/A	The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan is keen to encourage the use of sustainable transport and seeks to facilitate a reduction of the emissions of greenhouse gases i.e. reduction in reliance on private cars and make the fullest possible use of public transport.

<p>A19: Infrastructure - Seeks new development to support the provision of new and/or improved infrastructure together with financial off-site contributions. Policy includes a list of identified infrastructure requirements. The viability of development will be taken into account.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 8, 28, 34, 92, 95 & 104</p>	<p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>What evidence is needed to support policies for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20190315)</p> <p>What funding is available for education? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 23b-007-20190315)</p> <p>What contributions are required towards education? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 23b-008-20190315)</p> <p>Are planning obligations negotiable? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 23b-010-20190315)</p> <p>How should plan makers set policy requirements for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 10-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should plan makers and site promoters ensure that policy requirements for</p>	<p>This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of highway infrastructure, and community and education facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan.</p>
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Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>contributions from development are deliverable? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 10-002-20190509)</p> <p>How should viability for education provision be addressed? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 10-029-20190509)</p>	
<p>A20: Asfordby Business Park and Old Dalby Test Track – recognises the importance of this employment site. New development should support and not undermine its predominant B Class use.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 81, 82 & 84</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, including the protection and expansion of existing businesses.</p>
<p>A21: Holwell Works - recognises the importance of this employment site. New development should support and not undermine its predominant B Class use.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 81, 82 & 84</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, including the protection and expansion of existing businesses.</p>

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A22: Holwell Business Park – supports the mixed-used redevelopment of this site as it is no longer economically viable solely for employment purposes.	Paragraphs 81, 82 & 84	Not relevant.	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, and takes a proactive approach in this respect.
A23: Frisby Water Parks - – Supports its development as a countryside facility, where it is compatible with its landscape setting and the enjoyment of the countryside, provides suitable access, limits holiday accommodation, and protects geological and nature conservation interest.	Paragraphs 84,	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p>	This policy supports several themes promoted in the NPPF. Supports a sustainable rural economy, recreational resources and for account to be taken of the different roles and characters of area and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan against each of the Planning Policy 'subjects' as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supporting a supply and mix of housing types to meet local needs, including smaller homes and affordable housing,

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support local businesses and employment, including the safeguarding and expansion of existing business establishments. Supports sustainable economic growth including the provision of rural worker accommodation and live/work units. Seeks the protection, improvement, enhancement and provision of community services and facilities, supporting the viability of the community, Supports a healthy local centre and the rural economy, though high quality and appropriate tourism and recreational assets.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	Asfordby Village is a local centre with a reasonable range of services that serves the local catchment area and the ambition of the plan is to protect the vitality and viability of this centre. The plan also seeks the improvement in local services and facilities.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	<p>Seeks the protection of the countryside and local green space and the protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>Provision of children play areas and improvements in local facilities, such as school facilities, surgery, arish hall and sports and recreation provision, for a range of ages and social groups, Providing opportunities for people to meet and improve quality of life.</p> <p>Also seeks to protect residential amenity.</p>
5 – Promoting sustainable development	<p>Supports brownfield development and infill development within the settlement boundaries of the villages within the Parish.</p> <p>Seeks efficient use of land and supports the re-use of redundant buildings. Supports sustainable economic growth, facilitates home working, and the provision of rural worker accommodation.</p>
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the villages, facilitates the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use of buildings including redundant and disused buildings

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
8 - Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside and landscape.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Seeks to manage flood risk, the protection of water quality and resources and the sustainable design of new development. Supports the conversion and re-use and adaptation of existing buildings.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside and landscape character, a defined Area of Separation, green infrastructure and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Seeks to preserve and enhance the historic environment and prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Melton Local Plan (Adopted October 2018) which covers the period 2011-2036.
- 4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Melton Local Plan.

Melton Local Plan 2011 - 2036

- 4.3 The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Melton Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy SS1:	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
Policy SS2:	Development Strategy
Policy SS3:	Sustainable Communities (Unallocated Sites)
Policy C2:	Housing Mix
Policy C5:	Affordable Housing through Rural Exception Sites
Policy C7:	Rural Services
Policy C9:	Healthy Communities
Policy EN1:	Landscape
Policy EN2:	Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Policy EN3:	The Melton Green Infrastructure Network
Policy EN4:	Areas of Separation
Policy EN5:	Local Green Space
Policy EN6:	Settlement Character
Policy EN11:	Minimizing the Risk of Flooding
Policy EN12:	Sustainable Drainage Systems
Policy EN13:	Heritage Assets
Policy EC2:	Employment Growth in the Rural Area (outside Melton Mowbray)
Policy EC3:	Existing Employment Sites
Policy EC7:	Retail Development in the Borough
Policy EC8:	Sustainable Tourism
Policy IN2:	Transport, Accessibility and Parking
Policy IN3:	Infrastructure Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy
Policy D1:	Raising the Standard of Design
Policy D3:	Agricultural Workers' Dwelling

- 4.4 Policy SS1 is an overarching policy that takes a positive approach to delivering sustainable development within the context of the Melton Local Plan, This is a theme that runs throughout the Melton Local Plan and reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

It is considered that this theme runs throughout the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan and this is demonstrated in the Basic Condition Statement. It is therefore considered to be in conformity with Policy SS1 of the Melton Local Plan.

Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Melton Local Plan	Explanation of Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Melton Local Plan
A1: Areas of Separation	Policies EN1 & EN4	Seeks to prevent the coalescence of the villages and safeguards their individual character. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies an Area of Separation for this purpose.
A2: Countryside	Policy SS2	Supports the district wide settlement strategy. Restricts development in the countryside to that which is necessary and appropriate for this location, protecting the rural character of this designation.
A3: River Wreake Strategic River Corridor	Policies En2 & En3	Seeks the enhancement of this green infrastructure resource and the protection of its ecology.
A4: Local Green Spaces	Policies C9 & EN5	The Neighbourhood Plan has identified these areas for their recreation and amenity value, based on local evidence. Protects the parish's unique and distinctive character.
A5: Water Management	Policies En11 & En12	Seeks to prevent increase in flood risk including the management of surface water drainage and the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage systems.
A6: Water Quality and Resources	Policy EN12	Seeks to ensure the quality of water through the management of water.
A7: Biodiversity	Policy EN2	Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats.

Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Melton Local Plan	Explanation of Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Melton Local Plan
		<p>Seeks to protect these features and ensure new development does not harm these features.</p> <p>New development should conserve and enhance these features.</p> <p>Seeks a net gain in biodiversity and identifies priorities.</p>
A8: Non-Designated Heritage Assets	Policy EN13	Seeks the protection of the parish's non-designated heritage assets including archaeological sites. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies local heritage assets.
A9: Design	Policies C9, EN6 and D1	Seeks a high quality of design and development that is sympathetic to the character of the area and that is sensitive to local qualities and features. Protects residential amenity and makes adequate provision for parking.
A10: Windfall Development	Policies SS2, SS3, C2, C5, D3 & EN13	<p>Supports windfall development within the defined settlement boundaries of Asfordby Village, Asfordby Hill and Asfordby Valley. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies settlement boundaries and is to be used to guide the location of development.</p> <p>Supports the spatial strategy.</p> <p>Support development that is appropriate in the countryside supporting rural communities and satisfying local housing need.</p> <p>The provision of essential rural worker accommodation takes a proactive approach towards supporting a sustainable rural economy.</p>

Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Melton Local Plan	Explanation of Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Melton Local Plan
A11: Whitlock Garages, Asfordby	Policies SS2, C9 & D1	Supports small scale windfall and brownfield development that would meet local needs and enhance the sustainability of the community.
A12: Asfordby Storage and Haulage Depot, Main Street, Asfordby	Policies SS2, C9, D1 & EC2	Proactively supports windfall and brownfield development that would meet local needs and enhance the sustainability of the community. Supports sustainable rural employment opportunities in an accessible location and facilitates homeworking
A13: Housing Mix	Policy C2	Seeks to manage the delivery of an appropriate housing mix, having regard to local housing needs.
A14: First Homes	Policies SS2, SS3, C4, EN1, EN4 & EN5	Supports the delivery of affordable housing within developments site of 11 or more units. Supports sustainable development which contributes towards meeting local housing needs, on the edge of settlements and that is in keeping with the scale of the settlement. Protects Local Green Spaces and Areas of Separation
A15: Affordable Housing	Policy C5	Supports affordable housing on exception sites where there is a local need. Seeks to ensure the housing built meets the needs of those with a local connection to the parish.
A16: Bradgate Lane Shops	Policies C7 & EC7	Supports the vitality and viability of the service centre. Retains

Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Melton Local Plan	Explanation of Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Melton Local Plan
		community services and facilities such as shops.
A17: Children's Play Areas	Policy C9	Supports the provision of good quality and accessible recreation facilities close to where people live.
A18: Travel Packs	Policy IN2	Encourages a reduction in the need to travel by car and the use of alternatives, including public transport.
A19: Infrastructure	Policy IN3	Supports the deliverability of infrastructure which is detailed within the Neighbourhood Plan, contributing to the creation of sustainable communities.
A20: Asfordby Business Park and Old Dalby Test Track	Policy EC3	Supports the retention of this site for employment uses and development that allows for the effective operation of the site and not undermine its B class use.
A21: Holwell Works	Policy EC3	Supports the retention of this site for employment uses and development that allows for the effective operation of the site and not undermine its B class use.
A22: Holwell Business Park	Policy EC3	Allows for the redevelopment of this site which is no longer economically viable for new development, with a mixed use development. Details of suitable development are identified in the Neighbourhood Plan demonstrating the potential benefits to the local community and also the community support for this approach.
A23: Frisby Water Parks	Policy EC8	Supports the tourism use of this site in a way that contributes to the rural economy in a

Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Melton Local Plan	Explanation of Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Melton Local Plan
		sustainable manner and of an appropriate scale.

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report (April 2022) for the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Melton Borough Council. This has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects.

5.3 The Screening Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This exercise tests whether there are likely to be significant environment effects arising from the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.4 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:

- Historic England – On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.
- Natural England – Confirm that it is considered unlikely that there will be significant environmental effects arising from the policies in the

Neighbourhood Plan, which have not already been accounted for within the adopted local plan for Melton.

- Environment Agency – Have reviewed the submitted information and do not disagree with the conclusion that an SEA is not be required.

5.5 The outcome of this assessment concludes that having regard to the location, nature and scale of Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that the Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is considered that Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan should not be subject to a full SEA.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

5.6 The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report (December 2021) was also used to inform of the potential effect of the Neighbourhood Plan on European Sites.

5.7 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:

- Historic England – No specific comments received.
- Natural England – Natural England also agrees that the Plan would be unlikely to result in any significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.
- Environment Agency – No specific comments received.

5.8 This report concludes that there is likely to be no demonstrable impact on Rutland Water at all, nor on any other Natura 2000 site and as such there is no likely significant impact on Rutland Water or any other Natura 2000 site. Consequently, a full HRA assessment will not be required.

5.9 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
 - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 7.2 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

High impact: a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact: some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2011 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Asfordby Parish for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 3,286 people living in Asfordby Parish, 48.3% were Male and 51.7% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

17.9% of the population was 0-15 years old and 17.00% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

1.5% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

67.5% of the population was Christian and 1.2% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian.

6.6% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 9.4% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

64.8% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

Gender reassignment and sexual orientation are generally invisible characteristics for which little reliable data exists at local level. There was also no data available for pregnancy or maternity.

Summary

Generally, the proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people is only slightly higher than the national picture, and the proportion of 0-15 year olds slightly lower.

The proportion of BMEs is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural areas.

The proportion of Christians is markedly higher to the national average, whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

Key Issues and Policies of the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following six key issues for Asfordby Parish that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address;

- Green Spaces
- Flooding
- Conserving the Natural and Built Environment
- Housing
- Services and Facilities
- Jobs

These issues are reflected in the Vision Statement for the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan;



The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 23 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy A13 seeks a Housing Mix that meets local needs. Policy A14 seeks the delivery of First Homes and Policy A13 seeks the delivery of Affordable Housing. This will assist in meet the housing needs of older and younger newly forming households.

Policy A3 seeks the protection of the River Wreake Strategic River Corridor as an important recreational resource. Policy A4 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. Policy A17 seeks the provision of Local Areas of Play for young children. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

Policy A16 seeks to retain a range of uses within the parish's Local Centre and this is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Asfordby parish. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. A diversity of services is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Furthermore, Policy A19 seeks infrastructure improvement including additional school places, surgery facilities, parish hall improvements as well as improvements in sports and recreation provision. These are considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy A13) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy A13 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy Ag, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the improvement of key services, such as the parish hall (Policy A19). These impacts might be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the improvement of key services and facilities (Policy A19), including the parish halls with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy Ag, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community including protected characteristics but perhaps most particularly older people, young people, mothers to be and those with young children.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of those with disabilities, religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. There is also the potential to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made, and the assessment finds the Asfordby Parish Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.