

FOXTON Neighbourhood Plan: Basic Conditions Statement

Introduction

- 1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Foxton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (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.
- 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 draft 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 Harborough District Council Local Plan 2001 and the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028;
 - 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.
- 3 This basic conditions statement addresses these requirements in four sections:
 - Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework;
 - Section 3 shows how the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan with the Harborough Core Strategy; and

- Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters.
- 4 The Foxton 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

- 5 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Foxton Parish Council, which is a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011. The Parish Council has been assisted by the Foxton Neighbourhood Development Planning Committee.

Neighbourhood Area

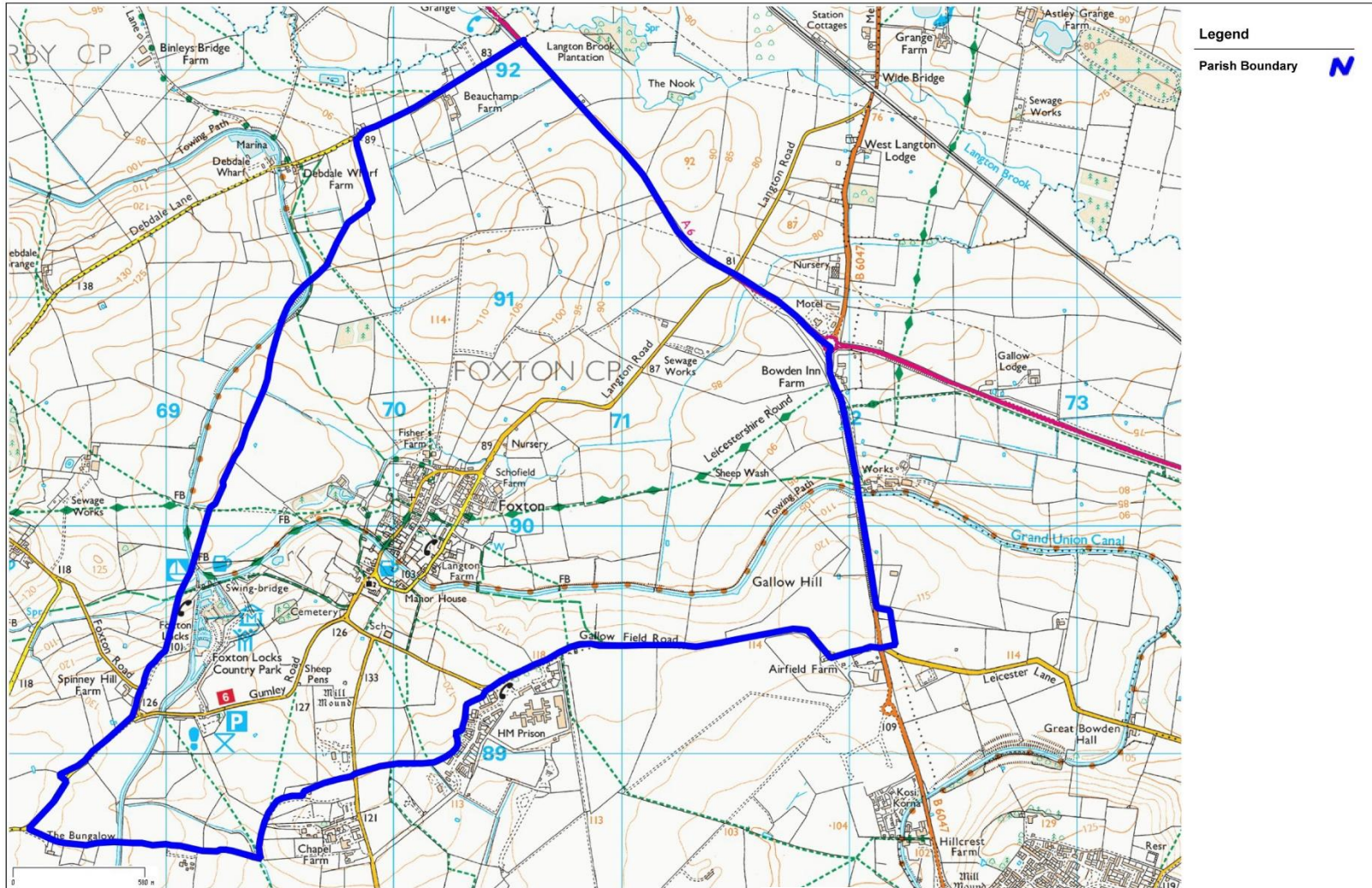
- 6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Foxton, which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 29 October 2012. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, Harborough District Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Foxton Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The consultation period ran during July to August 2012. The Executive of Harborough District Council approved the application and Foxton Parish was designated as the Neighbourhood Area on 29 October 2012.
- 7 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Foxton and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 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.
- 9 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan covers the period up to 2031 and therefore beyond the lifetime of the adopted Harborough Core Strategy which covers the period to 2028. Harborough District Council is now preparing a new Local Plan to address those areas of national policy that are not reflected within the Core Strategy. The new Local Plan is likely to cover the period to 2031. Progress on the new Local Plan includes the publication of an Options Consultation Paper (September 2015).
- 10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Foxton: Location

- 11 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Area is situated to the north-west of the town of Market Harborough in Harborough District, Leicestershire. It lies to the south-west side of the A6 on the Grand Union Canal. The parish stretches approximately 2 miles both north-south and east to west.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 12 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive 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 Summary of Consultee Responses and the Consultation Statement.



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Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework

- 13 It is required that the Foxton 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.
- 14 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all of 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.
- 15 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework specifies that the delivery of sustainable development is to be through the application of 12 core planning principles and the pursuit of 13 sustainability objectives supporting the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The 12 principles are that planning should:
1. be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
 2. not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
 3. proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;
 4. always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;

5. take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;
6. support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
7. contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;
8. encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
9. promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
10. conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
11. actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
12. take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

16 This section considers the conformity of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and supporting commentary.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
F1: Countryside - Protects the Countryside and development within this designation will be limited to that which requires a rural location.	17, 28	Planning to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside in accordance with Core Planning Principle 5. The policy mirrors this approach and also has regard to the promotion of the rural economy in that it would support the diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.
F2: Renewable Energy – This policy seeks to support suitable forms of new renewable energy infrastructure where the local environmental impact is acceptable. It specifically seeks to resist wind turbine development.	17, 93, 97	This policy has regard to the National Planning Policy Framework which supports the delivery of renewable energy development, including Core Planning Principle 6. The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan recognises the responsibility of its community to contribute to energy generation from renewable sources whilst ensuring potential negative impacts, visually and on its landscape, are satisfactorily addressed.
F3: Tranquillity – This policy seeks to protect the tranquillity of the Parish through the discouragement of developments that generate significant levels of traffic, noise pollution including night-time noise and/or light pollution from sources such as floodlights, security lights and streetlights.	17, 123, 125	This policy supports a good standard of amenity and design for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings as detailed in Core Planning Principle 4. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework. It seeks to limit the potential adverse impact on health and quality of life that can be generated through noise and light pollution from artificial sources. It also supports the protection of areas of tranquillity.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
F4: Foxton Green Zone – Retains the open and undeveloped character and beauty of the defined Foxton Green Zone and to check the unrestricted sprawl of Market Harborough from the south east as well as the tourism development at Foxton Locks.	17,	The Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and character of different areas and for planning to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy would prevent coalescence and facilitate the retention of the character and identify of Foxton.
F5: Ecology and Biodiversity – Expects development not to harm, as well as maintain and enhance ecological corridors and habitats and landscape features for biodiversity.	17, 109, 117	The Core Planning Principle 7 seeks the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. This policy seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes as well as minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has regard to the identification of locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity or wildlife corridors.
F6: The Canal – Seeks to conserve The Canal as a heritage asset as well as key strategic infrastructure and wildlife corridor, recreation and tourism resource. As a feature that contributes to the character of Foxton the design of new development in its vicinity should not detract from it.	17, 28, 69, 73, 114, 126, 132	The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework. It supports the conservation and enjoyment of a heritage asset and its value to current and future generations, as well as recognising and seeking to protect the multiple benefits of this resource. See Core Planning Principles 9, 10 and 12. Sustainable rural tourism is supported and the policy plans positively with respect to a cultural and recreational facility. It also seeks to protect and enhance identified green infrastructure of strategic significance.
F7: Local Heritage Assets – This policy identifies a number of Local Heritage Assets that should be conserved and enhanced.	17, 126, 135	This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets as detailed in Core Planning Principle 10. 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.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
F8: Design – Seeks development to reflect the distinctive character of Foxton and for the requirements of the Foxton Village Design Statement to be met.	17, 56, 58, 60	Core Planning Principle 4 specifies that planning should always seek 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 also facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It provides a robust approach to design and is supported by a comprehensive Village Design Statement.
F9: Local Green Spaces – Identifies Local Green Spaces within the village of Foxton which will be protected and enhanced. Development which will be harmful to these will not be supported.	17, 76-78	Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of particular importance to them. It is suggested that these designations would not preclude ability to meet the identified housing requirements. This policy allows account to be taken of the character and role of these areas as detailed in Core Planning Principle 5.
F10: Trees – This policy seeks loss of trees that make a significant contribution to the appearance of Foxton, the local street-scene or local amenity. Adequate protection of trees will be expected during construction works and replacement tree planting will be required where trees are to be felled.	17, 109,	The Core Planning Principle 7 seeks the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. This policy seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
Policy F11: Housing Provision – Identifies the minimum housing provision for Foxton for the Neighbourhood Plan period and how this will be met.	17, 55, 162, 185	The Core Planning Principle 5 recognises the character of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within in. This policy also has regard to the effective use of brownfield land and promotes sustainable development through seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. (Core Planning Principles 3, 8 and 11). Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies and this policy has been prepared taking into build rates, the Harborough Core Strategy, the emerging Local Plan as well as infrastructure capacity.
F12: Infill – Identifies the circumstances within which housing development within the defined Foxton Limits to Development will be supported.	17, 32, 53, 55, 58,	Core Planning Principle 5 recognises the character of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it. This policy responds to a range of issues contained within the NPFF. It has regard to the effective use of brownfield land and promotes sustainable development through seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. (Core Planning Principles 3, 8 and 11). A design that responds to local character is sought as is a good standard of amenity and a safe and suitable site access (Core Planning Principle 4). It also supports the use of local planning policies to resist the inappropriate development of residential gardens.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
F13: Fisher’s Farm, North Lane – This policy identifies a housing allocation site. It then goes onto identify the amount of housing, the required provision of affordable housing, design and highway requirements, footpath provision, landscaping measures, the potential for remediation works, the requirement for a Flood Risk Assessment and sustainable drainage system.	17, 29, 32, 47, 50, 58, 94, 109 121	This approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs and provides for the identification of a housing allocation site, having regard to Core Planning Principle 3. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing including affordable housing, a designed development that functions well with regard to the character of the area, protection of the existing landscape and positive biodiversity benefits, mitigate and adapting to climate change, the need to provide for appropriate remediation works and a safe and suitable site access for all.
F14: Land at Middle Street and Vicarage Drive - This policy identifies a housing allocation site. It then goes onto identify the amount of housing, the required provision of affordable housing, design and highway requirements, footpath provision and landscaping measures.	17, 47, 50, 58, 109	This approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs and provides for the identification of a housing allocation site, having regard to Core Planning Principle 3. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing including affordable housing, a designed development that functions well with regard to the character of the area, and the protection of the existing landscape features.
F15: Land at Junction of Vicarage Drive and Hog Lane - This policy identifies a housing allocation site. It then goes onto identify the amount of housing, the required provision of affordable housing, design requirements and landscaping measures.	17, 47, 50, 58, 109	This approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs and provides for the identification of a housing allocation site, having regard to Core Planning Principle 3. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing including affordable housing, a designed development that functions well with regard to the character of the area, and the protection of the existing landscape features.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
F16: Housing Mix - Seeks a mix of housing types responsive to local needs with particular mention made of the housing needs of older person households as well as the need for smaller, low-cost homes.	17, 50	The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy seeks to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand.
F17: Affordable Housing – Identifies the amount of affordable provision to be provided on windfall sites as the requirements to be met for provision to be met through rural exception sites. It also seeks to ensure priority will be given to people with a local connection to Foxton Parish	17, 50, 54	The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in its community. It also supports the appropriate application of rural exception sites.
F18: Retention of Key Services and Facilities – This policy supports the retention of existing facilities providing for day to day needs unless a suitable replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.	17, 28, 70	The Core Planning Principle 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.
F19: Water Management – This policy requires all new development to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems.	17, 94	The policy responds to Core Planning Principle 6 and takes into account the potential of flood risk, particularly notable as a result of surface water runoff. It supports the mitigation and adaptation to climate change when permitting new development.
F20: Foxton Locks – Seeks to protect the value of the Foxton Locks Area through the conservation and enhancement of this heritage asset, its use as for waterside and countryside	17, 28, 29, 123, 126,	This policy has regard to a number of the Core Planning Principles, namely those that expect a good standard of amenity, recognises the multiple benefits of this resource, the appropriate conservation of a heritage asset, cultural well-being for all and the delivery of cultural facilities (Core

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
<p>recreation and reducing the impact of visitors on the quality of life of residents of Foxton village. It also identifies the circumstances when new development will be supported, restricts overnight accommodation through the re-use of existing buildings and does not allow for the provision of residential moorings.</p>		<p>Principles 4, 9, 10 and 12). It supports the conservation of a heritage asset and ensuring its viable use whilst recognising its wider benefits. It seeks to provide sustainable tourism and a recreational facility that can provide economic benefit. A balance is sought to prevent the loss of amenity of residents that can be as a result of noise, traffic and light pollution and seeks to protect the tranquillity of the village of Foxton. Traffic management measures also support safe and sustainable forms of transport.</p>

Contributing to sustainable development

17 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. The Foxton 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 a number of roles:

- an economic role – contributing to building 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 and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements including the provision of infrastructure;
- a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

18 The following section however summarises how the relevant sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 - Building a strong competitive economy	Supporting housing provision to meet identified requirements, with appropriate infrastructure, and providing for housing that meets local needs. Supporting the rural and tourism economy.
2 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres	Supporting the provision of sustainable links from new residential development to the village shop, and the retention of key services and facilities.
3 - Supporting a prosperous rural economy	Supporting the retention and development of key local services and community facilities in the village. Support the rural economy and tourism associated with Foxton Locks.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
4 - Promoting Sustainable Transport	Supporting a balanced approach to an improved transport infrastructure including highway improvement, supporting development within the existing Limits to Development and where the need to travel through the village is not necessary to access the A6. Providing for pedestrian links and to the village and its facilities from new residential development, and conserve the canal towpath which forms an important pedestrian and cycle link through the village. Traffic measures associated with new development at Foxton Lock also support this objective.
5 – Supporting high quality communications infrastructure	Not applicable
6 - Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes	Identifying suitable locations for housing development including the allocation of housing sites. Seeking a mix of property types and tenure mix based on demographic projections and local evidence of housing need. Requiring a percentage of new homes on allocated housing sites and windfall sites to be affordable.
7 - Requiring good design	Includes policies to require good design and reflect local distinctiveness, including landscape as well as the built environment.
8 - Promoting healthy communities	Requires development to have safe pedestrian access providing easy and safe access to village facilities, protection of the countryside and key Green Infrastructure. Supports the protection of the tranquillity of Foxton.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Seeks new and improved pedestrian links as well as the appropriate renewable energy development. Requires developers to incorporate sustainable drainage systems into new development.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, key Strategic Green Infrastructure and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development not to harm valued landscapes and to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents the loss of the historic landscape and the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets. Seeks to manage development so that there is not an adverse impact on the heritage value of Foxton Locks.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable

Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 19 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 Harborough District Council Local Plan 2001 and the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028.
- 20 The following section identifies how the policies of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Harborough Core Strategy and Local Plan
- 21 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Harborough Core Strategy and Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Core Strategy 2006-2028

CS1: Spatial Strategy for Harborough

CS2: Delivering New Housing

CS3: Delivering Housing Choice and Affordability

CS5: Providing Sustainable Transport

CS7: Enabling Employment and Business Development

CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure

CS9: Addressing Climate Change

CS10: Addressing Flood Risk

CS11: Promoting Design and Built Heritage

CS17: Countryside, Rural Centre and Rural Villages

Local Plan 2001

There are no retained strategic policies.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
F1: Countryside	CS1, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New development in the countryside will be restricted to those developments which require a rural location ▪ Housing development in Foxton, identified as a selected rural village, will be of a scale that reflects the size, character and service provision of Foxton.
F2: Renewable Energy	CS1, CS9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitates the provision of renewable energy in the form of solar farms. ▪ Help reduce the district's carbon emissions. ▪ Seeks to minimise the impact of renewable development on the sensitive landscape and local character of the area and heritage assets. ▪ Seeks appropriate decommissioning of equipment/infrastructure.
F3: Tranquility	CS5, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports unnecessary road lighting during night time periods. ▪ Safeguards the amenity of existing occupants
F4: Foxton Green Zone	CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to direct new development away from undeveloped areas of land which are important to the form and character of a settlement or locality.
F5: Ecology and Biodiversity	CS1, CS8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting existing assets as a resource for biodiversity conservation and enhancement

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to the protection, management and enhancement of the District's biodiversity Encourage the maintenance of the ecological networks at local level that contribute to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network
F6: The Canal	CS1, CS8, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguards the provision of a Strategic Green Infrastructure Asset and supports it as a biodiversity resource. Promotes the Canal as a tourism attraction and for recreation use. Protects and conserves this heritage asset, for its enjoyment and appreciation by residents and visitors. Promotes good design of development that respects and enhances local character and distinctiveness. Seeks new development to be sympathetic to the characteristics that makes this heritage asset special.
F7: Local Heritage Assets	CS1, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports development which conserves and enhances the District's built heritage. Protects heritage assets. Identifies heritages assets of local importance.
F8: Design	CS1, CS2, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports safe and well-designed new development. Development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of an area.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
F9: Local Green Space	CS8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for open space within villages to be protected for their contribution to the form and character of the settlement or locality.
F10: Trees	CS1, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of tree cover in the District. Development which makes the most of natural assets reflects the landscape and supports the provision of landscaping schemes. Seeks to ensure development respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of an area.
F11: Housing Provision	CS1, CS2, CS11, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to meeting the identified housing requirements for the District. Supports the development of new housing within the defined Foxton Limits to Development. Supports a scale of housing development that reflects the size, character and service provision of Foxton.
F12: Infill Development	CS1, CS5, CS11, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the development of new housing within the defined Foxton Limits to Development. Seeks safe and well designed development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of an area. Safeguards the amenity of existing residents Seeks safe and suitable access to a site for all people, which could include safe

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		pedestrian and cycling facilities.
F13: Fisher's Farm, North Lane	CS1, CS2, CS3, CS5, CS8, CS9, CS10, CS11, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributes to the District's housing requirements. ▪ Supports the development of new housing within the defined Foxton Limits to Development. ▪ Provides for the housing needs of the community unless it can be demonstrated such requirements would make the development undeliverable. ▪ Supports development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of Foxton, both natural and built. ▪ Seeks safe and suitable access to the site for all people and make provision for appropriate transport improvements. ▪ Makes provision for new landscaping and contribute to biodiversity improvements. ▪ Makes for the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems and requires the provision of a Flood Risk Assessment to address issues of flood risk and surface water disposal from the site as well as assess the need for remediation works.
F14: Land at Middle Street	CS1, CS2, CS3, CS5, CS8, CS11, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributes to the District's housing requirements. ▪ Supports the development of new housing within the defined Foxton Limits to Development. ▪ Provides for the housing needs of the community. ▪ Supports development which respects and enhances the

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		<p>local character and distinctiveness of Foxton, both natural and built.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks safe and suitable access to the site for all people and make provision for appropriate transport improvements. Allows for open space within villages to be protected. Makes provision for new landscaping and contribute to biodiversity improvement.
F15: Land at Junction of Vicarage Drive and Hog Lane	CS1, CS2, CS3, CS11, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to the District's housing requirements. Supports the development of new housing within the defined Foxton Limits to Development. Provides for the housing needs of the community. Supports development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of Foxton, both natural and built.
F16: Housing Mix	CS1, CS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the housing needs of the community Housing types to be informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence
F17: Affordable Housing	CS1, CS2, CS3, CS5, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the housing needs of the community Housing types to be informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence Support the providing of identified affordable housing need.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for the use of rural exception sites. Supports safe and well-designed new development. Development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of an area. Safeguards the amenity of existing residents. Seeks safe and suitable access to the site for all people
F18: Retention of Key Services and Facilities	CS1, CS5, CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports sustainable growth with access to services and facilities along with the protection of these services and facilities. Supports development which could create additional demand for these services and facilities.
F19: Water Management	CS1, CS9, CS10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development which is positive in terms of adaptation to climate change through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. Development which addresses flood risk.
F20: Foxton Locks	CS1, CS7, CS8, CS11,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports development which conserves and enhances the District's built heritage, whilst respecting and enhancing the character of the area. Promotes, enhances and manages Foxton Locks as a tourism attraction, recreational resource and key strategic Green Infrastructure corridor. Seeks the sensitive promotion and development of this resource. Safeguards the amenity of existing residents and the locality

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the rural economy and the appropriate re-use of existing buildings. ▪ Supports a high quality, accessible and multi-functional green infrastructure resource.

Compliance with European Union obligations

- 22 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.
- 23 The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the Policies of Harborough Core Strategy, which has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. The purpose of this is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are considered throughout the plan-making process and that it has considered all aspects of economic, social and environmental sustainability in its production.
- 24 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Foxton 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. The outcome of this assessment concluded it is unlikely that there will be any significant environment effects arising from the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan, which were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and the new Local Plan 2015. As such, the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken. Harborough District Council has consulted the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England on this Screening Report.
- 25 The Assessment also concluded that the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, and a full Appropriate Assessment is not deemed to be required. A full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report was carried out as part of the Core Strategy preparation process in 2011. The report concludes that the Harborough Core Strategy alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have an adverse impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites within approximately 25kms of the

boundary of the district. The River Mease Special Conservation Area and the Rutland Water Special Protection Area lie approximately 50km and 25km respectively from Foxton, and were also considered in the full Habitat Regulations Screening Report. The report concludes that the Harborough Core Strategy would not lead to significant effects on either area.

- 26 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 Foxton Neighbourhood Plan.

Other basic conditions

- 27 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out another basic condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This is that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.)
- 28 As set out in paragraphs 24 and 25, a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 29 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.
- 30 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 Foxton 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.

Conclusions

- 31 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 considered to be met by the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Foxtan 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 Foxtan 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 exist, 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 Foxton 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 478 people living in Foxton. 49.4% were Male and 50.6% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

20.1% of the population was 0-15 years old and 20.1% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

3.8% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

69.0% of the population was Christian and 1.6% other religions including Hindu and Jewish. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

6.3% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 7.1% 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).

62.8% 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 higher than the national picture, common with rural suburbs on the edge or fringe of larger cities.

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

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

Key Issues and Policies of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies five key issues for Foxton;

The retention of Foxton's rural character

Meeting housing needs

Retaining key services and facilities

The impact of vehicular traffic on village life

The development of Foxton Locks

These issues are reflected in the Vision for Foxton Neighbourhood Plan;

An attractive, tranquil place to live, work and visit

Foxton Lock is a thriving tourism resource contributing positively to village life

Vehicular traffic does not intrude upon village life

Local housing needs are met

Foxton's unique character and heritage is conserved

A full range of basic, village services and facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 20 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy F16 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing types to reflect evidence of need, noting in particular the needs of older households and smaller low-cost homes. Together with Policies F13, F14 and F17 which seek 40% affordable housing and Policy F15 which also seeks affordable housing; and for priority to be given to local people when allocating affordable homes there is a strong potential for positive impacts on, in particular, young or newer households who may be seeking a starter home or the elderly seeking to address their needs.

Policy F9 requires local green spaces to be protected and enhanced and prevents development which is harmful to those spaces. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit, in particular, the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

Policy F18 makes provision for retention of key services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Foxton and it is considered that the new development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan should help their viability. Some of Foxton's services include a primary school,

a shop, a village hall including recreational facilities, allotments and a recreation ground. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Disability

Policies F12 and F17 require new development, including affordable housing to have safe and suitable access to the site for all and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy F16) 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 F16 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policies F13 and F14 require the retention and provision of some footpath links and the provision of a safe continuous pedestrian route from the housing allocation at North Lane to the village shop. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy F8 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 retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision improved play areas (Policy F18); a village hall with multi-use facilities including recreation and the potential for hosting local groups, and for housing to meet local needs including family accommodation (Policy F16). These impacts might be considered to 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 protection of key services and facilities (Policy F18), including the Foxton Village Hall, with multi-use facilities including potential opportunities for multi-faith worship. 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 F8 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 the potential for tangible impacts is unknown and as a consequence this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

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

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of racial or religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks affordable housing and a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks 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 Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.