

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

BILLESDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT

1. Summary

1.1 Following an Independent Examination, Harborough District Council now confirms that the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

1.2 This decision statement can be viewed at:

Harborough District Council Office

The Symington Building,
Adam & Eve Street,
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7AG

Open - Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri: 8.45am - 5pm. Wed: 9.30am - 5pm

Great Glen Library

Ruperts Way,
Great Glen,
Leicestershire,
LE8 9GR

Monday	2:00pm - 5.00pm
Tuesday	2:00pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10:00am – 12:00pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00am – 1:00pm

Billesdon Community Post Office

7 Church Street,
Billesdon,
Leicester,
LE7 9AE

Monday	9:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday	9:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:30pm
Wednesday	9:00am – 1:00pm
Thursday	9:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:30pm
Friday	9:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:30pm
Saturday	9:00am – 12:30pm

Billesdon Surgery

4 Market Place,
Billesdon,
Leicestershire,
LE7 9AJ

Open – Monday-Friday 8:30am -1:00pm & 2:00pm-6:00pm

2. Background

- 2.1 In May 2012 Billesdon Parish Council, as the qualifying body, applied for Billesdon Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Area application was approved by Harborough District Council (the Council) on 29 October 2012 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012)
- 2.2 Following the submission of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the Plan was publicised and representations were invited. The consultation period closed on 24th January 2014.
- 2.3 The Council, with the agreement of Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Group, appointed an independent examiner, Mrs Janet Cheesley, to review whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation and should proceed to referendum.
- 2.4 The Examiner's Report concludes that, subject to making the modifications proposed by the Examiner, the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.

3. Decision and Reasons

- 3.1 At its meeting on 21st July 2014, the Council agreed that the Examiner's recommended modifications should be accepted and that the amended Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum (see Council resolution at Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The District Council has made the modifications, proposed by the examiner, to secure that the draft plan meets the basic conditions. Appendix 2 sets out these modifications and the action to be taken in respect of each of them.
- 3.3 The Council agrees with the Examiner's recommendation that there is no reason to extend the Neighbourhood Plan area (Billesdon Parish) for the purpose of holding the referendum.
- 3.4 The Examiner has concluded that with the specified modifications the Plan meets the basic conditions and other relevant legal requirements. The Council concurs with this view. Therefore to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which poses the question '**Do you want Harborough District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Billesdon to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?**' will be held in the Parish of Billesdon.
- 3.5 The date on which the referendum will take place is agreed as **Thursday 18th September 2014**.

**Appendix 1: Council Resolution in respect of Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan
21st July 2014**

Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Proposal Decision

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Executive accepts the Independent Examiner's recommended changes to the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan as set out in schedule at Appendix 1 and notes the recommendation that the amended Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a Referendum of voters within the Parish of Billesdon.;
- (ii) The Executive approves the holding of a Referendum in Billesdon, to include the Parish of Billesdon on Thursday 18 September 2014.

Appendix 2: Schedule of Modifications Recommended in the Examiner's Report

Page in Examination Plan	Examiners Recommendation	Reason
6	modification to Policy BP2 by the insertion of 'a minimum of' before '45 dwellings'	To be in general conformity with strategic policy in the Core Strategy and thus meet the Basic Conditions
9	Two Options presented for rewording of Criterion a. of Policies BP4 & BP5	The requirement for bungalows and a specific proportion of dwellings to be designed to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 standards can not be justified, and are not in compliance with Core Strategy Policy CS3
10	Modification to Policy BP6 by deleting the second sentence. Delete the last two sentences in paragraph 4.8	The type of affordable housing tenure needed may change through the Plan period
11	Modification to Policy BP9 by deleting the first sentence. In the interest of clarity, modification to the second sentence to read: All new dwellings and employment buildings should incorporate ducting capable of accepting fibre to enable Superfast Broadband.	The developer can not be held to a specific broadband requirement as connection speeds are determined by the internet provider
12	Modification to Policy BP10 by deleting criterion f. in accordance with my recommendation for Policy BP9 with regard to internet connection.	The developer can not be held to a specific broadband requirement as connection speeds are determined by the internet provider
12	Modification to paragraph 5.10 and Policy BP11 to clarify that development supported in Policy BP11 is in addition to that allowed under the General Permitted Development Order	Further changes to the General Permitted Development Order have been adopted since the submission of the Plan
13	Modification to the first paragraph and criterion a. in Policy BP13 with regards to	It may not be appropriate for some development, particularly small-scale development, to

Page in Examination Plan	Examiners Recommendation	Reason
	financial contributions	make such financial contributions. Therefore, the policy should require financial contributions 'as appropriate'
13	Modification to Policy BP15 to meet the Basic Conditions to read as follows: Planning applications for the conversion or extension of shops and leisure uses, including public houses, which are designed to improve their viability, will be supported. The conversion of rural buildings to farm shops, which contribute to the rural economy, will be supported.	The detailed requirements including 'not effect more accessible convenience shopping' and sell produce 'in a sustainable way' are not a practical framework for decision making and therefore do not meet the Basic Conditions
14	Modification to Policy BP17 to include the words 'or larger dwellings' at the end	To include parking spaces for dwellings greater than four bedroom
14	Delete Policy BP18 and amend paragraph 7.7 accordingly	This is not a land use policy
14	Modification to Policy BP19 as follows: Account should be taken of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside of the Parish and the need to support thriving rural communities within it, in the context of a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy needs to have regard to a presumption in favour of development
15	Modify the Proposals Map by deleting the Chapel site as Local Green Space	The Chapel site does not hold local significance, is in private ownership and the site is already protected through lying within a Conservation Area
15	Modify Policy BP21 to include 'if appropriate' at the end of the policy	Some development will have no impact on biodiversity
15	Delete Policy BP22 and amend para 8.7 accordingly	A Neighbourhood Plan can not designate Local Heritage Assets