

# Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan

## Consultation Statement

### Introduction

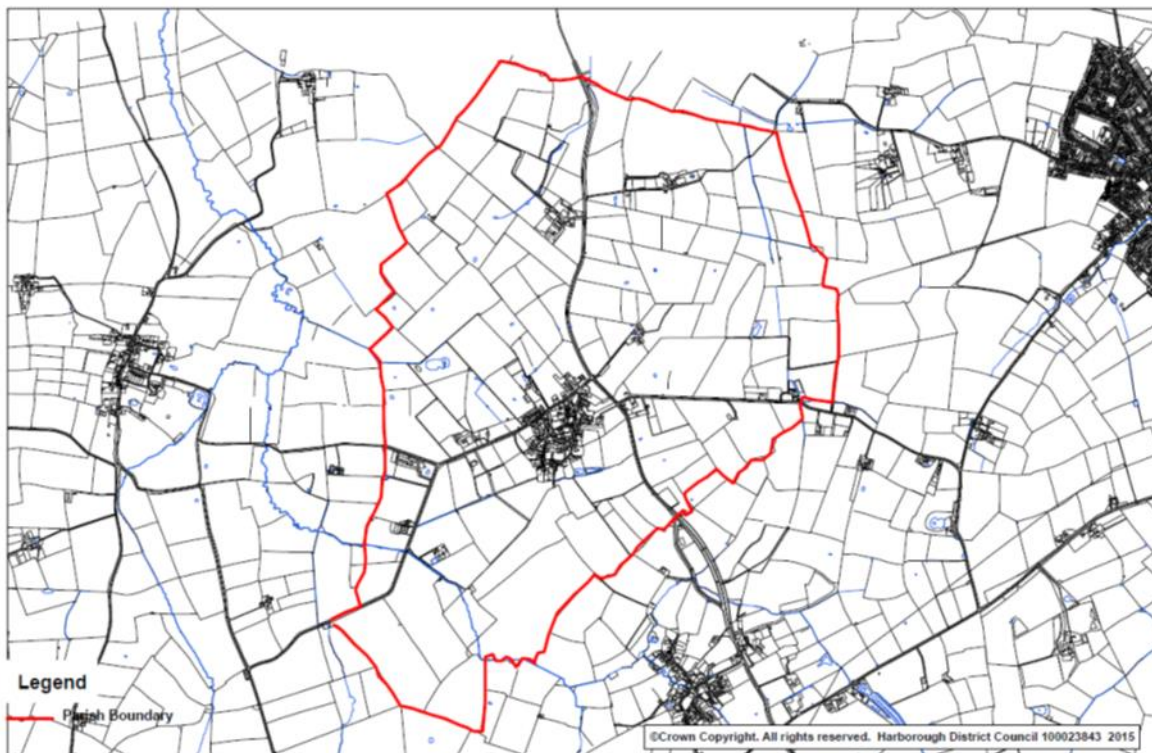
This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain. According to the Regulations, a Consultation Statement:

- a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- b) explains how they were consulted;
- c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;
- d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

This document provides a record of the engagement that took place at the various stages of the plan's evolution.

The main methods used to publicise the consultation and engagement process are documented, along with the main findings from the engagement.

Figure 1 – Neighbourhood Area. Designated on 4 August 2016



## Regulations and government guidance:

### Stage 1: deciding to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council (PC) took the decision to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 19<sup>TH</sup> January 2016

### Stage 2: defining the neighbourhood

The Parish Council applied to the local planning authority in June 2016 to designate the neighbourhood as identified above.

A formal engagement period provided members of the public and other key stakeholders an opportunity to submit comment on the proposed neighbourhood plan area and proposed neighbourhood planning body for Arnesby. The proposed neighbourhood planning body was Arnesby Parish Council and the proposed neighbourhood planning area is shown in Fig 1 above.

Harborough District Council checked that the application was appropriate and undertook the appropriate notification process. The designation was made on 4 August 2016. (Appendix i)

### Stage 3: preparing the plan

Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan was driven forward by the Parish Council, working to produce a draft plan, ensuring that it:

- Has regard for national planning policy (primarily through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance);
- Is in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (i.e. such as in a core strategy);
- Is compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.
- The Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan seeks to establish specific and local planning policies for the development and use of land in the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan establishes a vision for the future taking into account the data gathered through community engagement and consultation alongside demographic and socio-economic data.

### Stage 4: Representaion

1. Following the decision taken by Arnesby Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016, an Advisory Committee was appointed.
2. The Advisory Committee comprised four Parishoners, including two Parish Councillors.

3. The Advisory Committee met on eight occasions between February 2016 and December 2017.
4. The Advisory Committee appointed local planning Consultants 'Your Locale' to provide professional assistance and guidance throughout the neighbourhood Plan process.
5. The Advisory Committee created three Sub-Groups, dealing with: Housing; Environment; Transport, Community facilities and Economy. Interest in Parishoner involvement was invited at an early stage and each Group was represented by seven Parishioners, including a representative of the Steering Committee, each being supported by a professional Consultant.
6. The Housing Group met on eight occasions from January 2017 – January 2018.
7. The Environment Group met on eight occasions from February 2017 – June 2017.
8. The Transport, Community Facilities and Economy Group met on five occasions from March 2017 – December 2017.

## Communications

- Below are listed the main ways that information about the Neighbourhood Plan has been communicated to local people and stakeholders.
- Village Noticeboard: Minutes from Parish Council meetings; agendas for meetings; notification of consultation events and community questionnaire; display of pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Parish Council website: Neighbourhood Plan, minutes, the questionnaire and all consultation results were posted on the PC website once available. The Regulation 14 consultation was posted on the website;
- Stakeholder letters/email: A letter was sent to all stakeholders in August 2016, and again either by email or letter for the Regulation 14 consultation January – March 2018. Fliers/questionnaire: fliers advertising the drop-in consultations were posted through every door in the parish and every household received a questionnaire;
- Posters: Posters were produced advertising the consultation events which were displayed on the Village, Noticeboards, Website and at Arnesby Village Hall.

## Consultations

Several consultations have taken place, each building on the evidence of the last.

- Contacting stakeholders, August 2016 (List, Appendix ii, letter Appendix iii);
- Community consultation events took place in Arnesby Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (Leaflet Appendix iv; analysis Appendix v);
- A questionnaire was delivered to every household in September 2016; (leaflet Appendix vi, questionnaire Appendix vii, analysis Appendix vii);
- A consultation exercise took place at Arnesby Village Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 (Appendix ix);
- Community consultation events focusing on the plan policies took place at Arnesby Village Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017.. (Leaflet Appendix x, analysis Appendix xi);

- Regulation 14 consultation took place from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 for a period of 6 weeks. (Appendix xii). Leaflets were circulated to every household in the Parish and copies of the Plan were made available on the Parish Noticeboards and on the Village Website.

## Consultation methodology

### The consultations aimed:

- To inform as many people as possible of the existence of the neighbourhood planning process
- To seek the views of people from the community on the proposals being developed by the Parish Council at the various stages of the process.

### Activities:

As well as meetings of the Parish Council, the following activities were undertaken:

- The intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and an invitation to contribute toward the process was widely publicised on the Village Website and by leaflet dropped in to each property within the Village. Notices were placed on the Parish noticeboard asking people to get involved and informing them of progress;
- Leaflet drops and an Open Session at Arnesby Village hall were used to keep the community up-to-date on progress with the NP and offered the chance for people to comment and get involved;
- The Neighbourhood Plan was included as a regular agenda item at Parish Council meetings. Minutes of meetings are publicly available on the Parish website. All Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes were posted on the PC Website and the community invited to attend meetings;
- A good working relationship was established with the District Council including regular dialogue and meetings; Matthew Bills of Harborough District Council addressed an Open Meeting at Arnesby Village Hall in March 2016.
- A staffed open event about the Neighbourhood Plan was held in October 2016. At this event people were asked to give their thoughts and ideas on priority issues for the Plan. The event was extensively publicised.
- A community questionnaire was undertaken in October 2016;
- A further staffed Open Event took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 at which the community was presented with the draft policies. The plans and policies were available to view in large format on presentation boards. Again the event was extensively publicised;
- Agencies with a statutory or other significant interest in the Plan were invited to submit their comments in writing by email and letter as part of the pre-submission consultation.

## **Statutory and other stakeholders**

The first task was to contact local stakeholders and announce the commencement of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The following stakeholders were contacted at the outset, reflecting statutory stakeholders; local groups and landowners, local organisations, adjoining Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, local authorities; District and County Councillors and the MP

British Gas Properties,

British Telecommunications Plc,

The Coal Authority,

East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG,

English Heritage, East Midlands Region,

Homes and Communities Agency,

Highways Agency,

National Grid,

Natural England, Hornbeam House,

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited,

Seven Locks Housing,

Severn Trent Water Ltd

Anglian Water Ltd,

Shearsby Parish Council

Environment Agency,

Fleckney Parish Council,

Peatling Magna Parish Meeting,

Bruntingtorpe Parish Council

Leicestershire County Council,

Harborough District Council

Arnesby Primary School

Edward Garnier, MP

Graham Hart, County Councillor

Neville Hall, District Councillor

Wheatcroft Land Ltd

CPRE

Voluntary Action Leicestershire

Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership

Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups

Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire

Market Harborough Chamber of Commerce.

Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living.

Harborough District Disability Access Group.

Arnesby Baptist Church

St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council, Arnesby

Little India Restaurant

## Conclusion

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be submitted to Harborough District Council, who will publicise it for a further six weeks and then forward it, with accompanying documents and all representations made during the publicity period, to an Independent Examiner who will review it and check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions'. If the Plan successfully passes this stage, with any modifications, it will be put forward for referendum.

The referendum question will be a straight "yes" or "no" on the entire Plan, as set out by Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. People will not be able to vote for or against individual policies. If 50% or more of those voting vote for the Plan, it will be brought into force ('Made') and become part of District-wide planning policy.

This Consultation Statement and the supporting Appendices are provided to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.