

Husbands Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan

Pre submission consultation responses May 2019

No.	Chapter/ Section	Policy Number	Respondent	Comment	Response	Amendment
1 12 3			The Coal Authority	Acknowledging HB NP. Directives to Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn are generic and not related to HB NP Assuring that someone will be in touch but no further response.	Noted	None
2 12 3 10 4			Daventry Council	Acknowledging HB NP email. Will respond in 5 days No comments to make about the plan but would like to be kept updated.	Noted	None
3 12 3			Natural England	Acknowledging HB NP email. Will respond in 10 days.	Noted. No further response received.	None
4 12 3			Anglian Water	Email undelivered as too large. Resent with 2 smaller attachments.	Noted	None
5 12 3			Historic England	Email from HE. New housing allocations since last consultation noted. Directed to their website where NPs are addressed.	Noted	None
6 14 3			Neil O'Brien MP	Auto reply, will respond in next few days.	Noted. No further response received.	None
7 12 3 14 3			Matthew Bills HDC	MB Responded that link failed and asking for confirmation that residents etc. are aware of Reg 14.	Noted. 1) Over 120 letters and emails requesting Reg 14 responses from stakeholders. 2) An Open Drop-In Event on March 2nd	None

17 3	Housing and the Built Environment	Policy H1 (d)		<p>Reg 14 response: Repetitious of the NPPF – does not add any local context or requirement. What is the local need and how will this be identified</p>	<p>displaying the draft Policies and Community Actions and the Reg 14 process. 3) Leaflets distributed at a Husbands Bosworth Community Forum Event on Sat 16th March, which also had NP display boards. 4) Posters in the PC Office and other Village social hubs as well as text, documents etc on the PC web site.</p> <p>Noted – however the condition helps to reinforce the distinction between the approach to development within and outside the limits to development and is therefore considered important.</p>	None
17 3		H4	What is the eligibility criteria for local people and affordable housing in Husbands Bosworth		The criteria will be as with Local Plan Policy H3 on Rural Exception Sites. The policy will make this clear.	Change to be made as indicated.
		P15	First paragraph – ‘That little of the built environment from before 1800 remains remaining suggests’		Noted	Amendment to be made as indicated
		P17	Third paragraph – ‘such as the primary school, shops, GP surgery,		Noted	Amendment to be made as indicated

			pharmacy and pubs.		
		Policy H1	Harborough District Council Policy: First sentence – Would be more accurate to say ‘The draft Harborough Local Plan (September 2017), which was submitted in March 2018, states.....’. (Update: The Local Plan is due to go to Executive on 25th April 2019 and then to Council for adoption on 30 April 2019. The proposed adoption version of the Plan is available to view at here)	Noted – the text will be updated to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan	Change to be made as indicated.
		P23	Suggest ‘in the Plan area’ is unnecessary’.	Agreed	Change to be made as indicated.
		Policy H4	Suggest rephrasing d) to read: ‘New isolated homes in the countryside only where in accordance with paragraph 79 of the NPPF’. Doesn’t follow on from ‘Appropriate development in the countryside includes:’ as currently set out.	Agreed	Change to be made as indicated.
		Policy H5 P24	Affordable housing: a) should read ‘more than 10 dwellings’ and c) has now been deleted from the Local Plan criteria.	Agreed	Change to be made as indicated
		P27	Suggest ‘within the Plan area’ is unnecessary’.	Noted	Change to be made as indicated.
			Standards of accessibility (second paragraph) – reference to Building	Agreed	Change to be made as indicated.

Environment	Policy H7 P31	<p>Regulations should be 'M4(2) Category 2: Accessible and adaptable dwellings' and 'M4(3) Category 3: Wheelchair user dwellings'.</p> <p>First paragraph (line 1) – typo 'produce'</p> <p>Fourth paragraph (last sentence) – Is this referring to the village Conservation Area only (in which case it should just be Conservation Area) or does it include the Canal CA also (which hasn't been referred up to at this point in the plan)?</p> <p>a) should this be 'irrespective of material'?</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>This refers to the Conservation Area in the Village. just the CA in the village?</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>Change to be made as indicated</p> <p>Change to be made as indicated</p> <p>Change to be made as indicated</p> <p>Change to be made as indicated</p>
	Policy ENV1 P35	<p>Existing environmental designations – Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) should read Scheduled Monument (SM)</p> <p>amend to '(details above below: Fig. 5 and Table 2)'</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Will amend to 'details above; map, figure 5 below and Table 2'</p>	<p>Change to be made as indicated</p> <p>Change to be made as indicated.</p>
	Policy ENV2 P44	<p>First paragraph (last sentence) – reference to 'Local Geological sites (LGS)' should be 'Local Green Spaces (LGS)'.</p> <p>Should refer to figures 6.1 and 6.2. Some discrepancies between maps</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed. Map titles checked and corrected</p>	<p>Change to be made as indicated.</p> <p>Change to be made as indicated.</p>

			and inventory.		
		P49	The following may be eligible for Local Green Space – depending on whether they meet the criteria during assessment: b) the Oak Tree Green on Mowsley/Church Lane c) The green in front of the school on Welford Rd/School Lane	These sites do not score sufficiently high to be designated as Local Green Spaces.	None
		Policy ENV7 Policy CFA1	Important Views – refers to ‘descriptions Appendix J’ but would be better to say ‘photographs Appendix J’ as it does not add to description set out in Policy ENV 6.	Agreed. Will say ‘images Appendix J’	Change to be made as indicated.
		CFA2	Paths & bridleways: The plan mentions that “93% of respondents felt that paths and bridleways were Favoured or Most Favoured aspects of living in Husbands Bosworth”. There is not policy relating to this statement – is this intentional? Suggest it is unnecessary to say ‘in the Plan Area’. ...or able to be supported by the community’ may warrant further explanation/justification in the introductory text (rather than in policy).	Policy T1 promotes the improvement and extension of footpaths. This is considered sufficient Agreed Noted. We will strengthen the text to explain the need for the community to support any such facility.	None Change to be made as indicated. Change to be made as indicated.
		P52	Policy ‘CFA2 New School’ – Some criteria may constrain the school. For	This was taken into account in writing the policy. The	None

		P53 App M		<p>example, at the moment its location does not satisfy criteria laid out in the policy (e.g. b), so the 'extending' of the school on its present site (one of the policy's ideals) may not be achievable. The BT exchange adjacent to the infant block of the school may be a logical extension to the school should it become available. If a new replacement site were to be found it may be a greenfield site, which might be judged as failing against criteria</p> <p>Transport implications from additional new housing. Second paragraph: '.... with 80% of respondents were significantly concerned about the condition of the roads and pathways.'</p> <p>First paragraph: '.....a residential care homes...'?</p> <p>To note that the Community Actions in Appendix M have no planning status</p>	<p>current BT exchange would be considered a suitable location and would meet policy requirements. Extension elsewhere would need to comply with NP policies which may indeed constrain development.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>This should say 'residential care homes'.</p> <p>Noted. These are actions by the Parish Council in support of the planning policies.</p>	<p>Change to be made as indicated.</p> <p>Change to be made as indicated</p> <p>None</p>
8 64			National Grid	<p>General Comments mainly but</p> <p>*From the consultation information provided, the Duddington to Churchover gas transmission pipeline does not interact with any of the proposed development sites.</p> <p>*Whilst there are no implications for National Grid Gas Distribution's</p>	Noted	None

				<p>Intermediate / High Pressure apparatus, there may however be Low Pressure (LP) / Medium Pressure (MP) Gas Distribution pipes present within proposed development sites. If further information is required in relation to the Gas Distribution network.</p> <p>*Map of UK network provided and 5 websites for reference.</p>		
9 6 4			David Ives for C Godfrey	Registering interest in building housing on the site at Berridges Lane (west of jnct with Bell Lane opp Highcroft Farm) 15 page document supplied.	Noted. The landowner was contacted at the appropriate time and did not respond. This site will be considered as part of any review of the NP.	None
10 2 4			Khatija Hajat East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG Representing GP practices	Only comment: "Currently there is only one GP practice based in Husbands Bosworth. The CCG will seek s106 funding for healthcare to mitigate impact of additional growth."	Noted	None
11 17 4		P20	The Environment Agency	The environment constraints within Figure 3a - Settlement Boundary are such that the Environment Agency has no adverse comments to make on the submission.	Noted	None
12			Leicestershire County Council	Leicestershire County Council is supportive of the Neighbourhood plan process and welcome being included in this consultation.	Noted	None
				Highways	These general comments	None

			<p>General Comments</p> <p>The County Council recognises that residents may have concerns about traffic conditions in their local area, which they feel may be exacerbated by increased traffic due to population, economic and development growth.</p> <p>Like very many local authorities, the County Council's budgets are under severe pressure. It must therefore prioritise where it focuses its reducing resources and increasingly limited funds. In practice, this means that the County Highway Authority (CHA), in general, prioritises its resources on measures that deliver the greatest benefit to Leicestershire's residents, businesses and road users in terms of road safety, network management and maintenance. Given this, it is likely that highway measures associated with any new development would need to be fully funded from third party funding, such as via Section 278 or 106 (S106) developer contributions. I should emphasise that the CHA is generally no longer in a position to accept any financial risk relating to/make good any possible shortfall in developer funding.</p> <p>To be eligible for S106 contributions proposals must fulfil various legal criteria. Measures must also directly mitigate the impact of the development e.g. they should ensure that the development does not make</p>	are noted	
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			<p>the existing highway conditions any worse if considered to have a severe residual impact. They cannot unfortunately be sought to address existing problems.</p> <p>Where potential S106 measures would require future maintenance, which would be paid for from the County Council's funds, the measures would also need to be assessed against the County Council's other priorities and as such may not be maintained by the County Council or will require maintenance funding to be provided as a commuted sum.</p> <p>With regard to public transport, securing S106 contributions for public transport services will normally focus on larger developments, where there is a more realistic prospect of services being commercially viable once the contributions have stopped i.e. they would be able to operate without being supported from public funding.</p> <p>The current financial climate means that the CHA has extremely limited funding available to undertake minor highway improvements. Where there may be the prospect of third party funding to deliver a scheme, the County Council will still</p> <p>normally expect the scheme to comply with prevailing relevant national and</p>		
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			<p>local policies and guidance, both in terms of its justification and its design; the Council will also expect future maintenance costs to be covered by the third party funding. Where any measures are proposed that would affect speed limits, on-street parking restrictions or other Traffic Regulation Orders (be that to address existing problems or in connection with a development proposal), their implementation would be subject to available resources, the availability of full funding and the satisfactory completion of all necessary Statutory Procedures.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management The County Council are fully aware of flooding that has occurred within Leicestershire and its impact on residential properties resulting in concerns relating to new developments. LCC in our role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) undertake investigations into flooding, review consent applications to undertake works on ordinary watercourses and carry out enforcement where lack of maintenance or unconsented works has resulted in a flood risk. In April 2015 the LLFA also became a statutory consultee on major planning applications in relation to surface water drainage and have a duty to review planning applications to ensure that the onsite drainage systems are</p>	<p>These general comments are noted.</p>	<p>None</p>
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designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The LLFA also ensures that flood risk to the site is accounted for when designing a drainage solution.

The LLFA is not able to:

- Prevent development where development sites are at low risk of flooding or can demonstrate appropriate flood risk mitigation.
- Use existing flood risk to adjacent land to prevent development.
- Require development to resolve existing flood risk.

When considering flood risk within the development of a neighbourhood plan, the LLFA would recommend consideration of the following points:

- Locating development outside of river (fluvial) flood risk (Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)).
- Locating development outside of surface water (pluvial) flood risk (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map).
- Locating development outside of any groundwater flood risk by considering any local knowledge of groundwater flooding.
- How potential SuDS features may be incorporated into the development to enhance the local amenity, water quality and biodiversity of the site as well as manage surface water runoff.
- Watercourses and land

			<p>drainage should be protected within new developments to prevent an increase in flood risk.</p> <p>All development will be required to restrict the discharge and retain surface water on site in line with current government policies. This should be undertaken through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Appropriate space allocation for SuDS features should be included within development sites when considering the</p> <p>housing density to ensure that the potential site will not limit the ability for good SuDS design to be carried out. Consideration should also be given to blue green corridors and how they could be used to improve the bio-diversity and amenity of new developments, including benefits to surrounding areas.</p> <p>Often ordinary watercourses and land drainage features (including streams, culverts and ditches) form part of development sites. The LLFA recommend that existing watercourses and land drainage (including watercourses that form the site boundary) are retained as open features along their original flow path and are retained in public open space to ensure that access for maintenance can be achieved. This should also be considered when looking at housing</p>		
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			<p>densities within the plan to ensure that these features can be retained.</p> <p>LCC, in its role as LLFA will not support proposals contrary to LCC policies.</p> <p>For further information it is suggested reference is made to the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012), Sustainable drainage systems: Written statement - HCWS161 (December 2014) and the Planning Practice Guidance webpage.</p> <p>Flood risk mapping is readily available for public use at the links below. The LLFA also holds information relating to historic flooding within Leicestershire that can be used to inform development proposals.</p> <p>Risk of flooding from surface water map: https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map Flood map for planning (rivers and sea): https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/</p> <p>Planning Developer Contributions If there is no specific policy on Section 106 developer contributions/planning obligations within the draft Neighbourhood Plan, it would be prudent to consider the inclusion of a</p>	<p>These general comments are noted.</p>	<p>None</p>
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			<p>developer contributions/planning obligations policy, along similar lines to those shown for example in the Adopted North Kilworth NP and the Adopted Great Glen NP albeit adapted to the circumstances of your community. This would in general be consistent with the relevant District Council's local plan or its policy on planning obligations in order to mitigate the impacts of new development and enable appropriate local infrastructure and service provision in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations, where applicable.</p> <p>North Kilworth Adopted Plan Great Glen Adopted Plan</p> <p>Mineral & Waste Planning The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority; this means the council prepares the planning policy for minerals and waste development and also makes decisions on mineral and waste development.</p> <p>Although neighbourhood plans cannot include policies that cover minerals and waste development, it may be the case that your neighbourhood contains an existing or planned minerals or waste site. The County Council can provide information on these operations or any future development planned for your</p>		
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			<p>neighbourhood.</p> <p>You should also be aware of Mineral Consultation Areas, contained within the adopted Minerals Local Plan and Mineral and Waste Safeguarding proposed in the new Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Plan. These proposed safeguarding areas and existing Mineral Consultation Areas are there to ensure that non-waste and non- minerals development takes place in a way that does not negatively affect mineral resources or waste operations. The County Council can provide guidance on this if your neighbourhood plan is allocating development in these areas or if any proposed neighbourhood plan policies may impact on minerals and waste provision.</p> <p>Education Whereby housing allocations or preferred housing developments form part of a Neighbourhood Plan the Local Authority will look to the availability of school places within a two mile (primary) and three mile (secondary) distance from the development. If there are not sufficient places then a claim for Section 106 funding will be requested to provide those places.</p> <p>It is recognised that it may not always be possible or appropriate to extend a local school to meet the needs of a</p>	<p>These general comments are noted.</p>	<p>None</p>
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			<p>development, or the size of a development would yield a new school. However, in the changing educational landscape, the Council retains a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available in good schools within its area, for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one.</p> <p>Property Strategic Property Services No comment at this time.</p> <p>Adult Social Care It is suggested that reference is made to recognising a significant growth in the older population and that development seeks to include bungalows etc of differing tenures to accommodate the increase. This would be in line with the draft Adult Social Care Accommodation Strategy for older people which promotes that people should plan ahead for their later life, including considering downsizing, but recognising that people's choices are often limited by the lack of suitable local options.</p> <p>Environment With regard to the environment and in line with the Governments advice, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) would like to see Neighbourhood Plans cover all aspects of the natural environment including climate change, the landscape, biodiversity,</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The NP addresses the needs of older people</p> <p>These general comments are noted. The NP contains significant environmental protections</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>
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			<p>ecosystems, green infrastructure as well as soils, brownfield sites and agricultural land.</p> <p>Climate Change The County Council through its Environment Strategy and Carbon Reduction Strategy is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Leicestershire and increasing Leicestershire's resilience to the predicted changes in climate. Neighbourhood Plans should in as far as possible seek to contribute to and support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the county's resilience to climate change.</p> <p>Landscape The County Council would like to see the inclusion of a local landscape assessment taking into account Natural England's Landscape character areas; LCC's Landscape and Woodland Strategy and the Local District/Borough Council landscape character assessments. We would recommend that Neighbourhood Plans should also consider the street scene and public realm within their communities, further advice can be found in the latest 'Streets for All East Midlands' Advisory Document (2006) published by English Heritage.</p> <p>Biodiversity The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 places a duty</p>	
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			<p>on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their duties, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly outlines the importance of sustainable development alongside the core principle that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Neighbourhood Plans should therefore seek to work in partnership with other agencies to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local evidence and priorities. Each Neighbourhood Plan should consider the impact of potential development on enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity such as hedgerows and greenways.</p> <p>The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) can provide a summary of wildlife information for your Neighbourhood Plan area. This will include a map showing nationally important sites (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest); locally designated Wildlife Sites; locations of badger setts, great crested newt breeding ponds and bat roosts; and a list of records of protected and priority Biodiversity Action Plan species. These are all a material consideration</p>		
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in the planning process. If there has been a recent Habitat Survey of your plan area, this will also be included. LRERC is unable to carry out habitat surveys on request from

a Parish Council, although it may be possible to add it into a future survey programme.

Contact:
planningecology@leics.gov.uk or
phone 0116 305 4108

Green Infrastructure
Green infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities, (NPPF definition). As a network, GI includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, cemeteries/churchyards allotments and private gardens as well as streams, rivers, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and living walls. The NPPF places the duty on local authorities to plan positively for a strategic network of GI which can deliver a range of planning policies including: building a strong, competitive economy; creating a sense of place and promote good design; promoting healthier communities by providing greater

			<p>opportunities for recreation and mental and physical health benefits; meeting the challenges of climate change and flood risk; increasing biodiversity and conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Looking at the existing provision of GI networks within a community can influence the plan for creating & enhancing new networks and this assessment can then be used to inform CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) schedules, enabling communities to potentially benefit from this source of funding.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan groups have the opportunity to plan GI networks at a local scale to maximise benefits for their community and in doing so they should ensure that their Neighbourhood Plan is reflective of the relevant Local Authority Green Infrastructure strategy. Through the Neighbourhood Plan and discussions with the Local Authority Planning teams and potential Developers communities are well placed to influence the delivery of local scale GI networks.</p> <p>Brownfield, Soils and Agricultural Land The NPPF encourages the effective use of brownfield land for development, provided that it is not of high environmental/ecological value. Neighbourhood planning groups</p>		
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should check with DEFRA if their neighbourhood planning area includes brownfield sites. Where information is lacking as to the ecological value of these sites then the Neighbourhood Plan could include policies that ensure such survey work should be carried out to assess the ecological value of a brownfield site before development decisions are taken.

Soils are an essential finite resource on which important ecosystem services such as food production, are dependent on. They therefore should be enhanced in value and protected from adverse effects of unacceptable levels of pollution. Within the governments "Safeguarding our Soils" strategy, DEFRA have produced a code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites which could be helpful to neighbourhood planning groups in preparing environmental policies.

High quality agricultural soils should, where possible be protected from development and where a large area of agricultural land is identified for development then planning should consider using the poorer quality areas in preference to the higher quality areas. Neighbourhood planning groups should consider mapping agricultural land classification within their plan to enable informed decisions to be made

			<p>in the future. Natural England can provide further information and Agricultural Land classification.</p> <p>Impact of Development on Civic Amenity Infrastructure Neighbourhood planning groups should remain mindful of the interaction between new development applications in a district area and the Leicestershire County Council. The County's Waste Management team considers proposed developments on a case by case basis and when it is identified that a proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the local civic amenity infrastructure then appropriate projects to increase the capacity to off-set the impact have to be initiated. Contributions to fund these projects are requested in accordance with Leicestershire's Planning Obligations Policy and the Community Infrastructure Legislation Regulations.</p> <p>Communities Consideration of community facilities is a positive facet of Neighbourhood Plans that reflects the importance of these facilities within communities and can proactively protect and develop facilities to meet the needs of people in local communities. Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity to;</p> <p>1. Carry out and report on a review of community facilities, groups</p>	<p>These general comments are noted. The NP contains policies on community facilities</p>	<p>None</p>
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			<p>and allotments and their importance with your community.</p> <p>2. Set out policies that seek to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and retain these existing facilities, • support the independent development of new facilities, and, • identify and protect Assets of Community Value and provide support for any existing or future designations. <p>3. Identify and support potential community projects that could be progressed.</p> <p>You are encouraged to consider and respond to all aspects community resources as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process. Further information, guidance and examples of policies and supporting information is available at www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/np/useful-information.</p> <p>Economic Development We would recommend including economic development aspirations with your Plan, outlining what the community currently values and whether they are open to new development of small businesses etc.</p> <p>Superfast Broadband High speed broadband is critical for businesses and for access to services, many of which are now online by default. Having a superfast broadband connection is no longer</p>	<p>These general comments are noted. The NP contains relevant policies</p>	<p>None</p>
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			<p>merely desirable but is an essential requirement in ordinary daily life.</p> <p>All new developments (including community facilities) should have access to superfast broadband (of at least 30Mbps) Developers should take active steps to incorporate superfast broadband at the pre-planning phase and should engage with telecoms providers to ensure superfast broadband is available as soon as build on the development is complete. Developers are only responsible for putting in place broadband infrastructure for developments of 30+ properties. Consideration for developers to make provision in all new houses regardless of the size of development should be considered.</p> <p>Equalities While we cannot comment in detail on plans, you may wish to ask stakeholders to bear the Council's Equality Strategy 2016-2020 in mind when taking your Neighbourhood Plan forward through the relevant procedures, particularly for engagement and consultation work. A copy of the strategy can be view at: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/30/equality-strategy2016-2020.pdf</p>	<p>Noted. The NP is compliant with Human Rights legislation and has been prepared in an inclusive manner.</p>	<p>none</p>
13		Canal and River Trust	<p>Thank you for consulting the Canal & River Trust on the draft Husbands</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>None</p>

Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan).

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. It is of note that the Trust is also a statutory consultee in the Development Management process.

The Canal & River Trust (the Trust) owns and maintains a number of assets within the Plan area. Over 8km (5 miles) of the Grand Union Canal Leicester Line falls within the Plan area, including the Welford Arm of the canal, Husbands Bosworth Tunnel and the western end of Welford Reservoir (which provides a water supply for the canal). The canal (including the Welford Arm) is designated as a conservation area, and part of it is also designated as a Local Wildlife Site, as is Welford Reservoir. We would offer the following comments on those parts of

			<p>the Plan relevant to us:</p> <p>Policy HI The canal passes through open countryside within the Plan area and we note that no specific development proposals are identified in proximity to it. Policy HI identifies a settlement boundary for Husbands Bosworth and aims to limit development beyond this boundary. The canal falls wholly outside the settlement boundary. As the canal is valued as a wildlife habitat and recreational resource for walkers, we consider that it is appropriate for the Plan not to seek to identify development sites close to it, as this would risk harming its rural character and affecting the wildlife supported by it. It is also important to note that in several locations the canal is either carried on embankments or sits in cuttings, as well as passing through a tunnel. New development close to structures such as tunnels and cutting or embankment slopes can affect their stability and risk damage to the canal. Any development proposals meeting the exceptions set out in Policy HI will need to take these matters into account if they are intended to be located close to the canal.</p>	Noted	None
			<p>Policy ENV2 Policy ENV2 aims to protect sites of significance either in terms of their value and contribution to the natural</p>	Noted	None

			<p>or historic environment of the Plan area, and we welcome the inclusion of the canal as both a heritage asset and a wildlife habitat within the maps attached to this policy, and the additional protection that the Plan can provide in assessing the potential impact of development proposals.</p> <p>Policy ENV5 Policy ENV5 seeks to safeguard wildlife habitats and to encourage creation of new habitats. Whilst various areas of woodland and hedges are identified alongside the canal in Figure 9, and the part of the canal is identified within the Wildlife Corridor shown in Figure 10, we would suggest that the entire canal network within the plan area can and should be regarded as an important green infrastructure asset and wildlife corridor. We suggest that the canal as a whole could be added to the environmental inventor!J list set out in Appendix F and could also be identified as a wildlife corridor in Figure 10. As a linear corridor, the canal is not only a wildlife habitat itself, but is also a link between other wildlife habitats and can provide a valuable degree of connectivity between habitats. Improvements to the biodiversity value of the canal corridor should be considered as part of the actions identified in Community Action ENV2 as set out in Appendix M.</p>	Agreed	Change to be made as indicated
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			<p>Policy ENV7</p> <p>We support the approach set out in Policy ENV7, particularly in relation to considering the impact of external lighting on wildlife. We would add that it is important for any new development proposals close to the canal to avoid illuminating the canal; canal corridors are often used by bats as foraging/commuting routes, and excessive lighting can adversely affect this.</p>	Agreed	Change to be made as indicated
			<p>Policy CFA I</p> <p>We note that significant value is placed to the man-made paths and bridleways within the Plan area, and that this includes the canal towpath. Policy CFA I seeks to protect and improve existing community facilities and identifies the canal towpath as such a facility.</p>	Noted	None
			<p>We consider that the towpath can play an important role as a leisure and recreational asset for the local community. The canal network offers a leisure and recreational resource that can be readily accessed by local communities and is a valuable open space in its own right, as well as providing a link to other open spaces and facilities as part of the wider green infrastructure network of the area. It offers a real opportunity for supporting and promoting healthier</p>	Noted	None

			<p>lifestyles and helping to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of the local community encouraging people to be more active through leisure and recreation (including activities such as canoeing as well as walking or Cycling). We therefore welcome the support proposed through Policy CFA I to protect and enhance the towpath.</p> <p>Appendix K of the Plan specifically highlights the Trust's canal adoption scheme as an opportunity to improve the towpath. Within the East Midlands there have already been 46 such adoptions by Parish Councils or other community groups, covering some 82km of our waterways. Adopting a section of canal is a great way for groups to make a real difference to waterways in their local area. We are keen to see our waterways being used and enjoyed by local communities and adoptions help communities to work more closely with us to achieve this for the benefit of everyone.</p> <p>We welcome the intention of the Parish Council to pursue an adoption scheme for the canal within the Plan area. An adoption scheme would present a real opportunity for the Trust to work with the local community to promote and facilitate greater use of the canal and towpath.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concern</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>
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			<p>expressed in the Plan that the condition of parts of the towpath limits its accessibility and use, particularly in winter, and the aim of the Plan to identify ways to improve its condition and encourage its use by as many people as possible. We consider that a canal adoption scheme is an appropriate means through which the Trust can work with the Parish Council to address this and help support the delivery of the aims of both Community Action CA 1 and Community Action ENV2 as identified in Appendix M of the Plan.</p> <p>We hope that these comments will be of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.</p>	<p>Thank you. Very helpful comments!</p>	<p>None</p>
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