Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Review

Summary of representations submitted by Harborough District Council to the independent examiner pursuant to Regulation 17 of Part 5 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

	Name	Policy /Page	Full Representation
1	Natural England Jacqui Salt Hornbeam House Crewe Business Park Crewe		Foxton Review Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 26 May 2021 Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.
2	Leicestershir e Clinical Commissioni ng Group Joanna Clinton		Re: Draft Neighbourhood Plan, Foxton We are writing in response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Foxton The LLR Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are supportive of the vision set out in your draft plan and would want to work collectively with you to understand in more detail how the local NHS can contribute to its delivery. Many of the themes identified in the plan will impact upon the wider determinants of health and as a result population health outcome. We would therefore welcome working together to maximise the opportunity for health and wellbeing within the vison outlined in your plan. In particular we would welcome: • Actions to support the development of community identity; maximising opportunities for residents to come together to create community cohesion and support each other. • Maximise the opportunities and provision of green space and local recreational facilities that actively promote enable residents to access and undertake physical activity with ease (both formal and informal). Consideration for this type of provision should be varied, evidenced based and compatible with local leisure, and open space strategies. Types of provision could range from (but not limited to) built leisure centre facilities, community centres to play areas to structures walking trails, café / social facilities, or semi nature accessible open space.

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	Places Team		
5	Highways England (Area 7) Stirling House Lakeside Court Osier Drive Sherwood Business Park Nottingham NG15 0DS Steve Freek Midlands Operations Directorate		Consultation on the Submission Draft Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Highways England welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Submission Draft version of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan which covers the period of 2016 - 2031. The document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications. Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the operation of the A14, located approximately 12km to the south of the Plan area. We understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with relevant national and Borough-wide planning policies. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan for Foxton is required to be in conformity with the adopted Harborough Local Plan and this is acknowledged within the document. From our review of the Neighbourhood Plan, we note that no employment sites have been allocated within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Similarly, as the Local Plan identifies Foxton as a rural village, no additional housing is allocated within the Parish boundaries. The Neighbourhood Plan will however support windfall sites coming forward where they provide for local needs, are within the limits of development of the village, and are in keeping with the character of the surroundings. Due to the minimal growth coming forward within the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan area, we do not consider that there will be any material impacts on the operation of the SRN. We have no further comments to provide and trust that the above is useful in the progression of the Foxton Neighb
6	Harborough District Council Strategic Planning Team		General comment: The Plan has been well reviewed and the amendments made have brought the Plan up to date with the changes to Local Plan policies and National Policy. The LPA consider it sensible to delete policies that have now been superseded by events (housing delivery) or cannot be delivered (Hog Lane allocation).
		F1	Comments on policies Policy F1 Countryside The policy was part of the 'made' Foxton NDP and has been brought up to date with the Local Plan. The

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	policy now references the Local Plan policies SS1, GD3 and GD4. The changes are sensible to reflect new Local Plan policies
F2	Policy F2 Renewable Energy
	Minor text changes – no comments
F3	Policy F3 Tranquillity
	Minor text changes – no comments
F4	Policy F4 Foxton Areas of Separation
	Policy has been shortened.
	Original
	Policy F4: Foxton Areas of Separation
	The open character of the two Foxton Areas of Separation, as defined on the adjacent map and the Policies Map, will be retained. The construction of new buildings or inappropriate uses of land which adversely affect this open character or the character and setting of Foxton village will not be supported. Any development proposal within the Areas of Separation must assess and address its impact on the setting of Foxton Village, (as appropriate) the historic Foxton Locks and the objective of separation and give specific attention to location, design and landscaping appropriate to the character of the area.
	New
	Policy F4: Foxton Green Zone
	The open and undeveloped character of the two Foxton Areas of Separation, as defined on Map 2 and the Policies Map, will be retained.
	The construction of new buildings, including new caravan and lodges sites, will not be supported unless they preserve the openness of these Areas and do not conflict with the objective of separation.
	The revised policy has been amended to provide clarity to decision makers on development that is not supported but allow some flexibility for delivery of appropriate development in these areas.
F5	Policy F5 Ecology and Biodiversity
	Minor text changes and to identify individual sites. No comments
F6	Policy F6 The Canal

	No changes. No comments
F7	Policy F7 Local Heritage Assets
	No changes. No comments.
	Policy F8 Ridge and Furrow
F8	New policy for Ridge and Furrow. Ridge and Furrow can be considered a non designated heritage asset. The policy should not materially affect the nature of the Plan, as the previous version of the Foxton Plan also considered non designated heritage assets. The LPA considers that the policy text is appropriate to give clarity to the decision maker and are not overly restrictive where development might be appropriate.
	Policy F9 (formerly F8) Design
F9	No changes. No comment.
	Policy F10 (formerly F9) Local Green Spaces
F10	No changes. No comment.
	Policy F11 (formerly F10) Trees
F11	No changes. No comment.
F12	Policy F12 (formerly F11) Housing Provision
F12	Updated to take account of completions and planning permission given. No comments
	Policy F13 (formerly F12) Windfall Housing
F13	Minor wording changes relating to remove reference to dispersed nature of village and internal configuration of existing buildings. Added text for development not to extend beyond the limits to development. No further comment.
	(Fishers Farm (F13) and Land at Middle Street and Vicarage Drive (F14) — deleted as housing has been delivered through the policies)
	Policy F14 (formerly 16) Housing Mix
F14	Minor text changes to update the policy. No comment
F15	Policy F15 (formerly F17) Affordable Housing
	Minor text changes. No comment.
F16	Policy F16 (formerly F18) Retention of Key Services and Facilities

			Minor text changes to update policy. No comment.
		F17	Policy F17 (formerly F19) Water management
			Minor text changes to update policy. No comment.
			Policy F18 (new policy) Car Parking
		F18	New policy to require car parking standards as set out in Appendix 4, which sets out the number of spaces required according to the size and typology of the development. The policy is supported by the Leicestershire
			Highways Design Guide, which being only guidance requires policy to ensure effective implementation. Policy F19 (formerly F20) Foxton Locks
		F19	
			Minor text changes. Addition of text for electrical charging points. No Comments
7	Strategy &		
'	Business		Foxton Neighbourhood Plan Review Comments Requested – 26th May 2021
	Intelligence,		Leicestershire County Council is supportive of the Neighbourhood plan process and welcome being included in this
	Chief		consultation.
	Executive's Department,		Highways General Comments
	Leicestershir		The County Council recognises that residents may have concerns about traffic conditions in their local area, which they feel
	e County		may be exacerbated by increased traffic due to population, economic and development growth.
	Council,		Like very many local authorities, the County Council's budgets are under severe pressure. It must therefore prioritise where it
	County Hall,		focuses its reducing resources and increasingly limited funds. In practice, this means that the County Highway Authority
	Glenfield,		(CHA), in general, prioritises its resources on measures that deliver the greatest benefit to Leicestershire's residents,

Leicestershir		businesses and road users in terms of road safety, network management and maintenance. Given this, it is likely that
e LE3 8RA		highway measures associated with any new development would need to be fully funded from third party funding, such as
		Section 278 or 106 (S106) developer contributions. I should emphasise that the CHA is generally no longer in a position t
Nik Green		accept any financial risk relating to/make good any possible shortfall in developer funding.
(Mrs)		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 the existing highway conditions a
		worse if considered to have a severe residual impact. They cannot unfortunately be sought to address existing problems.
		Where potential S106 measures would require future maintenance, which would be paid for from the County Council's fur
		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.
		In 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 ie they would be able to operate without being supported from public funding.
		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
		normally expect the scheme to comply with prevailing relevant national and local policies and guidance, both in terms of
		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
		subject to available resources, the availability of full funding and the satisfactory completion of all necessary Statutory
		Procedures.
	Policy	Policy F18: Car Parking
	F18	The normal maximum vehicular parking standards shown in Table DG11 of the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide (Li
		are taken from RPG8. For developments below the threshold, Leicestershire County Council will continue to apply the
		standards contained in the previous guidance document 'Highway Requirements for Development' (HRfD) for the time be
		as the normal maximum standards. In certain circumstances, for example, where there are road safety or amenity issues
		cannot be satisfactorily resolved, we may require a higher level of parking provision
		Flood Risk Management
		The County Council are fully aware of flooding that has occurred within Leicestershire and its impact on residential properties of 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 consulte
		major planning applications in relation to surface water drainage and have a duty to review planning applications to ensu that the onsite drainage systems are designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The LLFA also ensured that the onsite drainage systems are designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The LLFA also ensured that the onsite drainage systems are designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance.
		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.
		The vertical development where development sites are at low fish or flooding or can demonstrate appropriate flood

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 drainage should be protected within new developments to prevent an increase in flood risk.

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 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.

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 densities within the plan to ensure that these features can be retained.

LCC, in its role as LLFA will not support proposals contrary to LCC policies.

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.

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.

Risk of flooding from surface water map:

https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk

Flood map for planning (rivers and sea):

https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/

Planning

Minerals & 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.

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 neighbourhood.

You should also be aware of Minerals and Waste Safeguarding Areas, contained within the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Leicestershire.gov.uk). These safeguarding areas are there to ensure that non-waste and non-minerals development takes place in a way that does not negatively affect minerals 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.

Property 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. It is recognised that it may not always be possible or appropriate to extend a local school to meet the needs of a

It is recognised that it may not always be possible or appropriate to extend a local school to meet the needs of a 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.

Strategic Property Services

No comment at this time.

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.

Environment

Specific Comments

There is no reference to broadband/mobile phone connections within the parish. Other Neighbourhood Plans we have seen do take these into account.

General Comments

With regard to the environment and in line with Government advice, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) would like to see Neighbourhood Plans cover all aspects of the natural

environment including climate change, the landscape, biodiversity, ecosystems, green infrastructure as well as soils, brownfield sites and agricultural land.

Climate Change

The County Council through its Environment Strategy is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Leicestershire and increasing Leicestershire's resilience to the existing and predicted changes in climate. Furthermore, LCC has declared a climate emergency along with most other UK councils. The County Council has committed to becoming carbon neutral as a council by 2030 and to working with others to keep global temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, which will mean in effect needing to achieve carbon neutrality for Leicestershire by 2050 or before. Planning is one of the key levers for enabling these commitments to be met and to meeting the legally binding target set by the government for the UK to be

carbon neutral by 2050. Neighbourhood Plans should in as far as possible seek to contribute to and support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and to increasing the county's resilience to climate change.

Landscape

The County Council would like to see the inclusion of a local landscape assessment taking into account Natural England's Landscape character areas; Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy; the Local District/Borough Council landscape character assessments and the Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study for Leicester and Leicestershire (2017) which examines the sensitivity of the landscape, exploring the extent to which different areas can accommodate development without impacting on their key landscape qualities. 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. LCC would encourage the development of local listings as per the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and LCC have some data on the social, cultural, archaeological and historic value of local features and buildings (https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/historic-environment-record)

Biodiversity

The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 places a duty 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 clearly outlines the importance of sustainable development alongside the core principle that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, providing net gain for biodiversity, 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 or management of open spaces on enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity, such as hedgerows and greenways. Also, habitat permeability for habitats and species which addresses encouragement of movement from one location to another such as the design of street lighting, roads, noise, obstructions in water, exposure of species to predation and arrangement of land-uses.

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 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 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.

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.

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 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 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 in the future. Natural England can provide further information and Agricultural Land classification.

Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)

Information for Neighbourhood Planning groups regarding Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) can be found on the Neighbourhood Planning website (www.neighbourhoodplanning.org) and should be referred to. As taken from the website, a Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain basic conditions in order to be 'made'. It must not breach and be otherwise compatible with EU obligations. One of these obligations is Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004, available online). This is often referred to as the SEA Directive. Not every Neighbourhood Plan needs a SEA, however, it is compulsory to provide when submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority either:

- A statement of reasons as to why SEA was not required
- An environmental report (a key output of the SEA process).

As the UK has now left the EU, Neighbourhood Planning groups should remain mindful of any future changes which may occur to the above guidance.

Impact of Development on Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

Neighbourhood planning groups should remain mindful of the interaction between new development applications in a district

area and 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 HWRC 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 (2019) and the relevant Legislation Regulations.

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:

- 1. Carry out and report on a review of community facilities, groups and allotments and their importance with your community.
- 2. Set out policies that seek to;
- · 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.
- 3. Identify and support potential community projects that could be progressed.

You are encouraged to consider and respond to all aspects of 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.

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.

Fibre Broadband

High speed broadband is critical for businesses and for access to services, many of which are now online by default. Having a fast broadband connection is no longer merely desirable but is an essential requirement in ordinary daily life.

All new developments (including community facilities) should have access to ultrafast broadband (of at least 100Mbps) and allow mechanisms for securing a full fibre broadband provision for each premise and business from at least one network operator, provided on an open access basis. Such provider must deploy a Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) access network structure in which optical fibre runs from a local exchange to each premise.

Developers should take active steps to incorporate adequate broadband provision at the pre-

planning phase and should engage with telecoms providers to ensure fibre broadband is available as soon as build on the development is complete. Where practical, developers should consider engaging several telecoms providers to encourage competition and consumer choice.

The Council supports a 'dig once' approach for the deployment of communications infrastructure and a build which is sympathetic to the character and appearance of the surrounding area. The Council encourages telecommunications build which does not significantly impact on the appearance of any building or space on which equipment in located and which minimises street clutter.

Equalities

While we cannot comment in detail on plans, you may wish to ask stakeholders to bear the Council's Equality Strategy 2020-

		2024 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:
		https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/7/10/Equality-strategyTH-2020-2024.pdf
		The Neighbourhood plan should comply with the main requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. This requires public
		bodies to have due regard of the need to:
		Eliminate discrimination
		Advance equality of opportunity
		Foster good relations between different people
		Accessible Documents
		In today's working environment more and more information is being produced digitally. When producing information which is
		aimed at or to be viewed by the public, it is important to make that information as accessible as possible. At least 1 in 5
		people in the UK have a long-term illness, impairment or disability. Many more have a temporary disability.
		Accessibility means more than putting things online. It means making your content and design clear and simple enough so
		that most people can use it without needing to adapt it, while supporting those who do need to adapt things.
		For example, someone with impaired vision might use a screen reader (software that lets a user navigate a website and 'read
		out' the content), braille display or screen magnifier. Or someone with motor difficulties might use a special mouse, speech
		recognition software or on-screen keyboard emulator.
		Public sector organisations have a legal requirement to make sure that all information which appears on their websites is
		accessible. As Neighbourhood Plans have to be published on Local Planning Authority websites, they too have to comply with
		government regulations for accessibility. Guidance for creating accessible Word and PDF documents can be found on the
		Leicestershire Communities website under the heading 'Creating Accessible Documents':-
	_	https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/sr/
8	Sport	Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above neighbourhood plan.
	England	
	Sportpark	Government planning policy, within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), identifies how the planning system can
	Loughboroug	play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities
	h	to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this
	Planning	process. Providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This
	Administratio	means that positive planning for sport, protection from the unnecessary loss of sports facilities, along with an integrated
	n Team	approach to providing new housing and employment land with community facilities is important.
		It is essential therefore that the neighbourhood plan reflects and complies with national planning policy for sport as set out in
		the NPPF with particular reference to Pars 96 and 97. It is also important to be aware of Sport England's statutory consultee
		role in protecting playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing field land. Sport England's playing fields policy
		is set out in our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document.
		https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy
		Sport England provides guidance on developing planning policy for sport and further information can be found via the link
		below. Vital to the development and implementation of planning policy is the evidence base on which it is founded.
		bolow. That to the development and implementation of planning policy is the evidence base on which it is lounded.

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#planning applications

Sport England works with local authorities to ensure their Local Plan is underpinned by robust and up to date evidence. In line with Par 97 of the NPPF, this takes the form of assessments of need and strategies for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. A neighbourhood planning body should look to see if the relevant local authority has prepared a playing pitch strategy or other indoor/outdoor sports facility strategy. If it has then this could provide useful evidence for the neighbourhood plan and save the neighbourhood planning body time and resources gathering their own evidence. It is important that a neighbourhood plan reflects the recommendations and actions set out in any such strategies, including those which may specifically relate to the neighbourhood area, and that any local investment opportunities, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, are utilised to support their delivery.

Where such evidence does not already exist then relevant planning policies in a neighbourhood plan should be based on a proportionate assessment of the need for sporting provision in its area. Developed in consultation with the local sporting and wider community any assessment should be used to provide key recommendations and deliverable actions. These should set out what provision is required to ensure the current and future needs of the community for sport can be met and, in turn, be able to support the development and implementation of planning policies. Sport England's guidance on assessing needs may help with such work.

http://www.sportengland.org/planningtoolsandguidance

If new or improved sports facilities are proposed Sport England recommend you ensure they are fit for purpose and designed in accordance with our design guidance notes.

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/

Any new housing developments will generate additional demand for sport. If existing sports facilities do not have the capacity to absorb the additional demand, then planning policies should look to ensure that new sports facilities, or improvements to existing sports facilities, are secured and delivered. Proposed actions to meet the demand should accord with any approved local plan or neighbourhood plan policy for social infrastructure, along with priorities resulting from any assessment of need, or set out in any playing pitch or other indoor and/or outdoor sports facility strategy that the local authority has in place.

In line with the Government's NPPF (including Section 8) and its Planning Practice Guidance (Health and wellbeing section), links below, consideration should also be given to how any new development, especially for new housing, will provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles and create healthy communities. Sport England's Active Design guidance can be used to help with this when developing planning policies and developing or assessing individual proposals.

Active Design, which includes a model planning policy, provides ten principles to help ensure the design and layout of development encourages and promotes participation in sport and physical activity. The guidance, and its accompanying checklist, could also be used at the evidence gathering stage of developing a neighbourhood plan to help undertake an assessment of how the design and layout of the area currently enables people to lead active lifestyles and what could be improved.

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litres/person/day

Further guidance regarding the water efficiency standard can eb found in building regulations Part G (2015 edition with 2016 amendments).

Please keep us informed when your plans are further developed when we will be able to offer more detailed comments and advice. 2

For your information we have set out some general guidelines that may be useful to you.

Position Statement

As a water company we have an obligation to provide water supplies and sewage treatment capacity for future development. It is important for us to work collaboratively with Local Planning Authorities to provide relevant assessments of the impacts of future developments. For outline proposals we are able to provide general comments. Once detailed developments and site specific locations are confirmed by local councils, we are able to provide more specific comments and modelling of the network if required. For most developments we do not foresee any particular issues. Where we consider there may be an issue we would discuss in further detail with the Local Planning Authority. We will complete any necessary improvements to provide additional capacity once we have sufficient confidence that a development will go ahead. We do this to avoid making investments on speculative developments to minimise customer bills.

Sewage Strategy

Once detailed plans are available and we have modelled the additional capacity, in areas where sufficient capacity is not currently available and we have sufficient confidence that developments will be built, we will complete necessary improvements to provide the capacity. We will ensure that our assets have no adverse effect on the environment and that we provide appropriate levels of treatment at each of our sewage treatment works.

Surface Water and Sewer Flooding

We expect surface water to be managed in line with the Government's Water Strategy, Future Water. The strategy sets out a vision for more effective management of surface water to deal with the dual pressures of climate change and housing development. Surface water needs to be managed sustainably. For new developments we would not expect surface water to be conveyed to our foul or combined sewage system and, where practicable, we support the removal of surface water already connected to foul or combined sewer.

We believe that greater emphasis needs to be paid to consequences of extreme rainfall. In the past, even outside of the flood plain, some properties have been built in natural drainage paths. We request that developers providing sewers on new developments should safely accommodate floods which exceed the design capacity of the sewers.

To encourage developers to consider sustainable drainage, Severn Trent currently offer a 100% discount on the sewerage infrastructure charge if there is no surface water connection and a 75% discount if there is a surface water connection via a sustainable drainage system. More details can be found on our website

https://www.stwater.co.uk/building-and-developing/regulations-and-forms/application-forms-and-guidance/infrastructure-charges/

Water Quality

Good quality river water and groundwater is vital for provision of good quality drinking water. We work closely with the Environment Agency and local farmers to ensure that water quality of supplies are not impacted by our or others operations. The Environment Agency's Source Protection Zone (SPZ) and Safe Guarding Zone policy should provide guidance on

	development. Any proposals should take into account the principles of the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River basin unit as prepared by the Environment Agency. 3
	Water Supply When specific detail of planned development location and sizes are available a site specific assessment of the capacity of our water supply network could be made. Any assessment will involve carrying out a network analysis exercise to investigate any potential impacts. We would not anticipate capacity problems within the urban areas of our network, any issues can be addressed through reinforcing our network. However, the ability to support significant development in the rural areas is likely to have a greater impact and require greater reinforcement to accommodate greater demands. Water Efficiency Part G of Building Regulations specify that new homes must consume no more than 125 litres of water per person per day. We recommend that you consider taking an approach of installing specifically designed water efficient fittings in all areas of the property rather than focus on the overall consumption of the property. This should help to achieve a lower overall consumption than the maximum volume specified in the Building Regulations. We recommend that in all cases you consider: Single flush siphon toilet cistern and those with a flush volume of 4 litres. Showers designed to operate efficiently and with a maximum flow rate of 8 litres per minute.
	• Water butts for external use in properties with gardens. To further encourage developers to act sustainably Severn Trent currently offer a 100% discount on the clean water infrastructure charge if properties are built so consumption per person is 110 litres per person per day or less. More details can be found on our website https://www.stwater.co.uk/building-and-developing/regulations-and-forms/application-forms-and-guidance/infrastructure-charges/ We would encourage you to impose the expectation on developers that properties are built to the optional requirement in Building Regulations of 110 litres of water per person per day.
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