



**PLAN-IT X**  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SERVICES

# Billesdon Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

## Basic Conditions Statement

September 2023

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review. It explains how the proposed Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning, and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 of the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 have been met.
- 1.2 The revisions made to the (Submission) Draft version of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review are not considered to be so significant as to change the nature of the Neighbourhood Plan which the Draft Plan would replace. The broad nature of the Neighbourhood Plan remains unchanged.
- 1.3 Paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
  - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019);
  - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
  - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.4 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
  - Section 3 shows how the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review will contribute to sustainable development;
  - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review with the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (Adopted April 2019);
  - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and

- Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.

1.5 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

### Submitting Body

1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Billesdon Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

### Neighbourhood Area

1.7 This Plan applies to the Parish of Billesdon, which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 29 October 2012. In accordance with Regulation 6, Harborough District Council, on behalf of the relevant body (Billesdon Parish Council), completed the necessary statutory processes to enable designation of the Billesdon parish area as a Neighbourhood Area.

1.8 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Billesdon and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.

1.9 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area. It is the intention that the current ('made' October 2014) will be replaced by this new Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan.

1.10 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review covers the period 2012 to 2031. This has the same end date of the Harborough Local Plan (Adopted April 2019).

1.11 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Billesdon: Location

1.12 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Area is situated to the east of Leicester and north of the town of Market Harborough in Harborough District, Leicestershire. The Parish is bisected by the A47 which runs west-east linking Leicester to the A1. The parish amounts to 869 hectares. The resident population is 910 and there are 420 households (2021 Census).

- 1.13 Billesdon is a large compact village comprising of about 145 dwellings. There are a good range of services within the Parish including two public houses, a village shop, doctor's surgery, post office, fire station, allotments and a multi-functional community hall.

### Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.14 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared by Billesdon Parish Council, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement.

# Billesdon Neighbourhood Area

Billesdon

Map 1

0 200 400 800m  
Scale: 1:50000

Author:

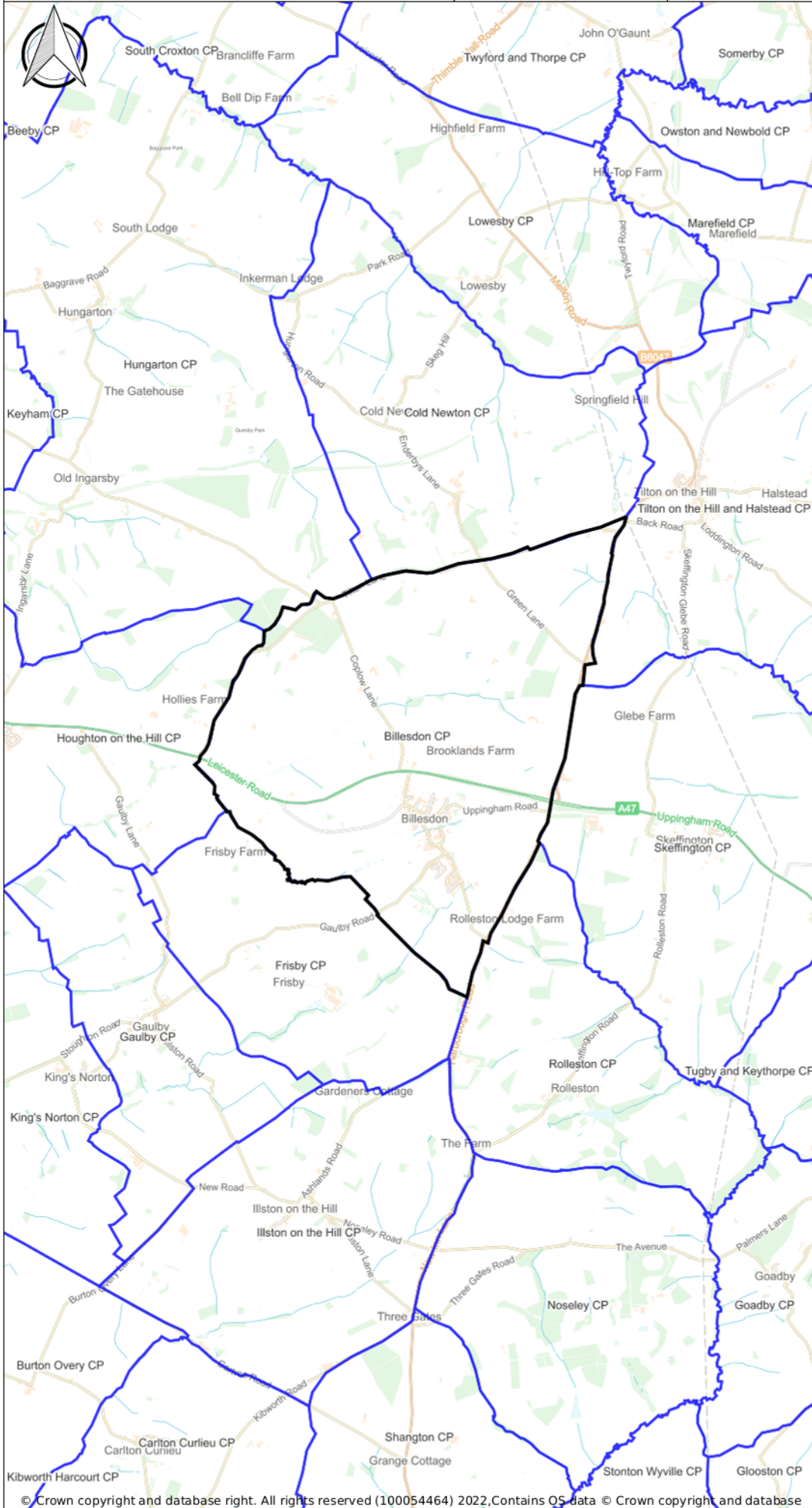
Date: 24/05/2022



Parish



Neighbourhood Area



## 2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1 It is required that the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 5 September 2023 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance)
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Brownfield Land Registers;
  - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment;
  - Climate Change;
  - Design: process and tools;
  - First Homes;
  - Flood Risk and Coastal Challenge;
  - Healthy and Safe Communities;
  - Light Pollution

- Natural Environment;
- Noise Pollution
- Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
- Housing for Older and Disabled People;
- Housing Needs of Different Groups;
- Planning Obligations;
- Town Centres and Retail

2.6 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).



Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p><b>BPr1: Housing Requirement – The plan will meet its housing requirement through committed development, windfall development and housing allocations.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 60, 66, 70 &amp; 78</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to make effective use of land and the sustainable delivery of homes.</p>
<p><b>BPr2: Infill – Supports housing infill development within the defined Billesdon Limits to Development which is in keeping with the character of its surroundings, including use of materials, and protection of important features, address climate change, protects residential amenity and allows for a safe and suitable access.</b></p> <p><b>Outside of the settlement boundaries, housing development will be</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 78, 79, 80, 119 &amp; 120</p>	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What light pollution considerations does planning need to address? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 31-001-20191101)</p> <p>What factors can be considered when assessing whether a development proposal might have implications for light pollution? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 31-002-20191101)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to make the effective use of land whilst safeguarding the environment and takes a positive approach to the re-use of previously developed land and the re-use of redundant or disused buildings. Supports development that would enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<b>limited on accordance with the Local Plan.</b>		When is noise relevant to planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 30-001-20190722)	
<b>BPr3: Gaulby Road Lorry Park – Identifies a housing allocation to provide for approximately 5 dwellings. Regard to be had to the provision of a suitable landscaping scheme with biodiversity improvement, and design to respect the distinctiveness and traditional character of the area. The site should also be cleared of contamination and security fencing removed.</b>	Paragraphs 79, 85, 119, 120, 126, 127, 130, 174 & 184	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	Policy seeks the effective use of brownfield land, with a development designed to seek biodiversity improvements and respects local traditional character.

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p><b>BPr4: Housing Mix – Expects development to provide for a mix of housing types to reflect the most up to date Housing Needs Assessment and local evidence. Will also need to demonstrate how needs of older households will be met.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 62 &amp; 78</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626).</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan seeks to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p><b>BPr5: Affordable Housing – All affordable housing will be subject to a condition or planning obligation securing those people with a local connection to Billesdon Parish. First Homes are to comprise 25% of all affordable units delivered.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64 &amp; 78</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What is a First Home? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 70-001-20210524)</p> <p>What are the First Homes criteria? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 70-002-20210524)</p> <p>What appropriate methods can local authorities use to set out their local requirements for First Homes, including both local First Homes criteria and local First Homes eligibility criteria? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 70-009-20210524)</p> <p>How should developer contributions be secured for First Homes? (Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 70-012-20210524)</p> <p>How can the 25% First Homes requirement be addressed in plans?</p>	<p>First Homes to be provided as part of the affordable housing provision in the district. This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 70-013-20210524)</p> <p>How can neighbourhood plans support the provision of affordable homes for sale, including First Homes? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 70-017-20210524)</p>	
<p><b>BPr6: Working from Home – Supports development that facilitates working from home providing it is in keeping with the character of the area, does no adversely harm residential amenity or traffic flow on specified roads, and provides for a safe and suitable access.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 82, 84 &amp; 114</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, and takes a proactive approach in this respect.</p>
<p><b>BPr7: Ultrafast Broadband – New development to facilitate access to fibre optic broadband technology. Exceptions</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 84 &amp; 114</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable economic development and the provision of high quality communications infrastructure in accordance with the NPPF.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
will only be considered if unviability of a development can be demonstrated.			
<p><b>BPr8: The Former Highway Depot (Gaulby Road) – supports the mixed use comprehensive redevelopment of this site, with ( Class E, dwellings and a Training Facility). Support is subject to various criteria including amenity, parking provision, highway safety, contamination clearance, nature conservation and landscaping.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 79, 84, 85, 104, 105, 119, 120, 174, 184 &amp; 185</p>	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What light pollution considerations does planning need to address? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 31-001-20191101)</p> <p>What factors can be considered when assessing whether a development proposal might have implications for light pollution? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 31-002-20191101)</p>	<p>Policy seeks the effective use of brownfield land, the delivery of local housing and supports the rural economy, whilst protecting character and amenity.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<b>BPr9: Business in the Countryside – Supports the conversion or re-use of buildings in the countryside, having regard to impact on character, traffic generation and accessibility.</b>	Paragraphs 84 & 85	Not relevant	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, and takes a proactive approach in this respect.
<b>BPr10: Retention of Key Services and Facilities - This policy supports the protection, diversification and accessibility to identified services and facilities.</b>	Paragraphs 84, 86 & 93	How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)  What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)	The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss and improvement of facilities that meet day to day needs.
<b>BPr11: Retail – supports the extension of existing shops and leisure uses, including public houses, which are to improve their viability.</b>	Paragraphs 84, 86 & 93	How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)  What is a healthy place?	Supports the provision, and vitality and viability, of local services that meet day to day needs, anthe role this has to play in supporting the local community as well as providing opportunities for social interaction

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p> <p>Planning for town centre vitality and viability (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 2b-001-20190722)</p>	
<p><b>BPr12: Infrastructure – Seeks new development to support the provision of new or improved infrastructure together with financial off-site contributions. Policy includes a list of identified infrastructure requirements. The viability of development will be taken into account.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 8, 28, 34, 92, 95 &amp; 104</p>	<p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>What evidence is needed to support policies for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20190315)</p> <p>What funding is available for education? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 23b-007-20190315)</p> <p>What contributions are required towards education? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 23b-008-20190315)</p> <p>Are planning obligations negotiable?</p>	<p>This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of highway infrastructure, and community and education facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan.</p>



Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 23b-010-20190315)</p> <p>How should plan makers set policy requirements for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 10-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should plan makers and site promoters ensure that policy requirements for contributions from development are deliverable? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 10-002-20190509)</p> <p>How should viability for education provision be addressed? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 10-029-20190509)</p>	

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p><b>BPr13: Traffic Management – Development will only be supported if it will not cause a significant increase of volume of traffic on identified roads in Billesdon. Development in accordance with BPr3 and BPr9 is exempt.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 104 &amp; 105</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>This policy seeks to manage the traffic impacts of development.</p>
<p><b>BPr14: The Countryside - Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, landscape, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. States that development will be controlled in accordance with Policies SS1, GD3 and GD4 of the Harborough Local Plan. New development should be mitigate to minimise landscape impacts and</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 80, 84, 131 &amp; 174</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy mirrors this approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
woodland screen planting is encouraged.			
<b>BPr15: Countryside Access – Supports new and improved access to publicly accessible open space, including the countryside around Billesdon village.</b>	Paragraphs 92, 98, 100 & 120	How should open space be taken into account in planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306)	This policy facilitates healthy communities and supports active lifestyles supporting access to open spaces.
<b>BPr16: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats, including several identified features. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features for biodiversity gain. New houses should integrate features which support biodiversity.</b>	Paragraphs 174, 175 & 179	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	

<p><b>BPr17: Water Management – Seeks the sustainable management of water. Development should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) accompanied by a maintenance schedule, surface water discharges carried out in accordance with the drainage hierarchy, incorporate water efficiency measures and protect existing drainage systems.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 159 &amp; 169</p>	<p>How can neighbourhood planning take account of flood risk? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 7-015-20220825)</p> <p>What advice and information on flood risk is available for neighbourhood planning? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 7-016-20220825)</p> <p>What needs to be considered if there is a risk of flooding in the neighbourhood area? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 7-017-20220825)</p> <p>What are sustainable drainage systems and why are they important? (Paragraph: 055 Reference ID: 7-055-20220825)</p> <p>What sort of sustainable drainage systems can be considered? (Paragraph: 056 Reference ID: 7-056-20220825)</p> <p>What information on sustainable drainage needs to be submitted with a planning application? (Paragraph: 059 Reference ID: 7-059-20220825)</p>	<p>Policy takes into account the potential for flood risk and proactively seeks to implement measures to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.</p>
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Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		How can sustainable drainage reduce the causes and impacts of flooding? (Paragraph: 063 Reference ID: 7-063-20220825)	
<p><b>BPr18: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within Billesdon which will be protected. Development in this designation will only be supported in very special circumstances.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 101-103</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. Development in this designation will only be permitted in very special circumstances. The Local Green Spaces designated in the first Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan have all been retained.</p>

Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p><b>BPr19: Non-Designated Heritage Assets – the impact of development on a number of identified Non- Designated Heritage assets will be assessed in terms of their harm or loss of the asset.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 189, 190, 194, 195 &amp; 203</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and how important are they? (Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of non-designated heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Non-Designated Heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>

<p><b>BPr20: Design - New development should reflect the distinctive character of Billesdon Village and reflect the guidance set out in the Billesdon Village Design Statement. Regard should be had to protecting residential amenity, suitable waste facilities and the provision of a safe and suitable access.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 110, 126, 127,129, 130, 131, 134 &amp; 185</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>What are local design guides? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 26-005-20191001)</p> <p>What light pollution considerations does planning need to address? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 31-001-20191101)</p> <p>What factors can be considered when assessing whether a development proposal might have implications for light pollution? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 31-002-20191101)</p> <p>When is noise relevant to planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 30-001-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that reflects the surrounding area and the character of Billesdon.</p>
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Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p><b>BPr21: Climate Change - Expects development to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. Development will be expected to take into account a number of issues including use of sustainably sourced resources, use of sustainable modes of travel, construction, health and well-being of residents and net gain in biodiversity.</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs 152, 153, 154, 155 &amp; 157</p>	<p>Why is it important for planning to consider climate change? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 6-001-20140306)</p> <p>How can the challenges of climate change be addressed through the Local Plan? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 6-003-20140612)</p> <p>How can adaptation and mitigation approaches be integrated? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 6-004-20140612)</p>	<p>This policy plans for climate change, through mitigation and adaptation, to support the future resilience of communities.</p>

### 3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review against each of the Planning Policy 'subjects' as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review supports objective
<b>1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</b>	Provides a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supports a supply and mix of housing types, including affordable housing, to meet local needs, and the needs of older households. Priority will be given to those with a local connection to Billesdon Parish when affordable housing is allocated.

<b>National Planning Policy Framework</b>	<b>How the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review supports objective</b>
<b>2 – Building a strong, competitive economy</b>	Supports home working, the provision of suitable broadband infrastructure, the employment redevelopment on the Former Highway Depot and the rural economy. Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, including retail development, supporting the vitality of the community.
<b>3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres</b>	The village of Billesdon has a range of key services and facilities and an ambition of the plan is to protect the vitality of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities. The extension of retail and leisure uses is also supported to improve their viability.
<b>4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities</b>	<p>Seeks the protection of the countryside and its improved accessibility as well as the protection of local green spaces. These are recognised as a recreational resource and have potential to improve quality of life.</p> <p>Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, proving opportunities for people to meet and support quality of life as well as the protection of residential amenity.</p>
<b>5 – Promoting sustainable development</b>	Supports housing development within the defined Billesdon Limits to Development with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth.
<b>6 – Supporting high quality communications</b>	Supports the provision of infrastructure that facilitates the provision of fibre optic broadband technology.
<b>7 – Making effective use of land</b>	Supports infill housing development within the defined Billesdon Limits to Development, facilities the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use and conversion of buildings.
<b>8 – Achieving well-designed places</b>	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside.
<b>9 - Protecting Green Belt Land</b>	Not applicable

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review supports objective
<b>10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</b>	Supports the conversion and re-use of buildings. As there are well-established national and local policies that manage development and flood risk, there is no need for the Neighbourhood Plan to duplicate them. However, the Neighbourhood Plan does seek the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and the sustainable management of surface water. Expects all development to mitigate against and adapt to climate change.
<b>11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</b>	Protects the character of the countryside, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.
<b>12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</b>	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance. Seeks to positively contribute to, and manage, the district's historic environment.
<b>13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals</b>	Not applicable.

## 4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019).
- 4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019).

### Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031

- 4.3 The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review is considered to conform to the following policies of the Harborough Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy SS1:	The Spatial Strategy
Policy GD2:	Settlement Development
Policy GD3:	Development in the Countryside
Policy GD4:	New Housing in the Countryside
Policy GD8:	Good Design in Development
Policy H1:	Provision of New Housing
Policy H2:	Affordable Housing
Policy H3:	Rural Exception Sites
Policy H5:	Housing density, mix and standards
Policy BE1:	Provision of New Business Development
Policy BE3:	Existing Employment Areas
Policy HC1:	Built Heritage
Policy HC2:	Community Facilities
Policy HC3:	Public House, Post Offices and Village Shops
Policy GI1:	Green Infrastructure Networks
Policy GI4:	Local Green Space
Policy GI5:	Biodiversity and geodiversity
Policy CC1:	Mitigating Climate Change
Policy CC4:	Sustainable Drainage

Policy IN1: Infrastructure Provision

Policy IN2: Sustainable Transport

Policy IN3: Electronic Connectivity

<b>Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031</b>	<b>Explanation of Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan</b>
<b>BPr1: Housing Requirement</b>	Policy H1	Identifies a minimum housing requirement of 10 dwellings for the Neighbourhood Area (in accordance with the Local Plan) and details how this requirement will be met.
<b>BPr2: Infill</b>	Policy GD2	Defines the Limits to Development for Billesdon village, taking into account the character of the village as well as recent and proposed development, to guide development. Development should respect the form and natural and built environment of the village and minimise impact on amenity.
<b>BPr3: Gaulby Road Lorry Park</b>	Policy GD2	Supports the development of previously developed land of low environmental value. The site adjoins the built form and provides an opportunity to enhance its immediate setting.
<b>BPr4: Housing Mix</b>	Policy SS1 & Policy H5	Provides for a mix of housing types informed by up-to-date evidence of housing need.
<b>BPr5: Affordable Housing</b>	Policies SS1, H2 & H3	<p>Provides for housing that meets the needs of Billesdon and supports the provision of affordable housing on appropriate sites. Tenure split for affordable housing to be 75% affordable or socially rented and 25% First Homes.</p> <p>Should a rural exception site be identified at a point in the future, its future development to be guided by Local Plan policy.</p>

<b>Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031</b>	<b>Explanation of Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan</b>
<b>BPr6: Working from Home</b>	Policies SS1 & BE1	Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy.
<b>BPr7: Ultrafast Broadband</b>	Policies SS1, BE1 & IN1	Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy and the provision of necessary infrastructure.
<b>BPr8: The Former Highway Depot (Gaulby Road)</b>	Policies SS1, H5, BE1, BE3, GD2 & IN2	Supports the sustainable development of an employment site well related to Billesdon and allows flexibility for its release for suitable alternative uses, including the provision of plots for selfbuild and custom build housing. Incorporates the retention of natural features and protects the character and environment of the local area, as well as amenity.
<b>BPr9: Business in the Countryside</b>	Policies BE1, GD3 & IN3	Supports a sustainable rural economy and its diversification through the re-use of existing buildings whilst protecting the countryside. Seeks provision of suitable access arrangement and manage the impact of travel.
<b>BPr10: Retention of Key Services and Facilities</b>	Policies SS1, HC2 & HC3	Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in Billesdon. Supports development which assists their diversification and improved accessibility. Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded.
<b>Policy BPr11: Retail</b>	Policy HC3	Supports the development of existing retail and leisure uses to sustain the future of the facility.
<b>BPr12: Infrastructure</b>	Policy IN1	Supports the provision of infrastructure where appropriate allowing for viability considerations to be taken into account.

<b>Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031</b>	<b>Explanation of Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan</b>
<b>BPr13: Traffic Management</b>	Policy IN2	Seeks the effective management of traffic and its environmental effects.
<b>BPr14: Countryside</b>	Policies SS1, GD3 & GD4	Seeks the protection of open countryside and protects it from unacceptable development. Development will only be allowed that is in accordance with the relevant policies of the Harborough Local Plan.
<b>BPr15: Countryside Access</b>	Policy GI1	Supports access to green infrastructure including the countryside around Billesdon Village.
<b>BPr16: Ecology and Biodiversity</b>	Policy GI5	Protects locally designated ecological sites and requires new development to contribute towards the protection and improvements in biodiversity.
<b>BPr17: Water Management</b>	Policy CC4	Seeks to manage flood risk and supports, where appropriate, the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems, (SuDs) within new development.
<b>BPr18: Local Green Spaces</b>	Policy GI4	The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Local Green Spaces that meet the relevant national criteria. Protects and preserves high quality green spaces with benefits for the local community. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded.
<b>BPr19: Non-Designated Heritage Assets</b>	Policy HC1	Supports the conservation and enhancement of the parish's heritage assets, including archaeological assets. Development will have regard to the scale of any harm and to the significance of the non-designated asset.
<b>BPr20: Design</b>	Policy GD8	Requires new development to respect and enhance both the local character and



<b>Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031</b>	<b>Explanation of Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan</b>
<b>BPr21: Climate Change</b>	Policy CC1	distinctiveness of Billesdon. Expects development to mitigate against and adapt to climate change and identifies the issues to be addressed.

## 5. Compliance with European Union obligations

5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review (January 2023) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.

5.3 The outcome of this assessment concludes that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review. As such the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review with its current proposals does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken.

5.4 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) have been consulted on this Determination Report and their responses are summarised below:

- Environment Agency – The Environment Agency agrees with the conclusion that a full SEA needn't be undertaken. Note that at least two of the proposed allocation sites are on land with a history of

potentially contaminative uses. The redevelopment of these sites must not cause a pollution risk to the water environment.

- Natural England – Natural England's 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. Based on the plans submitted NE considered that the proposed housing allocation will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites and agrees with the Screening Statement that the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review is not subject to the requirements of Directives 2001/42/EC, the SEA Directive and accompanying regulations.
- Historic England – On the basis of the submitted information Historic England are of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required,

### Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.5 Each policy of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review has been assessed to determine the effects on historic environment, Natura 2000 sites and Habitats Regulation Assessment. The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review is unlikely to have a substantial effect of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 5.6 A full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken as part Harborough Local Plan (2011 to 2031) preparation. The HRA for the Local Plan determines that no European sites lie within Harborough District. Outside of the boundary the nearest European site is Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site which is located 7km to the north-east of the district boundary.
- 5.7 The assessment concluded in 2017 that the Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any internationally important wildlife sites either alone or in conjunction with other plans and projects. These conclusions are based on the fact that no Natura 2000 sites are located within the district and no impact pathways were identified linking internationally important wildlife sites outside of the district (e.g. Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site) to development within Harborough District. Therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 5.8 The Local Plan HRA considered but dismissed the following sites from the analysis due to a combination of distance and absence of impact pathways linking it to the District:
- Ensor's Pool SAC;
  - The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar; and
  - River Mease SAC

The HRA looked into the potential effects of the plan on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site in more detail. However, it concluded that the Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the site as no impact pathways were identified linking it to development within Harborough District.

- 5.9 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review.

## 6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
  - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken of the Harborough Local Plan.

## 7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 7.2 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

## 8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review complies with paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Town and Country Planning Act 2004.

## Appendix 1: Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review – Equalities Impact Assessment

### Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

### Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

**High impact:** a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

**Medium impact:** some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

**Low impact:** almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

### Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2021 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Billesdon for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.



In 2021 there were 910 people living in Billesdon Parish. 48.3% were Male and 51.7% were Female. By comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49% (Male) and 51% (Female).

14.4% of the population was 0-15 years old and 28.5% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 18.4% and 17.3% for 0-15's.

6.5% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 19%.

57.5% of the population was Christian and 2.6% other religions including Hindu, Muslim and Sikh. By comparison 46.3% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 9.4% considered themselves to be Hindu, Muslim or Sikh.

50.5% of residents considered themselves to be in very good health, 35.3% in good health and 10.6% in fair health. The comparable proportions for the UK were 48.5% (very good health), 33.7% (good health) and 12.7% (fair health).

51.7% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil

Gender reassignment and sexual orientation are generally invisible characteristics for which little reliable data exists at local level. There was also no data available for pregnancy or maternity.

### Summary

Generally, the proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people is significantly higher than the national picture, and the proportion of 0-15 year olds is lower.

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

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

### Key Issues and Policies of the Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Billesdon that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address;

- The number of new houses
- The number of sites for new houses
- The sites for development
- The types and sizes of new housing
- Housing design
- Broadband

- Redevelopment of existing buildings for retail, office or light industrial use
- New-build office and light industrial floor space
- Recreational Facilities
- The Coplow Centre
- Retail Opportunities
- The Primary School
- Traffic Management
- Parking
- Footpaths
- Protecting and enhancing the rural landscape and natural environment
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Addressing Climate Change

These issues are reflected in the Vision for the Billesdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan, comprising nine broad objectives;

- **A village whose rural character and sense of ‘community’ have been maintained**
- **A rural village whose appearance has been preserved by the managed integration of new housing built to high standards of design, including energy conservation features**
- **A rural community that actively responds to environmental issues and seeks to protect and enhance its countryside landscape, wildlife habitats and biodiversity**
- **A rural village whose through-traffic and parking problems have been contained at manageable proportions**
- **A rural community containing an integrated mix of people by age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and disability**
- **A rural community whose housing needs have been met mainly through the development of a mixture of house types built on a restricted number of sites integral to the village of Billesdon**
- **A rural community whose varied educational, medical, recreational, leisure and retail needs are met by a range of sustainable services and facilities.**
- **A rural community supported by a strong local economy**
- **A rural community that plays its part in reducing and mitigating environmental degradation and climate change**

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 21 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues and objectives.

## Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

### Age

Policy BPr4 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households.

Policy BPr5 supports the provision of affordable housing including a proportion of First Homes.

Policy BPr10 seeks the retention of key services and facilities and Policy BPr11 seeks improvements in local facilities, including shops and leisure uses. Policy BPr12 requires new development to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. These policies are seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Billesdon. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the parish services include a primary school, public houses, community hall and local shops. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact, as is the support for the provision of a community playing field.

Policy BPr18 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

### Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy BPr4) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy BPr4 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policies BPr2 and BPr20, requires developments to have a safe and suitable access, and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic. In addition Policy BPr6 facilitates home working and Policy BPr9 supports business development and both these policies also requires a safe and suitable access to the site for all people.

### Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy BPr20, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

### Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

### Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention and improvement of key services such as the community centre (Policies BPr10, BPr11 & BPr12). These impacts might be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

### Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

### Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities, including the community centre with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

### Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

### Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy BPr20, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

### Conclusion

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

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. There is also the potential to provide a higher

quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made, and the assessment finds the Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan Review to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.