



STATEMENT TO SUPPORT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION IN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Since the adoption of the Broughton Astley Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) in 2013, the village has experienced substantial housing growth, with the original Plan allocating two main sites and one reserve site to meet the housing requirement set by Harborough District Council, delivering approximately 500 new homes. In March 2022, work began to update and review the NHP to ensure it continues to reflect community needs, respond to emerging challenges, and guide sustainable development for the future in locations preferred by the local community. This review has been supported by an independent Neighbourhood Plan consultant and underpinned by extensive evidence gathering, including a Housing Needs Assessment, Site Options and Assessment, Design Guide, Environmental Inventory, and a Local Green Spaces study.

A key part of this process has involved community engagement. The Parish Council held four public drop-in consultation events to gather residents' views on potential development locations. From the seven sites presented, four emerged as the most positively received by the community. These preferred sites were then subject to detailed, objective assessment against criteria including transport connectivity, site access, landscape impact, flooding considerations, and overall deliverability.

Following this comprehensive appraisal, the Witham Villa site was identified as the most suitable and sustainable location for future development. It demonstrated strong performance across the assessment criteria and demonstrated a balanced potential for medium scale development aligned well with the community feedback gathered during consultation. Key criteria included infrastructure readiness such as road network and traffic control on to the B581, its close proximity to existing amenities and local schools and was felt to have the least impact on the village centre. Selecting this site for inclusion in the revised NHP ensures that future growth is planned, coordinated, and sensitive to the character and needs of Broughton Astley.

Including at least one allocated development site within an emerging Neighbourhood Plan is essential. It provides a clear framework for planning decisions, strengthens local planning policies, and demonstrates that the community has positively engaged with meeting local housing needs. Doing so ensures that the Neighbourhood Plan has maximum strength going forward. This approach not only reflects the aspirations of residents but also safeguards the parish from unplanned or speculative development that could arise in the absence of an allocated site.

The selection of the Witham Villa site therefore represents a balanced and well-evidenced choice that supports sustainable development, respects the wishes of the community, and reinforces the robustness of the updated Broughton Astley Neighbourhood Plan.