

Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation Statement

Introduction

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

According to the Regulations, a Consultation Statement:

- Contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Explains how they were consulted;
- Summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;
- Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

Aims of the consultation process

The aims of the consultation process were to be inclusive and open in the preparation of the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) and to:

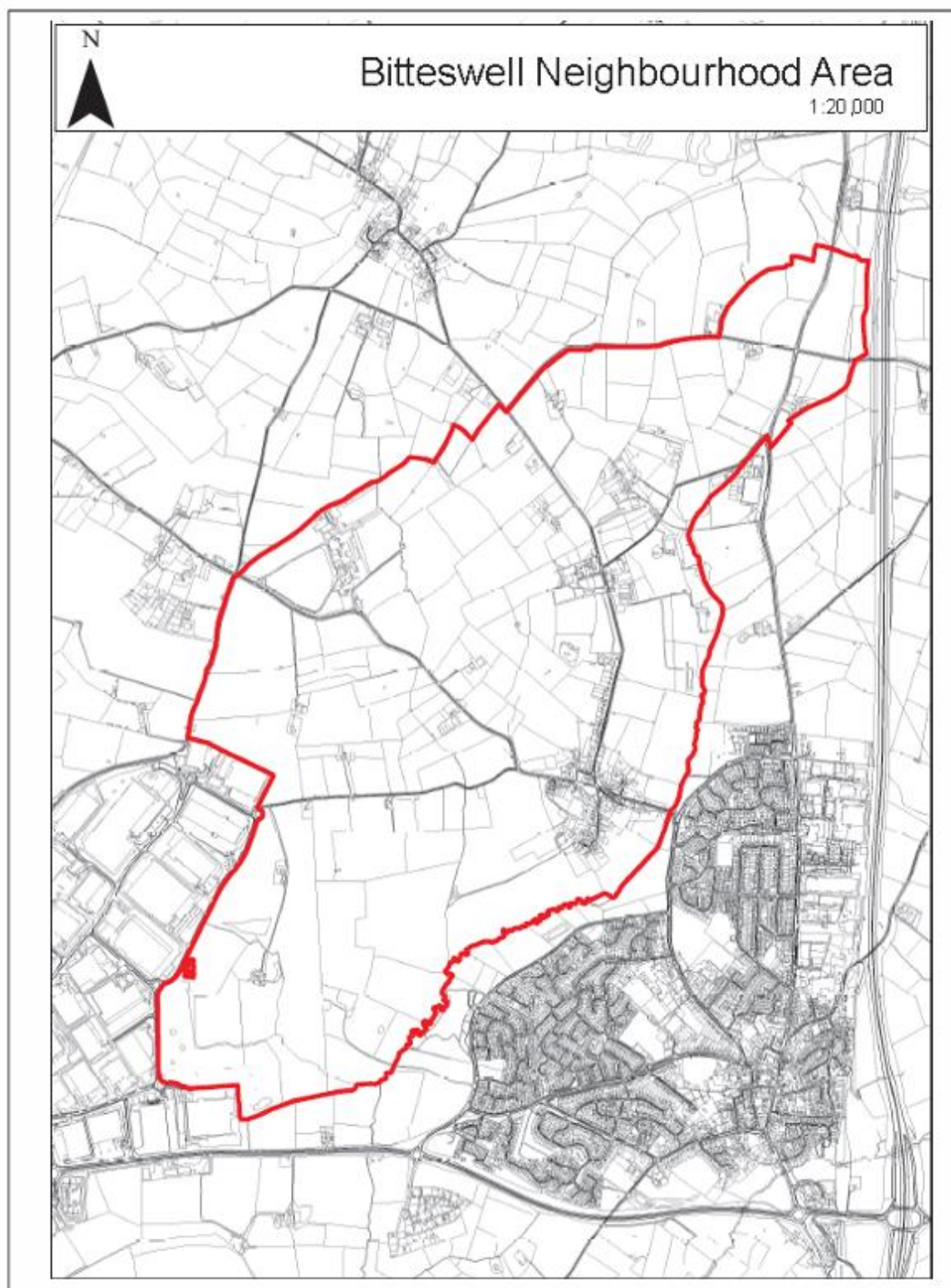
- Inform residents, local businesses, and other stakeholders about the neighbourhood planning process and to invite their participation so that local opinion informed and shaped the plan;
- Ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process;
- Engage in a variety of ways to make sure that as wide a range of people as possible were involved and that they could receive information and provide feedback in a way that suits them;
- Ensure that information was readily available and accessible to everyone;
- Make sure that consultation feedback was available as soon as possible after events.

Defining the Neighbourhood

The Parish Council applied to the local planning authority on 10th October 2016 for the whole of the parish of Bitteswell to be included in the Designated Area. Harborough District Council formally notified the Parish Council that it had made the designation on 31st January 2017.

The Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan seeks to demonstrate specific and local planning policies for the development and use of land within the Designated Area. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a vision for future development in Bitteswell, based on the views of the local community and supported by socio-economic and demographic data.

Bitteswell Neighbourhood Designated Area



Preparing the plan

The Parish Council set up the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (BNPAC) to undertake the development of the Plan. Members of the BNPAC were appointed by the Parish Council having volunteered in response to an Volunteer Meeting held at the Bitteswell Village Hall. It consisted of 5 residents plus 2 Parish Councillors. The Parish Council agreed Terms of Reference for the BNPAC at its meeting on December 2018.

BNPAC's mandate was to drive the process, consult with the local community, gather evidence to support emerging policies and deliver the Plan.

BNPAC met on the following dates:

8 February 2017	21 June 2017	23 January 2018
24 July 2018	16 January 2019	20 February 2019
20 March 2019	26 March 2019	10 April 2019
23 May 2019	19 June 2019	14 August 2019
01 October 2020	4 November 2020	

The minutes of the BNPAC can be found in the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Bitteswell Parish Council website: [Neighbourhood Plan | Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council](#)

The Parish Council also resolved at its meeting on 7 February 2015 to commission an external consultancy (Yourlocale) to provide professional support to the BNPAC to deliver the Plan. Funding was provided by grants from Locality and Awards for all which, in addition to funding professional support, covered the cost of community consultation and engagement.

At its meeting on 16 January 2019 at The Bitteswell Village Hall, BNPAC launched three theme groups:

- Housing
- Environment
- Economy, transport and community assets.

Each of the groups was supported by a Your Locale facilitator with expertise in the relevant field. Further members of the community volunteered to participate in these groups, the aim being to explore in detail the issues that had been raised by residents in response to the questionnaire sent out in 5th April 2021, the stakeholder event in May 2021 and at the open event held in May 2021.

These theme groups met regularly between January 2019 and November 2020.

Communications

The BNPAC has been proactive in promoting the plan and providing regular updates to residents, including:

- The Parish Council was kept updated at its meetings by an agenda item, duly minuted, the minutes being available on the parish website;
- Notices placed on the parish and village noticeboards. The Notification of Formal consultation was also placed on all noticeboards (there are two in the village) and on the website.
- Flyers distributed by hand to residents informing them of meetings.
- Open meetings were held on **Neighbourhood Development Plan Involvement Day**
- ***NDP Networking event 2019, Neighbourhood Planning - Getting started "nuts and bolts" 2020.***
- A comprehensive questionnaire was sent out to each household April 2021.
- Open event 8 June 2019.

Consultation – list of people and bodies consulted

A letter was sent by post, email or hand delivered to all Regulation 14 consultation bodies on 15 April 2021. [bitteswell-regulation-14-letter.pdf](#)

They were:

Harborough District Council
Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport
Leicestershire County Council
Sport England
Lutterworth Town Council
Leicestershire County Council
Ullesthorpe Parish Council
GATE (Gypsy & Traveller Equality)
Ashby Parva Parish Council
Voluntary Action LeicesterShire
Age UK Leicestershire & Rutland
East Midlands Ambulance Service
Police-
Leicestershire Fire & Rescue
Cllr N Bannister Harborough District Council
Harborough Disability Access Group
Cllr R Paige Leicestershire County Council
Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living
Alberto Costa MP
Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire
Homes and Communities Agency
Action Deafness
Natural England
Vista Blind
The Environment Agency
National Farmers Union
CPRE Leicestershire

Country Land & Business Association
Historic England
Federation of Small Businesses
Ancient Monuments Society
Severn Trent Water
The Coal Authority
British Gas Connections Ltd
Network Rail
Western Power Distribution
Health & Safety Executive
National Grid
Highways England
Gazeley
Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure
Waterloo Housing
Three Network
Harborough Chamber of Commerce
EE Corporate and Financial Affairs Dept.
The Masharanil Practice
Arriva Midlands (Route 84)
The Wycliffe Medical Practice
East Leicestershire CCG

Adjoining Parishes

Ashby Parva
Ullesthorpe
Lutterworth Town Council

Representatives

Member of Parliament: Alberto Costa
County Councillor: Rosita Page
District Councillor: N Bannister

Businesses

[Pennard Commercial Services Ltd](#)
[Bitteswell Construction Limited](#)
[Halcyon Country Properties Limited](#)
[GS Pearson Building Services Ltd](#)

Man at Arms
St Marys Church
Bitteswell Village Hall
Oaksmiths Ltd
Bitteswell Egg Farm

Elms Farm Industrial Estate
Palmers Garden Centre
Lutterworth Country House
Wells Mcfarlane

Landowners

Members of BNPAC worked with other members of the community to identify on a map all local landowners. (the same as for Statutory Stakeholders)

[Neighbourhood Plan | Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council](#)

The owners/occupiers of houses listed in the section of the plan “Non-Designated Local Heritage Assets” were initially approached by members of the Environment Theme Group to explain the intention and significance of listing them in the Plan. In March 2021 they were also sent the same letter provided to Statutory Stakeholders.

Summary of findings from events and questionnaires

By involving residents, business owners and other stakeholders in the development of the Plan, it is both evidence-based and has been shaped by local opinion, with policies being tested as they were developed. There has been detailed analysis after each consultation event or questionnaire which has informed the next step of drafting the plan.

These reports can be found on the website:

Neighbourhood Plan pre submission [Neighbourhood Plan | Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council](#)

Regulation 14, Pre-Submission Consultation

This took place over a seven-week period, initially set from 5th April – 23rd May 2021. The comments received were collated and, after an initial review by YourLocale, the BNPAC was asked to consider the comments and possible amendments to the plan. The Parish Council was asked for its views. The comments and responses are detailed in the appendix.

Conclusion

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

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

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

Neighbourhood Plan

Pre submission consultation responses

No.	Chapter/ Section	Policy Number	Respondent	Comment	Response	Amendment
			Rosita Page	As the district and county councillor of the Local Authorities that will have to ultimately have to approve all the NHP's submitted , I reserve my rights to any detailed comments at this stage but I understand from representations that have been made to me and I was copied into , that there are some concerns some of which I echo . In the interest of public accountability and transparency and to ensure the NHP will be a solid , sustainable document that will serve the interest of all my residents , I can support , I am feel assured that all of these point will be fully addressed going forward . Thank you, very much appreciated BW R	All issues raised, primarily by landowners whose sites were not chosen as an allocation in the NP or whose land is affected by the allocations, have been appropriately addressed. If there are further concerns, then they should be stated so that they can be responded to. It is unhelpful to raise general concerns without saying what they are so that they can be answered.	None
			Name & address supplied.	The Call for land in late 2019 by the PC generated four additional sites. We cannot find how these were selected	Letter sent to ALL landowners? How were the landowners selected? Was it just the SHLAA sites?	

				and how the call for land was promulgated. Page 13 Residential Allocations Para 1:- The letter “calling for sites” was sent to 8 landowners. It is not clear how these landowners were selected and surely such a letter should have been sent to all land owners and all responses should have been reviewed. Page 15 Limits to Development Para 2:- It is suggested that the LTD was developed following consultation. How was this consultation conducted? Page 6 indicates that the consultation process is contained in appendix B which is not currently available for public view. If the LTD was based on the event that took place on the 8th June 2019 (that was attended by approximately 10% of residents) using coloured dots, we believe that this process is fundamentally flawed due to access to the dots being unrestricted as the dots were available for multiple dots to be placed by any individual. Page 11 Community Consultation Para 3:- Says “the results (of the lengthy questionnaire) revealed a strong preference for a limited amount of	The Limits to Development were drawn through the work of the Housing Theme Group and consulted on at Regulation 14 stage. Appendix B cannot be prepared until the draft Plan is ready for submission. The dot exercise was not used to determine the Limits to Development.	None None Mone
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				new residential building on smaller sites of around 2-5 units and a strong preference against any large-scale developments...". However, the SSA appendix page 7 Para 5.6 says "The Parish Council having considered all of the evidence has allocated the two highest scoring green sites for residential development" These are:- Around 10 Units of residential accommodation located at land at Ashby Lane South and Around 10 Units of residential accommodation located at land at Ashby Lane North. How many questionnaires were returned? Why were the results of the questionnaire ignored? Policy Reference Number: We would welcome your comments on the policies: General comments about the plan: Whilst we applaud the community spirit shown by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and the work that they have done, we are very concerned that certain sections of the plan may have been developed by a small minority of the Committee with a degree of self-interest. Also, the Draft Plan was leaked to an organisation in August 2020 when the	The questionnaire was only one source of evidence. We reject this accusation. That some people came forward to help prepare the Neighbourhood Plan is a good thing. All residents were given	None None
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				plan was not available for residents of Bitteswell. In addition, some meetings have been conducted without a member declaring a conflict of interest and there has been at least one meeting where minutes were not recorded. Date: 20th May 202	the opportunity to get involved and those that stepped forward are to be applauded. Declarations of interest were made at meetings as required. What happened at the meeting on 20 May?	
		Policy ENV2 support	Sport England	The Call for land in late 2019 by the PC generated four additional sites. We cannot find how these were selected and how the call for land was promulgated. Page 13 Residential Allocations Para 1:- The letter “calling for sites” was sent to 8 landowners. It is not clear how these landowners were selected and surely such a letter should have been sent to all land owners and all responses should have been reviewed. Page 15 Limits to Development Para 2:- It is suggested that the LTD was developed following consultation. How was this consultation conducted? Page 6 indicates that the consultation process is contained in appendix B	This is not the Sport England response	

				which is not currently available for public view. If the LTD was based on the event that took place on the 8th June 2019 (that was attended by approximately 10% of residents) using coloured dots, we believe that this process is fundamentally flawed due to access to the dots being unrestricted as the dots were available for multiple dots to be placed by any individual. Page 11 Community Consultation Para 3:- Says “the results (of the lengthy questionnaire) revealed a strong preference for a limited amount of new residential building on smaller sites of around 2-5 units and a strong preference against any large-scale developments...”. However, the SSA appendix page 7 Para 5.6 says “The Parish Council having considered all of the evidence has allocated the two highest scoring green sites for residential development” These are:- Around 10 Units of residential accommodation located at land at Ashby Lane South and Around 10 Units of residential accommodation located at land at Ashby Lane North. How many questionnaires were		
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				returned? Why were the results of the questionnaire ignored? Policy Reference Number: We would welcome your comments on the policies: General comments about the plan: Whilst we applaud the community spirit shown by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and the work that they have done, we are very concerned that certain sections of the plan may have been developed by a small minority of the Committee with a degree of self-interest. Also, the Draft Plan was leaked to an organisation in August 2020 when the plan was not available for residents of Bitteswell. In addition, some meetings have been conducted without a member declaring a conflict of interest and there has been at least one meeting where minutes were not recorded. Date: 20th May 2021		
			Name & address supplied. Date: 23/05/21	General Comments about the plan: Poor Governance. • Poor or non-existent minutes for Neighbourhood Plan meetings. • Failure to declare obvious interests. • Failure to publish key information concerning scoring and sites considered. Accurate Scoring. • The evaluation of sites is, in	We refute these allegations. The governance of the NP process was undertaken in line with statutory requirements and best practice, including the establishment of an Advisory Committee Minutes?	None

				some cases, inaccurate. The scoring for 4a has not been made available but a score of 7 is not logical or consistent. This may mean that important factors were ignored, overlooked or that red scores were not deducted. Assessment of need. • Why does the plan seek to significantly overprovide? It is stated that this is supported by the community. It is certainly not supported by me or anyone I know. What is the basis of this statement? • Why does the plan seek to undertake the provision early in the life of the plan? • The assumption that windfall sites occur at a rate of one every three years is not born out of events. Three permissions per year would more truly reflect recent events and would provide up to 30 sites during the life of the plan. • There is no reference to the Investigation of Housing Needs for Bitteswell which was produced by Midlands Rural Housing and presented to the Parish Council in 2016. • The Local Plan states that housing numbers will be provided by “small sites to meet locally identified needs”. The	Declarations of interest were made at meetings All landowners were given the opportunity to correct any in=accuracies in the scoring and changes were made where appropriate. It seems that the landowner is complaining that his site was not selected (although it already has a planning permission) and also that too many sites were chosen. The number of dwellings were chosen because it is good practice to provide in excess of the minimum number to future-proof the NP against future increases in housing need. The referendum will provide the opportunity for the community to determine its support for the NP. Further consultation events could not be held because of the Coronavirus. The sites ARE small sites (under 10 dwellings) to meet a local need.	None None None None
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				proposals provide no bungalows and no one-bedroom or two-bedroom, affordable accommodation, whether rented or owner-occupied. Other notes on the draft plan: • Appendix A and B were not included for scrutiny. • On page 17 (Appendix F) lacks any real definition and is an attempt at social engineering rather than attempting to meet identified needs. • On page 22 it is acknowledged that historic parkland should be protected by the planning system. • On page 27 the assessment of area 102 of the Environmental Investigations makes no mention of the remaining parkland trees which are in the same location as shown on the 1897 map (see Annex A and Annex B attached). • Area 102 deserves a higher score. Site 4a. • This site lacks merit. • It is ribbon development. • It provides more houses than needed by the District Plan. • It extends the village envelope almost adjoining with the Egg Farm. • It would obliterate the last vestiges of the 600-acre park surrounding Bitteswell Hall. • It would put people in close proximity to 32,000 laying hens with the inherent threat of	Appendices A and B cannot be prepared until submission. Appendix F was the result of an independently-led process. The concerns relating to an alternative site to that owned by the respondent are noted. The issues raised through the assessment process have been taken into account.	None None
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				smells, flies and other vermin. • It would place houses alongside the farm runway. • It would jeopardise the future of trees which have been a landscape feature for many years. The trees probably warrant a Tree Protection Order. • It would involve a dangerous entry on to the carriageway, close to where the national speed limit applies. The entrance is also situated on a blind corner, which has been the scene of a fatal road collision. • It would be very difficult to provide a safe footway to the village centre which is at least 600 metres from the nearest corner of the site. Limits of development. • This is an illogical proposal. • It includes areas which have already been refused planning permission. • It includes areas which have been subject to enforcement by HDC. • It deserves further consideration after the housing needs have been satisfactorily addressed		
			Matt Bills HDC	Conservation Officer		

				Comments P11 and P 30 Section 7 Historic Environment Policy Officer Comments Page 8: Page 12: There are places in the document (e.g. P11 and P30) where the appendix refs are not provided or are XXX. The historic environment is recognised through the inclusion of the designated heritage assets, entries from the HER and the value of ridge and furrow. Whilst the quality of the historic environment is evidenced through the nationally listed assets, the Neighbourhood Plan	These references will be tidied up on submission.	Change to be made as indicated
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				provides the opportunity to afford recognition to historic assets which do not meet the strict criteria for national listing, yet are valued by local residents. We recommend that consideration is given to identifying non-designated heritage assets for inclusion in the Plan. For example, consideration of the significance of the Hall estate. Historic England does produce some helpful advice. 5 Planning Context – Delete and replace references to North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Meeting future housing provision: · 3rd para – Suggest replacing last sentence with: The recent 2020 Regulation 18 consultation on the draft Leicester City Local Plan confirmed and quantified the level of unmet need. The Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities are continuing to work	Do you wish to add in any other buildings of local note? My recollection is that you chose not to add any others? These references will be removed on submission. Agreed. This change will be made.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				together under the Duty to Cooperate to address any unmet need for housing. · 4th para – last sentence needs amending to reflect adopted LP, para 5.1.11 which states: ‘Of this, 8,792 dwellings have already been built or committed (through the granting of planning permission, or through allocation neighbourhood plans) with a further Policy H1: Page 15: Policy H2 (Limits to Development): Policy H2 (Windfall Sites): Page 23: Policy ENV 2: Policy ENV 5: Policy CF2: 225 anticipated on windfall sites’. Therefore, the residual requirement is 3,975 dwellings to 2031. · Why is it numbered Policy H1.1? · Suggest the policy should make it clear that the criteria apply to the development of each site separately. · Suggest second part of criterion g) is overly restrictive and not justified. 2nd	This will be changed to say Policy H1. Agreed. Agreed. This will be deleted. Agreed.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				para – delete ‘revised and updated’ as currently there is no LTD. first part – Refers to ‘Settlement Boundary’ rather than Limits to Development which is what they are referred to elsewhere. Suggest: ‘Development proposals on sites within defined Limits to Development (as shown on Figure 3) will be supported where they comply with the policies in this Neighbourhood Plan’ · Should be Policy H3 (currently 2 x Policy H2) · Criterion f): Considering the limit is 2 dwellings (criterion a.), how can 4 bedroomed houses ever be subservient in number to 1,2,3 bedroomed homes? · Criterion b) requiring any development to meet a proven housing for the Parish is very restrictive ·	We will use the term Limits to Development throughout. Agreed. Agreed Agreed. The reference to 4-bed dwellings being in a minority will be removed. We will change this to ‘helps to meet the identified housing requirement’ as passed examination at East Langton, Kibworth, Great Bowden and Shearsby and is therefore in the Harborough Development Plan. This is a criterion that is already in Made NPs at Great Bowden, Kibworth, Great Easton, Tur Langton, Burton Overly, Arnesby and South	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated None
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				Restricting to within LTD does not reflect NPPF in so far as there may be such redevelopment opportunities (sub-division, conversions etc) outside LTD. Area of Separation. First sentence: Local Plan is dated 2019 not 2018. Sites 183 and 119 are designated as Local Green Space which affords them a higher level of protection. Designating them as Important Open Space also could lead to confusion in policy approach. Would be helpful to have the sites listed and named in the policy for the sake of clarity. There is no Policy ENV 6 so subsequent policies need to be renumbered. Policy ENV 8: Should reference Figure 14 not Figure 15. · ‘and’ missing before criterion e). · Cross-reference to Policy H3 unnecessary as in criterion a) as the NP needs to be read as a whole. Policy CF4: Should be	Kilworth in Harborough District. This typo will be addressed. Agreed. We will add in that the IOS designation will fall away should the LGS designation be approved at examination. The IOSs are listed and named in the policy Env 2. Agreed. Agreed. These proof-reading errors will be addressed on submission.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated None Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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			renumbered as Policy CF3 (no CF3 at present) Policy T2: · Refers to ‘the loss of off-street car parking on the areas shown on the Proposals Map’. There doesn’t appear to be a map showing these areas. · Last part of policy is rather oddly worded. Suggest something along the lines of: ‘Development proposals for off-street car parks in suitable locations in the village will be supported’. Policy T4: · This should be Policy T3 (no T3 at present) · May be better be less specific regarding requirements Policy E1: Is reference to B-class still appropriate given changes to Use Classes Order? B-Class only includes ‘Industrial’ and ‘Storage and distribution’ now whereas the new E-Class includes offices and light industrial. Should there	Agreed. We will remove reference to the proposals map and clarify the policy. We will replace ‘off-street’ with ‘public’. Agreed We would prefer to retain the requirements as they reflect acceptable minimum standards. We will remove the reference to B-class. Yes – it should say ‘and’ Agreed.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated None Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				be an 'and' or 'or' before criterion b). Policy E2: · Is sentence beginning 'Fall within the boundary of planned limits to development...' the first criterion? If so it should form part of the list of criteria. · Question why criterion g) is necessary. Why does development have to integrate and complement existing businesses? It could stifle new or innovative business from setting up. · 'and' missing before last criterion Policy E3: 'and' missing before last criterion. Policy E4: · Suggest the policy should allow for well-designed new buildings. · Insert 'and' before last criterion for clarity Policy E6: Should be Policy E5 (no E5 at present) Development Management Comments H1.1 – a) this part of the policy seems unclear. Does it relate to each of the sites (i.e. in a) each site is to have at least 5no. 3-bed or fewer dwellings or both sites – i.e. out	We will delete criteria g. Agreed Agreed Agreed It does relate to each site – this will be made clear. We will delete the second sentence in this policy.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				of the 18 dwellings only 5 need to be 3-bed or fewer? Clarification is required to give certainty to decision makers Similarly with g) is there to be one scheme which covers both sites or one scheme for each site? Also, restricting it to just one planning application would be almost impossible – what about discharge of conditions or s73 (variation or removal of conditions)? What about if the sites are in different ownerships – do the owners have to get together to make a joint planning application? We think this just needs a bit more thought to clarify, although we can see where the Neighbourhood Plan Group are coming from. Please also bear in mind that no footpath on the east side of Ashby Lane was approved/required for the extant Outline permission ref 17/02152/OUT. This might	Noted.	Change to be made as indicated None
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				change with the pending Reserved Matters but please be aware that there might be a gap in the footpath , or the requirement of the policy for a footpath on the east side of Ashby Lane could be challenged by developers. In f) the hedgerow is required to be retained – do the NDP group also want the copse of trees on the southern part of site 4A retaining? If so, this should be included. H2 – a) and f) seem contradictory. If land owners can only build up to two houses under this policy, they will never be in a position whereby the number of 4-bed dwellings proposed is “subservient” to the number of 1, 2 or 3-bed? Maybe just restrict to 3-bed or fewer, given the evidence from the Housing Needs survey? We concur with the findings of the Housing Needs survey that the village needs smaller dwellings however are the Housing policies	Yes – we will add in the copse. Agreed as previously noted. Agreed.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				robust enough to achieve this? H4 – 8), please be mindful that the LPA tend to describe metal shipping containers as “storage containers” and it might be more precise if the plan used a different description..... S106 officer comments: • The inclusion of a planning obligations policy would be a recognition new development can bring significant benefits for a local community, for example, new homes and jobs/employment opportunities and assist in securing through a S106 legal agreement for example a proportion of affordable housing on any proposed housing development that come forward and are implemented. S106 planning obligations are used to secure infrastructure or funding from a developer to mitigate the impacts of a new development, towards for example the	Noted. Do you want a policy to identify improvements if CIL is introduced? Not essential	
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				community facilities, like village hall, allotments, cemeteries contributions where appropriate. • S106 Planning obligations must meet the three legal tests in Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 (as amended) – necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to the development, fair and reasonable related in scale and kind to the development. • The CIL charge regime was introduced by the Planning Act 2008 and it came into force on 6th April 2010. The CIL is a means for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support new development in their area. To date, Harborough District Council has not introduced a CIL charge in the District. This however is being kept under review in conjunction with partner authorities across		
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				the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area. • Consideration should be given to a developer contributions policy in the Neighbourhood Plan recognising the priorities e.g. affordable housing and other community facilities/benefits for the local community are consistent with the Harborough Local Plan and in particular policy IN1 – infrastructure provision. Always being mindful of the need for the obligations being consistent with the policies of the Local Plan. Policy Reference Number: We would welcome your comments on the policies: Policy H1 Policy H2 Policy H2 (3?)		
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				(Windfall Development) ENV9 Managing Flood Risk Policy CF4 Primary School T1 Traffic Management T2 Parking Policy E1 Page 45 Have the QB considered incorporating self-build? The boundary for LtD is quite tight. Have the QB considered relaxing this in places? Consider referring to housing needs survey in b)	The group has decided not to include a policy on self-build. The Limits to Development were based on the one developed by HDC and incorporated into the Core Strategy before they were removed through the Local Plan. Does this refer to NP Policy CF4? We will amend this policy to say that loss of part of the playing field will only be supported if no longer required or alternative provision is made available.	None None Change to be made as indicated
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				Might be considered more restrictive / possible conflict with LP Policy CC3. The QB may want to review the conformity. Not sure of intent here, reads like this part seeks to restrict the location of future allocations (strategic) in Local Plan? - generally repetitive of LP policy CC3 & NPPF which the policy does not need to be. School playing field is listed as Important Open Space (policy ENV2) - possible internal conflict between policies as loss not supported by ENV2 unless alternative equivalent provided or demonstrate not needed Policy appear repetitive of Local Plan policy IN2 Not clear where the off street parking areas are. The proposals map is not available Update to reflect change to Use Classes Order - by adding reference to Class E(g)(i)(ii)(iii) (formerly Class B1a/b/c). Suggest replace 'initiatives' at bottom of page 44 with 'proposals' or	We will remove reference to the proposals map. Agreed – we will remove reference to Class-b. I think we should reference the business park And include it within a limits to development.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				‘development’ Is the existing business park identified on the policies map? There's no policy guiding expansion at the business park and it's outside LtoD, so other policies would suggest no development may be an internal conflict?. If intent is actually to support some expansion / Page 45 second para Policy E2 Policy E2 d) Policy E2 e) Policy E2 g) Policy E3 a) Policy E3 b) Policy E4 Monitoring and Review redevelopment within its boundary a new policy may be useful This text (which appears to put employment at the bottom of a long list of higher priorities), seem to suggest employment proposals are not acceptable in Bitteswell. Intro could be more positively framed, by acknowledging close proximity of Lutterworth / ease of access to economic centres (within / outside Harborough district) etc.	We will reword this paragraph. Agreed.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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				Consider change ‘appropriate to’ in second para to ‘which justifies and is compatible with’ Consider change to ‘not adversely impact on noise levels.....that they would not adversely affect residential amenity’ Suggest replacing with ‘Will not result in unacceptable levels of traffic movements that generate a level of noise, fumes, smell or other harmful disturbance which cannot be mitigated to an appropriate standard including the need for additional parking which cannot be catered for within the curtilage of the property; Vague / not clear on intent. Is this about only supporting particular types of E or B class uses? (Changes of use can occur within and between types of use without the need for planning consent) Use of unacceptable and appropriate makes the policy rather subjective What is a sensitive land	Agreed. We will remove reference to commercial. We will add in greater flexibility	Change to be made as indicated
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				use. This may be too subjective Inclusion of 'and commercial' buildings is odd (as not necessarily related to a farm / agricultural activity) - depending on policy intent suggest 'Reuse of buildings in agricultural use' Policy E1 would appear to be relevant for any further development / change to former farm buildings in existing commercial use. Updates might need to be before 2026 f the NPPF and Local Plan are updated. Allow some flexibility. Refer to Local Plan rather that Harborough Development Plan General comments about the plan: Well done. We look forward to receiving the submission version. Matthew Bills Date: 20/5/2021	Agreed.	Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated
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			Marrons Planning	These representations have been prepared by Marrons Planning on behalf of our client, Carisden. 2. Carisden has an interest in to the land East of Ashby Lane, Bitteswell and has planning approval for the erection of 8 dwellings (17/02152/OUT). Our client has a wider land interest and is looking to bring forward a larger site for residential development (appendix 1). 3. This Neighbourhood Plan representation is intended to help shape the Neighbourhood Plan and ensure it meets the basic conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). National Planning Policy Framework 4. Paragraph 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says that Neighbourhood Plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in Local Plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies. 5. Paragraph 14 NPPF provides guidance	Noted. Noted. The NP meets the requirements of Para 14 of the NPPF by including allocations to meet the housing requirement.	None None
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				on how the presumption in favour of sustainable development (at paragraph 11d) should be engaged and, in essence, reduces the supply of land required for a plan to be considered up to date from five years down to three where the Neighbourhood Plan contains policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement. 6. The amount of housing required in an area is a strategic matter (paragraph 20 NPPF) although non-strategic policies can be used by communities through Neighbourhood Plans to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development and also for allocating sites (Paragraph 28 NPPF). Importantly, neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies (Paragraph 29 NPPF). 7. Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over the existing non-strategic policies set out in a local plan covering the area (Paragraph 30). 8. Paragraph	Noted. The NP exceeds the minimum requirement.	None
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				31 NPPF confirms that the preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and take into account relevant market signals. 9. Paragraph 33 says that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and that relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly. 10. Paragraph 59 NPPF recognises the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes and paragraph 60 says to determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. 11. Paragraph 67 of the NPPF says that strategic policy-making authorities should have a clear understanding of the land	Noted	None
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				available in their area and that planning policies should identify a supply of: a) specific, deliverable sites for years one to five of the plan period b) specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15 of the plan. 12. Paragraph 70 of the NPPF says that where an allowance is to be made for windfall sites as part of anticipated supply, there should be compelling evidence that they will provide a reliable source of supply. Any allowance should be realistic having regard to the strategic housing land availability assessment, historic windfall delivery rates and expected future trends. Housing Requirement and Site Allocations 13. The Neighbourhood Plan says that Harborough District Council provided a housing target for Bitteswell at 30 units within the plan period. The commentary in the Neighbourhood Plan says that 15 units have been either built, are under construction or have extant planning consent. Although the plan is not explicit we presume the 8 units at land East of Ashby Lane, Bitteswell under planning	These general comments are all noted and have been taken into account in the development of the NP.	None
				This is correct.		None

				permission 17/02152/OUT have been taken into account. 14. The Neighbourhood Plan relies on these commitments to reduce the requirement to just 15 units. A 20% buffer is then applied which increases the housing requirement to 18 units. 15. Policy H1.1 allocates sites 2a and 4a both for 9 dwellings (18 dwellings total) and therefore the Plan does not seek to allocate any further housing sites. However, we note that the settlement limit includes the land at land East of Ashby Lane, Bitteswell which is covered by 17/02152/OUT (site 3a). 16. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to rely solely on the housing requirement from the Harborough Local Plan at 12,800 dwellings between 2011 to 2031. Firstly, the plan period being provided for is less than 15 years and no regard has been had to the emerging planning strategy for the area. 17. Bitteswell should play a pro-active role in meeting housing needs and, in line with the Planning Practice Guidance the plan should seek to shape the community and support new development proposals and meeting future housing need1 . In	Agreed. This is what the NP is required to do. The NP more than meets its minimum requirement for development and therefore meets the Basic Conditions. There is no need to take	None None
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				this respect, a Neighbourhood Planning Body may determine a housing requirement figure themselves, taking account of relevant policies, [including] the existing and emerging spatial strategy and the housing requirement figures provided by Local Authorities for neighbourhood plan areas are not binding² . 18. In our view, the plans fails to consider the future growth needs within both Bitteswell Parish and the wider Harborough District as well as the role that Bitteswell should play in the overall distribution of homes. 19. The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan provides a housing requirement for Harborough of 838 dwellings per annum for the period 2031-50. That requirement was largely based on an unmet need of c.8,000 homes from Leicester City and it might be noted that the work to prepare a Statement of Common Ground for Leicester and Leicestershire suggest that the figure for unmet need is set to rise to c.18,000 homes. There is a strong possibility that Harborough will need to deliver a significant increase on the	'emerging planning strategy' into account. The NP DOES shape development and take future housing need into account through exceeding the minimum requirement. We reject the statement that the NP fails to consider future growth. It is not an essential requirement to set its own housing requirement and the PC has chosen not to do so. If housing needs increase in the future, the PC will consider reviewing the NP	None None None
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				requirement set within the Local Plan. 20. Our client submitted their wider Ashby Lane site (SSA Site 3) to the neighbourhood plan process and invited dialogue to explore the options for development, confirming that they were prepared to be flexible in their approach. After challenging the initial Sustainable Site 1 Assessment report the Parish Council confirmed on the 4th February 2021 that a smaller parcel (3a) would be noted as an existing residential commitment in the NDP. 21. In fact, our client's site at Ashby Lane Bitteswell (granted outline permission in July 2018 Ref: 17/02152/OUT) has not been identified as an allocation in the Plan. Rather the site has been included within the Limits to Development identified in Figure 3 under Policy H2. We accept that the inclusion of the site within the Limits to Development is appropriate given the sites extant permission and the reliance on planning consents within the Plan in relation to meeting the 30 dwelling housing target. However, this should be clearer and we consider that site 3a should be positively	accordingly. This does not impact on the NP meeting the Basic Conditions, which is what it will be examined against. The site in question did not score sufficiently in the assessment process to warrant an allocation.	None
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				identified as a housing commitment on the proposals plan. 22. SSA Site 3a is part of the wider SSA Site 3. Whilst site 3a was ranking 2nd in the SSA process the wider Site 3 was ranked 5th. A previous representation to the Neighbourhood Plan identified how a large number of the conclusions within the SSA in regard to Site 3 were incorrect and instead of being 'Amber' the site should have scored Green 14 and been 1st overall. The allocation of the wider Site 3 would reflect a positive approach to development in a logical location, would provide for flexibility and an increased housing requirement that befits the role Bitteswell plays in the District and also truly future proof the plan (which at present has an extremely short plan period). 23. The allocation of site 3 would assist local people in remaining within Bitteswell and it is our view that it would constitute sustainable development and meet all three overarching objectives in terms of economic, social and environmental. Other Matters 24. Policy ENV 3: Protection of Sites of Natural Environment Significance identifies	The scoring system was applied consistently across the sites submitted and amendments were made following representation.	None
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				part of our client's land as a site of local biodiversity significance based upon an assessment set out in Appendix G of the Plan. The Assessment identifies a scoring criteria and methodology but very little is included in relation to the individual parcels being assessed. There is nothing to clarify whether the assessment has been undertaken by appropriate qualified assessors nor any evidence presented to support the conclusions. The Neighbourhood Plan group should provide additional detail of these assessments within Appendix G to allow for a response to be formalised. 25. Policy ENV 7: Historical Environment: Ridge and Furrow sets out that any loss or damage arising from a development proposal (or a change of land use requiring planning permission) is to be avoided; the demonstrable benefits of such development must be balanced against the significance of the ridge and furrow features as heritage assets. 26. Paragraph 185 NPPF say plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic	The environmental assessments were not undertaken by professionally qualified people – this is not necessary or proportionate to a neighbourhood plan. The policy requires the identified features to be taken into account in any development proposal – it is not a blanket ban on development. The policy says that the benefit of any development must outweigh the harm that it would cause, and is therefore a balancing judgement. Comments about Ridge and Furrow are noted.	None None None
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				environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Matters to be taken into account by this strategy include: b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring [emphasis added]. 27. Paragraph 197 NPPF says that the effect of an application on the significance of a nondesignated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. 28. Neither paragraph 185 or 197 NPPF seek a narrow balancing exercise limited to the 'need' for development, rather they seek to weigh matters relating to the demonstrable benefits. Furthermore, we note that no assessment of the significance of the ridge and furrow has been undertaken. Conclusion 29. Our client supports the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans which meet the	The balanced judgement will be made when determining the planning application.	None
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				basic conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). 30. We do not consider it to be appropriate for a Neighbourhood Plan to rely upon a housing requirement without regard for the potential emerging strategy for Harborough. The Neighbourhood Plan is based on an unstable footing and requires additional evidence and analysis to be undertaken to understand the housing requirement and there must be some doubt that the Neighbourhood Plan is setting a framework that meets the basic conditions. 31. We consider that in order to pass examination and proceed to referendum and be made that the Neighbourhood Plan should re-assess the level of housing required and be re-drafted with policies and allocations that meet that identified housing requirement. Our client is willing to work with the Parish Council to this end with a view to their interest at Ashby Road being allocated	Comments about the housing requirements are noted, however the respondent is wrong to suggest that the NP has to take into account 'potential emerging strategies'. This is factually incorrect.	None
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				to meet the need. 32. In light of the above, this representation should be read as an objection to the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan at this time albeit we are hopeful that further work and amendments can be made in order to allow the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the basic conditions and proceed to referendum. In the absence of any amendments our client must, regretfully, maintain an Marrons Planning, Waterfront House, Waterfront Plaza, 35 Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3DQ www.marrons-planning.co.uk	The objections are refuted. It seems to be an attempt to secure an allocation for the clients rather than a serious attempt to suggest that the NP fails to meet the statutory requirements.	None
			Nik Green LCC	Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan Comments Request – 5 th April 2021 Leicestershire County Council is supportive of the Neighbourhood plan process and welcome being included in this consultation. Overall General Comments A very good, comprehensive and detailed document whilst appreciating time scales and long term sustainability also being mindful that Harborough District Council has just started the new Local Plan process by initiating a call for sites, reflecting on the	Comments about the pressure on development noted, however the NP exceeds its minimum requirement by allocating two sites for development and by incorporating a policy on windfall, which also should be taken into account when determining the level of housing that is supported.	None

				additional shortfall of the city's housing numbers that need to be accommodated in the district, it may be prudent for the NHP to incorporate a little more flexibility in order to ensure that longevity of the plan into the new Harborough District Council plan period. Highways General Comments The County Council recognises that residents may have concerns about traffic conditions in their local area, which they feel may be exacerbated by increased traffic due to population, economic and development growth. Like very many local authorities, the County Council's budgets are under severe pressure. It must therefore prioritise where it focuses its reducing resources and increasingly limited funds. In practice, this means that the County Highway Authority (CHA), in general, prioritises its resources on measures that deliver the greatest benefit to Leicestershire's residents, businesses and road users in terms of road safety, network management and maintenance. Given this, it is likely that highway measures associated with any new development would	The general comments made in this response, which do not relate to the Bitteswell NP, are noted.	None
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				need to be fully funded from third party funding, such as via Section 278 or 106 (S106) developer contributions. I should emphasise that the CHA is generally no longer in a position to accept any financial risk relating to/make good any possible shortfall in developer funding. 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 any 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 funds, the measures would also need to be assessed against the Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit:		
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				http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm 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 i.e. 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 its justification and its design; the Council will also expect future maintenance costs to be covered by the third-party funding. Where any		
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				measures are proposed that would affect speed limits, on-street parking restrictions or other Traffic Regulation Orders (be that to address existing problems or in connection with a development proposal), their implementation would be subject to available resources, the availability of full funding and the satisfactory completion of all necessary Statutory Procedures. The LHA would also assess the site on its own merits, should a proposal be submitted for pre application advice or formally. The site access will need to be designed in accordance with the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide (LHDG) to ensure a safe and suitable access can be delivered in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In regard to, Traffic Management – if it is demonstrated that improvements to the site and highway are necessary and proportionate to the scale of any developments proposed in the area. Flood Risk Management The County Council are fully aware of flooding that has occurred within Leicestershire and its impact on		
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				residential properties resulting in concerns relating to new developments. LCC in our role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) undertake investigations into flooding, review consent applications to undertake works on ordinary watercourses and carry out enforcement where lack of maintenance or unconsented works has resulted in a flood risk. In April 2015 the LLFA also became a statutory consultee on major planning applications in relation to surface water drainage and have a duty to review planning applications to ensure that the onsite drainage systems are designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The LLFA also ensures that flood risk to the site is accounted for when designing a drainage solution. The LLFA is not able to: • Prevent development where development sites are at low risk of flooding or can demonstrate appropriate flood risk mitigation. • Use existing flood risk to adjacent land to prevent development. • Require development to resolve existing flood risk. When		
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				considering flood risk within the development of a neighbourhood plan, the LLFA would recommend consideration of the following points: Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit: http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm • 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		
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				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		
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				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/map Flood map for planning (rivers and sea): https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/ Planning Developer Contributions If there is no specific policy on Section 106 developer contributions/planning obligations within the draft		
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				Neighbourhood Plan, it would be prudent to consider the inclusion of a developer contributions/planning obligations policy, along similar lines to those shown for example in the Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit: http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm Adopted North Kilworth NP and the Adopted Great Glen NP albeit adapted to the circumstances of your community. This would in general be consistent with the relevant District Council's local plan or its policy on planning obligations in order to mitigate the impacts of new development and enable appropriate local infrastructure and service provision in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations, where applicable. North Kilworth Adopted Plan (Leicestershirecommunitites.co.uk) Great Glen Adopted Plan	The PC considered a policy on infrastructure but decided not to include one.	None
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				(Leicestershirecommunities.co.uk) Mineral & Waste Planning The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority; this means the council prepares the planning policy for minerals and waste development and also makes decisions on mineral and waste development. 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		
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				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 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		
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				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 Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit: http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm 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 • P7 – The vision could be strengthened with regards to environmental protection. The Planning Group may wish to consider this. • Policy H4: Design Standards. This policy is strong but could be further		
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				strengthened by mentioning recycling alongside refuse in point 8. • The Prime Minister has recently stated new cars and vans powered wholly by petrol and diesel will not be sold in the UK from 2030. The planning group should be mindful of this revised date. • The Plan does not reference the possible introduction of renewable energy sources (such as wind turbines and solar farms) in the parish or have a policy regarding this. Other Neighbourhood Plans we have seen make reference to this. 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	We believe that the vision contains a proportionate reference to the importance of protecting and preserving the countryside and rural character. Agreed We will change the date to 2030. The group decided against a policy of this nature.	None Change to be made as indicated Change to be made as indicated None
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				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	These general comments are noted.	None
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				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. Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit: http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm 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		
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				local features and buildings https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-andcommunity/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		
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				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		
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				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		
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				enhancing the natural environment. Looking at the existing provision of GI networks within a community can influence the plan for creating & enhancing new networks Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit: http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm 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		
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				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		
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				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		
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				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. Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit: http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm Impact of Development on Household Waste Recycling Centres		
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				(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		
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				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.		
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				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 preplanning 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 Policy, Economy & Community, Chief Executive's Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA T: 0116 305 7309 E: nik.green@leics.gov.uk For further information visit:		
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				http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/neighbourhoodplanning.htm 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 is 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 viewed at: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/previous-consultations/equality-strategy2020-24-consultation Accessible Documents In today's working		
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				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		
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				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/ NIK GREEN (MRS) Policy Officer E: neighbourhoodplanning@leics.gov.uk		
			Chair of Bitteswell Parish Council	1.0 General Comment The Document is an exhibit of an excellent Neighbourhood Plan and a credit to everyone on the Advisory Committee and the Theme Groups and, of course, Gary and the staff of Your Locale, who contributed to the preparation of the document. The calibre of the document is such that there are little observations that arise. However, there are a few matters to which I wish to draw to the attention to you and	Thank you for these comments. Noted	None None

				confidence and certainty with regard to the prescribed Limits to Development for Bitteswell that they have enjoyed over several years, including the present statutory plan for the Harborough District, and previous Local Plans. 2.2 Page 13-Residential allocations In accord with the proactive approach advocated in paragraph 149 of the NPPF, and in the general interest of contributing to the control of climate change, all developments submitted for consent should be able to demonstrate that the proposed properties will, collectively, result in an outcome that is carbon neutral, when account is taken of the preparation and transportation of all components and materials	available to residents and planning officers alike. Unfortunately, it is not possible for NPs to require that development is carbon neutral. The design policy H4 says 'Development should incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques to meet high standards for energy and water efficiency, including the use of renewable and low carbon energy technology'. Does the PC think this is sufficient, or does it wish to strengthen this policy?	None
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				employed in the creation of the properties. 2.3 Proposed New Policy: Trees Purpose The purpose of the Policy is to arrest the loss of amenity of residents in the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan Area by the positive limitation of the felling of trees. Background The merit of trees as a natural means of capturing carbon dioxide and for promoting the wellbeing of people is well advertised and established. The tree cover of south Leicestershire is stated to be about 4per cent, the lowest in England after the Fenlands .	Does the PC wish to include a policy on trees? It will require narrative to justify A policy might read: Woodland or trees of high arboricultural, historical, ecological and/or landscape value should be protected from felling, uprooting or wilful damage, including by development proposals, unless they are independently judged by a qualified arboriculturalist to present an unmanageable public safety risk. Where the loss of trees is unavoidable, suitable replacement planting of similar species will be sought on site, or in cases where this is not possible, a suitable alternative site.	
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				For some time the Parish Council has been concerned about the number of trees being felled in the Parish. This is evidenced by a review conducted between February and December 2020 when some 14 planning applications for 'work to trees' were submitted, all of which sought the consent to fell. Although both Leicestershire County Council and the District Council have in place environmental policies, Their application appears to be less than effective in the good management of trees in the Harborough District area. For example, during the last year it is reported that HDC felled more trees than it planted. The Policy requires that planning applications for the felling of a tree or trees will only be		
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				considered where one or other of the following cases apply: - The tree is damaged beyond repair; - The tree represents a hazard to residents. To describe such evidence, each Application should be supported by a report from a certified arboriculturist. The cost of such reports shall be to the account of the Applicant. Replacement Trees To preserve the population of trees in the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan area, all trees that are felled will be replaced by a tree of like specie.		
			Name & address supplied.	Paragraph number & Page number in Plan: Your comments: Plan for Bitteswell Page 7 Bullet 2 - Please could we add that in order to enhance the character and charm of the village	Thank you for taking the trouble to comment. Noted. This bullet point relates to a broad strategic objective. The design policy,	None None

			that designs and materials utilised are Individualistic and not standard template designs. As indicated on page 11 – there is a strong preference against large scale but we would add also against ‘housing that visually looks the same’ should also be avoided. We would like to add a bullet which allows priority of the development of sustainable environmentally friendly buildings. As a village, it would be a welcome opportunity to embrace the climate change challenge and design buildings that work with nature using natural materials and that may add to the charm of the village. This will support section 5 Planning context and adds support to the environmental role. It also supports Policy H4 where there is a nod to renewable technology and innovative materials. Residential allocations Page 15 We would argue that point g) the design element is extremely important and that whilst the houses can be smaller,	H4 requires development to enhance and reinforce local distinctiveness and character. Do you want to add in ‘housing that visually looks the same will not be supported’. Do you want to add ion a bullet point to ‘promote sustainable environmentally friendly buildings’? I think it is a good idea We will add in a condition that high design standards are to be met.	Change to be made as indicated
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				they should also aesthetically look individual just as is the case on Ashby Lane. A row of houses that have the same brick/style should be avoided as that is not in keeping with charm of the village. Point g should point to 'Ensuring high design qualities' page 18. Policy H4 should be amended to say 'varied use of materials'. Limits of Development (LTD) Page 15 & 16 The Methodology criteria for drawing out the LTD appear to be appropriate, however, inconsistently applied in defining the LTD boundary lines across the village as shown on page 16. (1) Specifically, under criteria 1, the LTD is not following a number of properties garden boundaries but cutting through them, and in some cases existing building structures exist in the gardens which would now reside outside of the LTD rather than inside, which is inconsistent with taking the full garden boundary within the LTD. The LTD line should be set consistently based upon the defined criteria so as not to overtly	We will add to the sentence to say 'Varied material should be chosen ...' Criteria 3 in the methodology can be restated to make it clear that not all boundaries are to be followed. Criteria 3 should say that land which relates more to the countryside than to the built-up area will be excluded from the Limits to Development. How do you want to resolve this?	Change to be made as indicated
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				disadvantage some and/or advantage others. For our and neighbouring property, Manor Court, the LTD cuts through the garden and should be set at the boundary consistent with how this has been applied across the rest of the properties. For Manor House approved planning permission which is still active (Planning approval reference 19/01070/FUL dated 02/10/2019) also shows the garden boundary and the approved building in the garden which was approved at planning committee, to further provide rationale that the proposed LTD has been set inconsistently. ‘Figure 6: Local green spaces’ on page 24 and ‘Figure 7: Important Open spaces’ on page 25 also highlights the inconsistent application, when either are compared to the proposed LTD in Figure 3/page 16. We have highlighted in green the shaded area which should be included within the LTD given the current approved planning permission alongside this follows the current garden boundary, as well as the existing garden building on the east boundary of our garden,	Can the drawing be made available to people and can the LtD be reviewed against these comments?	
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				which has been drawn out of the current proposed LTD (shaded green). See Diagram 1 attached (2) Furthermore, in some cases the LTD line has been set including non-residential land for which criteria 3 states should be excluded, thus an inconsistent treatment of the criteria set. On cursory review we have highlighted some areas in Diagram 2 where this has been the case (coloured in pink). If areas outside are being included, there should be rationale as to why they have been included and to ensure other potential areas have been reviewed fairly for application. (Note we have not been contacted for 'a call for sites' as set out on page 13) . Diagram 2 shows proposed LTD line which would still protect biodiversity but would allow a potential Ecobuilding within the woodland. Natural Environment Page 26/27/28 Ridge & Furrow -Page 31 to 34 Field 123 is not dissimilar to Field 118/110/109 and any other paddock field surrounding the village, and so we are not sure of why this	Field 123 (as this comment itself notes) is 'parkland of the manor house', It is described thus in the inventory as well as being bounded by the Local Wildlife Site of the brook and its streamside habitat and	None
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				field is identified as biodiverse compared to the other fields. Re the Wildlife corridor, Figure 9 declares the whole of the Manor House, Manor Court, Bellshields and the Lodge as part of a very wide wildlife corridor. Field 123 is the only field that is showing as biodiverse which doesn't appear consistent with treatment of similar fields but have been excluded in the plan.	species. Traditional parkland (pasture with scattered trees) is a habitat of biodiversity significance recognised by Natural England. The cumulative effect of these two factors gives a score of 3 for wildlife under the grading system used. The function of a Wildlife corridor designation is to provide 'connectivity between' sites of known local biodiversity significance (marked on figure 9 in dark green); the strip of land covered by the corridor itself (light green, graded colour) can do this even where individual intermediate fields have lower recorded biodiversity value. In this case, however, full connectivity is provided by the brook (and its streamside vegetation buffer zones) for the complete length of Bitteswell's south-eastern boundary. As described on page 32 para 2, the 1999 survey (which was based on a desk study of aerial	None
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				In reviewing the Ridge and Furrow section, there is no clear documentation of the manner in which Figure 13: existence of ridge of furrow has been determined, and whilst the reduction from the last survey conducted by English Heritage in 1999 is not a great outcome, what is not clear how new sites of ridge and furrow can come into existence, if they did not exist in 1999 when the area was surveyed by professional/qualified individuals. Has the identification been undertaken by professional/qualified individuals who can determine the existence of ridge and furrow on the sites, and is the evidence/documentation included on who and how such sites have been determined? As an example, field 123 is owned by ourselves and is the Parkland of the Manor house, so we intimately know the site and there is no ridge and furrow visible, but Figure 13 indicates otherwise, which leads us to raise and question the outcome of the sites where it has determined to be 'visible'. Note, there has been no-one who has come round to visit our privately owned site. This is important	photography) is known to have missed some areas of ridge and furrow. Neighbourhood Plans which include a policy for the protection of R&F set out to re-survey their parish, using the 1999 results as a baseline but adding to (or deleting from) the map. The volunteers undertaking the new survey of Bitteswell identified field 123 as having 'visible' (i.e. not the best preservation) R&F. However your knowledge, as owners of the land, must be taken into account and field 123 will be removed from figure 13.	Change to be made as indicated
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				as it determines which sites could be impacted on policies determined/listed in any neighbourhood plan. Policy Reference Number: We would welcome your comments on the policies: Policy H2: Windfall Sites The policy is commendable, however, has there been a review done, whether this will solve the problem which it is trying to resolve – the provision of 1/2/3 bedroom properties, as the economics may not allow for such an outcome to be delivered based upon current proposed criteria and thus potentially stop any development and also non achievement of the goal of providing appropriate housing for the need. For example, across the village, which existing single unit sites would be viable to achieve smaller multiple houses to replace existing single units or the addition of another unit on the existing single site, and of these which would break even or make a profit in doing so. If none, then this policy will not result in any windfall units, and further reduce the historic windfall run rate of 0.5 unit per year. Thus the	The Windfall policy is designed to support smaller dwellings coming forward to balance out the current high levels of large, detached houses in the Parish. We believe that land values will make smaller dwellings viable and that the historic rate of delivery will continue to be achieved in the future.	None None
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				criteria may need to be loosened to not be as restrictive. The provision of 1/2/3 bed housing is likely more achievable under Policy H1:1 Residential site allocations rather than through policy H2: Windfall Sites, and thus should be tempered down to NOT having to be 1/2/3 bedrooms, as given the historic run rate a reduction of allowable sites to convert to achieve, the provision of 1/2/3 bedrooms should be achieved through the new designated sites. General comments about the plan: The LTD boundary should be reviewed before being finalised to be consistent in following existing garden curtilages where it has not been applied and to take account of potential sites for windfall development, excluding the designated Ashby Lane sites. Date: 17/05/21		
			Name & address supplied.	We would like to make some comments with reference to the Neighbourhood plan as invited to do so: 1. The plan refers to the 'Front Field' as a 'Local Green Space' in the same list as The Green Bitteswell p24. The field (Ref SP5385 7853) is privately owned and in agricultural use to provide grazing for	Thank you for commenting. I can't find a reference to 'front field' in either the NP or the environmental inventory. Does anyone know what this is about? It isn't a LGS ...	None

				animals as a vital part of the farm food production business. A distinction should be made that it is not common land which can be used for recreation in any way, apart from crossing it by the footpath which must not be deviated from. 2. In fig 3, p16, showing the map of the Limits to Development, the defining line cuts through the middle of the house of Bittles Barn which was built with full planning permission, see image attached of LTD plan with adjustment in orange. 3. A desire for an increase in the number of footpaths around Bitteswell has been described p38. However, many people from the surrounding town and areas also use these footpaths, unfortunately often without respect for the countryside code (rubbish left behind, dog bags, trampled crops and conservation vegetation etc), which requires a great deal of management by farmers. This would be a consideration when wishing	Noted. The drawing of the Limits to Development was based on the boundary previously drawn by Harborough DC and followed a methodology that is described on page 15. Some large gardens are divided according to whether the garden relates more to the built-up area or the countryside. Noted. The NP is unable to consider issues concerning the management of the use of the footpaths.	None
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				to protect the features surrounding the village. Please could you confirm receipt of this email. Many thanks.		
			Natural England	Bitteswell Draft Neighbourhood Plan Thank you for your consultation on the above received on 01 April 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. Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan. However, we refer you to the attached annex which	Noted	None

				covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk .		
			Nick Williams - Chair (Harborough Disability Access Group).	Thank you for your letter concerning Bitteswell's Neighbourhood plan. Having been to; https://www.bitteswell.org.uk/ I cannot find anything appropriate and feel that this may only be available from the start of the consultation period, being the 5th of April? Perhaps you would advise and where possible, provide a URL in order we may view directly? I shall look forward hearing from you. With thanks, Nick Williams - Chair (Harborough Disability Access Group).	Noted	None

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