

SHEEPY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Basic Conditions Statement

ABSTRACT

The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan offers the chance for all residents and businesses to have their say on future development within the Parish and influence how their neighbourhood evolves. By working together, we can ensure that the area develops in a way that meets the needs of everyone.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (Adopted December 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 2006-2026 (Adopted July 2016);
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in four sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD 2006 -2026 (2016); and
 - Sections 5 and 6 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters.
- 1.4 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

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

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Neighbourhood Plan applies to the Parish of Sheepy which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 22 October 2015. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations (in force at that time), Hinckley and Bosworth, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Sheepy Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The four-week consultation period ended on 11 September 2015. No representations were received to the designation. Sheepy Parish received its Area designation in October 2015.
- 1.7 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Sheepy and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.
- 1.9 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers the period up to 2036. This is to align with the emerging new Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan which will set out the overall development strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough for the period up to 2036. This new Local Plan will not be finalised until 2020 at the earliest and once finalised the Neighbourhood Plan may need to be reviewed to ensure it is in general conformity.
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

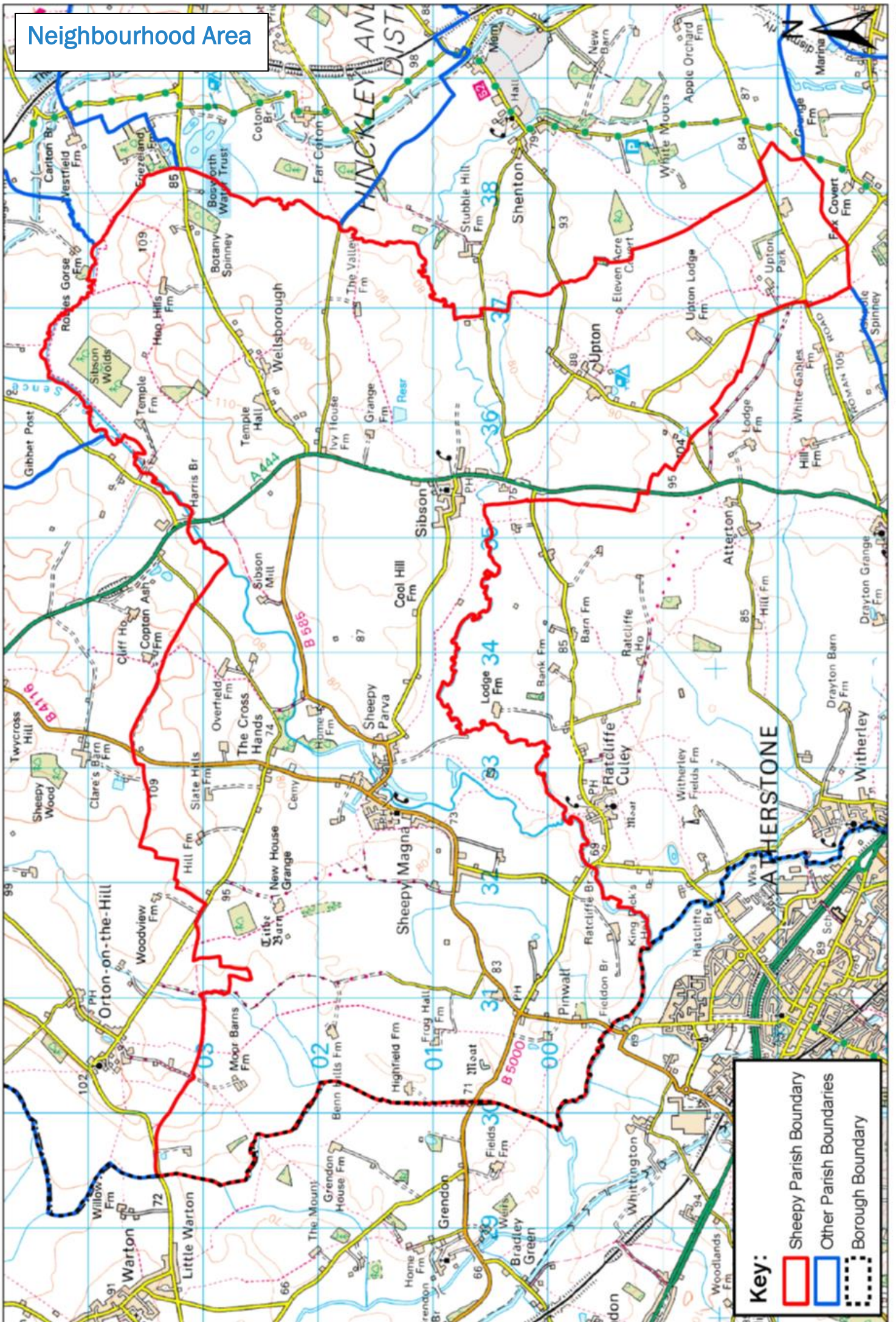
Sheepy: Location

- 1.11 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area comprises the Parish of Sheepy which is located within the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council area of Leicestershire. The parish is a large rural area which amounts to 3,090 hectares with a population of 1,174. It is located in the south of Leicestershire and is located on its border with North Warwickshire. The parish contains the settlements of Sheepy Magna, Sheepy Parva, Sibson, Wellsborough, Upton, Pinwall and The Cross Hands. The River Sence crosses through the Parish and this area is famous for the Battle of Bosworth Field and is also neighboured by other notable entities including Twycross Zoo.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.12 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Sheepy Parish Council, supported by the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Summary of Consultee Responses and the Consultation Statement.

Neighbourhood Area



Key:

- Sheepy Parish Boundary
- Other Parish Boundaries
- Borough Boundary

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

- 3.2 It is required that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.
- 3.3 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all of the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 3.4 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework specifies that the delivery of sustainable development is to be through the application of 12 core planning principles and the pursuit of 13 sustainability objectives supporting the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The 12 principles are that planning should:
1. be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
 2. not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
 3. proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;
 4. always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
 5. take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;
 6. support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);

7. contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;
 8. encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
 9. promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
 10. conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
 11. actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
 12. take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- 3.5 This section considers the conformity of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance.
- 3.6 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning, are:
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment;
 - Design;
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Change;
 - Health and Well Being;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Renewable and low carbon energy
 - Rural Housing
- 3.7 On 24 July 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published the NPPF (2018). Annex 1 to the new NPPF states at paragraphs 212-214:
- “212. The policies in this Framework are material considerations which should be taken into account in dealing with planning applications from the day of its publication. Plans may also need to be revised to reflect policy changes which*

this replacement Framework has made. This should be progressed as quickly as possible, either through a partial revision or by preparing a new plan.

213. However, existing policies should not be considered out-of-date simply because they were adopted or made prior to the publication of this Framework. Due weight should be given to them, according to the degree of consistency with this Framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).

214. The policies in the previous Framework will apply for the purposes of examining plan, where those plans are submitted on or before 24 January 2019. Where such plans are withdrawn or otherwise do not proceed to become part of the development plan, the policies contained in this Framework will apply to any subsequent plan produced for the area concerned.....”

3.8 Footnote 69 to paragraph 214 states:

“69 For spatial development strategies, ‘submission’ in this context means the point at which the Mayor sends to the Panel copies of all representations made in accordance with regulation 8 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (London Spatial Development Strategy) Regulations 2000, or equivalent. For neighbourhood plans, ‘submission’ in this context means where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority in accordance with regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

3.9 In light of these transitional arrangements it is not considered necessary to assess Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan against the revised national policy guidance issued on 24 July 2018. It would be appropriate to examine the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan against the new national policy guidance, at the time this neighbourhood plan is revised.

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

<p>Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy Summary (see Neighbourhood Plan Submission version for full policy detail)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references</p>	<p>Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework</p>
<p>S1: Countryside – Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. Policy provides a list of suitable development.</p>	<p>17, 28, 55 PPG References Health and Well Being, Natural Environment, and, Rural Housing</p>	<p>This Policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside in accordance with Core Planning Principle 5. This policy mirrors this approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.</p>
<p>S2: Public Rights of Way Network – Mandates development to protect the Rights of Way including footpaths and cycle ways and create new links to the network.</p>	<p>17, 69, 73, 75, 156 PPG References Health and Well Being, and Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space</p>	<p>This policy takes account of the different roles and character of different areas as well as seeks to support the multiple benefits from the use of rural areas, such as recreation and wellbeing, and maximise opportunities for walking. As such, it conforms with Core Planning Principles 5, 9, 11 and 12.</p>
<p>S3: Locally Important Views – Development should safeguard, and where possible, enhance several identified views and vistas.</p>	<p>17, 73, 109 PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Natural Environment</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy allows account to be taken of these areas.</p>

<p>Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy Summary (see Neighbourhood Plan Submission version for full policy detail)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references</p>	<p>Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework</p>
<p>S4: Renewable Energy – This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. It also states that wind turbines will not be supported.</p>	<p>17, 93, 97 PPG References Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 6 supports and encourages the use of renewable resources including the development of renewable energy and planning is recognised as having a key role to play in the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure. This policy supports the NPPF in that it includes a policy relating to the provision of such infrastructure whilst ensuring adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily. It also supports the view that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities. There is no local community support for wind turbines and Policy S4 reflects this.</p>
<p>S5: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features for biodiversity gain.</p>	<p>17, 109, 117 PPG Reference Natural Environment</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 7 seeks the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. This policy seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes as well as minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>
<p>S6: Water Management – Requires new development to take account of flood risk. Developments that include a surface covering of more that 5sqm should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</p>	<p>17, 94, 103 PPG Reference Flood Risk and Coastal Change</p>	<p>This policy seeks to mitigate climate change and take full account of flood risk as detailed in Core Planning Principle 6 and supports the use of sustainable drainage systems.</p>
<p>S7: Features of Local Heritage Interest - The determination of planning applications, which will affect ‘identified’ features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for, and public benefit of, the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed.</p>	<p>17, 126, 135 PPG Reference Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets as detailed in Core Planning Principle 10. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Features of local heritage interest are listed within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

<p>Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy Summary (see Neighbourhood Plan Submission version for full policy detail)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references</p>	<p>Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework</p>
<p>S8: Design – Supports development which reflects the traditional character of buildings in the Parish unless the development is of exceptional quality or innovative design. Development must be in keeping with the scale of character of the surroundings, protect important landscape features and residential amenity, have a safe and suitable access and not lead to adverse traffic impacts.</p>	<p>17, 32, 56, 58, 60, 123</p> <p>PPG References Design, and Health and Well Being</p>	<p>Core Planning Principle 4 specifies that planning should always seek to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that that reflects the surrounding area and with a good standard of amenity with a safe and suitable access for all (Core Planning Principles 4 and 5)</p>
<p>S9: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within Sheepy Parish which will be protected. New development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space will not normally be supported other than in very special circumstances</p>	<p>17, 76-78</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Open Spaces, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of importance to them. This policy allows account to be taken of the character and role of these areas as detailed in Core Planning Principle 5. It also supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment (Core Planning Principle 7)</p>
<p>S10: Infill Housing – This policy supports housing development within the defined settlement boundaries of Sheepy Magna and Sibson. Outside of these boundaries development will be limited to the residential development of Hornsey Rise Memorial Home, rural worker</p>	<p>17, 47, 50, 54, 55</p> <p>PPG References Design, Health and Well Being,</p>	<p>This policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. It allows for certain forms of residential development outside of these boundaries, supporting the redevelopment of brownfield land, the rural economy and the vitality of rural communities, and the development of rural</p>

<p>Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy Summary (see Neighbourhood Plan Submission version for full policy detail)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references</p>	<p>Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework</p>
<p>accommodation, replacement dwellings, re-use and/or adaptation of redundant rural buildings and exception site affordable housing.</p>	<p>and, Rural Housing</p>	<p>exception sites to provide for locally needed affordable housing. (Core Planning Principles 3, 8 and 11)</p>
<p>S11: Seeks a mix of housing types responsive to local needs, informed by the most up to date evidence of housing need. Development of 10 dwellings or more will need demonstrate how the housing needs of older households and need for smaller, low-cost homes, have been met.</p>	<p>17, 47, 50 PPG References Health and Well Being and Rural Housing</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of homes for older households as well as smaller, lower cost homes. It seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need/demand. (Core Planning Principle 3)</p>
<p>S12: Affordable Housing - Identifies the amount of affordable housing provision to be provided on windfall sites. Allows for provision to be met through rural exception sites. Seeks to ensure priority will be given to people with a local connection to Sheepy Parish.</p>	<p>17, 47, 50, 54, 58 PPG References Health and Well Being and Rural Housing</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 3 identifies requirement to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in its community. It also supports the appropriate application of rural exception sites homes.</p>
<p>S13: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home – This policy identifies a housing site allocation. It identifies the amount of housing, the housing mix, the retention and residential conversion of the chapel, seeks the removal of any land contamination, seeks the provision of a cycle/footpath, and a landscaping scheme to provide for biodiversity improvements.</p>	<p>17, 29, 32, 50, 109, 121 PPG References Health and Well Being, Natural Environment, Open Space, Sports and Recreational</p>	<p>This approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs and provides for the identification of a housing allocation site on previously developed , having regard to Core Planning Principles 3 and 8. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing, seeks the protection and enhancement of the existing landscape and positive biodiversity benefits, seeks the provision of footpaths and cycleways and to address any land contamination issues. (Core Planning Principles 5, 7 and 11)</p>

Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy Summary (see Neighbourhood Plan Submission version for full policy detail)	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
	Facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space, and, Rural Housing	
S14: Community Services and Facilities - This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.	17, 28, 70, 72 PPG References Health and Well Being	The Core Planning Principle 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.
S15: Car Parking and New Development – This policy seeks a minimum level of parking provision for new developments.	17, 39, 162 PPG Reference Design	This policy seeks to provide the appropriate level of car parking infrastructure to support new development, considering the levels of public transport provision, and to avoid exacerbating the adverse impacts being experienced by on-street parking. (Core Planning Principle 3 and 4).
S16: Communications Infrastructure – This policy requires new development to facilitate all new premises and homes to have access to fibre optic broadband technology, unless it can be demonstrated that making such provision would render the development unviable.	17, 42, 43	This policy seeks the delivery of appropriate infrastructure taking into account the needs of the local residential and business communities, in conformity with Core Planning Principle 3. The policy supports the development of high speed broadband technology, recognising the role it has to play in enhancing local communities.
S17: Rural Economy - This policy supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses and enterprise through the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. Tourism development is encouraged as well as live/work units.	17, 28, 56 PPG Reference Design	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with Core Planning Principle 3, that is of a high-quality design (Core Planning Principle 4). It supports a prosperous rural economy, including tourism development and mirrors the approach contained within the NPPF. It encourages the reuse of existing resources through the conversion of existing buildings (Core Planning Principle 6)

3. Contributing to sustainable development

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

- an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements including the provision of infrastructure;
- a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high-quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the relevant sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 - Building a strong competitive economy	Supporting housing provision to meet identified requirements and providing for housing that meets local needs. Seeks to improve internet connectivity and support local business and employment. Supporting sustainable economic growth, including the tourism economy and the provision of live/work units.
2 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The ambition of the plan is also to see the continuation of a thriving local village community supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.
3 - Supporting a prosperous rural economy	Supporting the retention and development of local services and community facilities and improvements in internet connectivity. Supporting the local economy including the conversion of existing buildings, development of well-designed new buildings, the provision of live/work units and tourism development.
4 - Promoting Sustainable Transport	Protection and expansion of public rights of way including footpaths and cycleways. Protection of community services and facilities within the villages.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
5 - Supporting high quality communications infrastructure	Seek to facilitate improvements in broadband technology for new residential and employment development.
6 - Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and identifying suitable 'locations' for housing development. Supporting a supply of housing to meet assessed needs. Seeking a mix of property to address the imbalance in housing stock. Requiring a percentage of new homes to be affordable and allow for the development of exception sites.
7 - Requiring good design	Includes policies to require good design and character and to reflect local distinctiveness, including landscape improvements and positive improvements to the street scene as well as the built environment.
8 - Promoting healthy communities	Seeks the protection and enhancement of Public Rights of Way, including footpaths and cycleways. Protection of the countryside, local green spaces and provision of community facilities providing opportunities for people to meet.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable.
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Seeks the protection and enhancement of the Public Right of Way network (footpaths and cycleways) with opportunities to create new links into the network. New development to take account types of flood risk and specific forms of development to include the incorporation of a sustainable drainage system. Supports the development of a solar photovoltaic farm subject to specific criteria.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, Locally Important Views and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development not to harm valued landscapes and to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and habitats and landscape features for biodiversity.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic landscape, including non-designated assets of local importance including views and listed buildings, Bosworth Battlefield site etc.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (Adopted December 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 2006-2026 (Adopted July 2016).

4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (Adopted 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted 2016).

Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026

4.3 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Spatial Objective 9: Identity, Distinctiveness and Quality of Design

Spatial Objective 11: Built Environment and Townscape Character

Spatial Objective 12: Climate Change and Resource Efficiency

Policy 12: Rural Villages

Policy 13: Rural Hamlets

Policy 14: Rural Areas: Transport

Policy 15: Affordable Housing

Policy 16: Housing Density, Mix and Design

Policy 17: Rural Needs

Policy 19: Green Space and Play Provision

Policy 23: Tourism Development

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
S1: Countryside	Policy 12, Policy 15, Policy 17, Policy 19, Policy 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the provision of new housing development within the settlement boundaries. Allows for rural housing and the provision of rural exception sites, Allows for the provision of recreation facilities and tourism development
S2: Public Rights of Way	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks the delivery of cycleways and footpaths between facilities and into the countryside

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
S3: Locally Important Views	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
S4: Renewable Energy	Spatial Objective 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the use of renewable energies
S5: Ecology and Biodiversity	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S6: Water Management	No relevant policies	Not applicable
S7: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Spatial Objective 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard and enhance the Parish's distinctive built environment
S8: Design	Spatial Objective 9, Policy 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports development which reflects local distinctiveness and enhances settlement identity
S9: Local Green Spaces	No relevant policies 19?	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
S10: Infill Housing	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 17 and 9?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports housing development with the defined settlement boundary of Sheepy Magna, a rural village and Sibson, a rural hamlet Support the use of rural exception sites for affordable housing to meet a local need
S11: Housing Mix	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 16 AND 11 and 9?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a mix of housing types based on evidence of housing need
S12: Affordable Housing	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 15, Policy 17 AND 9?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks the provision of affordable housing taking account of local need Allows for rural exception sites within the Sheepy Magna and Sibson Settlement Boundaries, where the development is in keeping with the scale and character of the village and locality, protects residential amenity, and, with safe and suitable access When affordable housing is allocated, priority will be given to people with a local connection to Sheepy Parish.
S13: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home	Policy 16 AND (11	Requires a mix of housing types based on evidence of housing need

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
S14: Community Services and Facilities	Policy 12, Policy 13 AND 19 and 14?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in the rural village of Sheepy Magna and the rural hamlet of Sibson ▪ Facilities will be safeguarded unless it can be demonstrated they are no longer viable, are no longer needed by the community, are not needed by any other community use or the facility is being replaced by equivalent or better provision ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded
S15: Car Parking and New Development	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
S16: Communications Infrastructure	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
S17: Rural Economy	Policy 12, Policy 13, Policy 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy within the rural village of Sheepy Magna and the rural hamlet of Sibson ▪ Supports and facilitates home working ▪ Supports tourism related development, specifically that related to the Battle of Bosworth Field, recognising its value to the rural economy

Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted 2016)

4.4 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy DM2: Delivering Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development

Policy DM3: Infrastructure and Delivery

Policy DM4: Safeguarding the Countryside and Settlement Separation

Policy DM5: Enabling Rural Worker Accommodation

- Policy DM6: Enhancement of Biodiversity and Ecological Benefit
- Policy DM7: Preventing Pollution and Flooding
- Policy DM8: Safeguarding Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities
- Policy DM9: Safeguarding Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces
- Policy DM10: Design and Development
- Policy DM11: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment
- Policy DM12: Heritage Assets
- Policy DM14: Replacement Dwellings in Rural Areas
- Policy DM15: Redundant Rural Buildings
- Policy DM18: Vehicle Parking Standards
- Policy DM20: Provision of Employment Sites
- Policy DM24: Cultural and Tourism Facilities
- Policy DM25: Community Facilities

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
S1: Countryside	Policy DM4, Policy DM5, Policy DM11, Policy DM15, Policy DM20 and Policy DM24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protects the countryside for its intrinsic value, beauty, and open and landscape character ▪ Allows for development for recreational purposes ▪ Supports the re-use and adaption of existing buildings in the countryside ▪ Supports the provision of rural worker accommodation ▪ Supports the provision of renewable energy developments ▪ Support and enhance the historic environment ▪ Supports the rural economy and the protection and enhancement of tourism facilities
S2: Public Rights of Way Network	Policy DM9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks the protection of Rights and Way and promote the creation and enhancement of new links including footpaths and cycle ways ▪ Seeks to retain access to and usability of these links
S3: Locally Important Views	Policy DM9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to safeguard and enhance specific views/vistas which have been identified for their wildlife value, their character and

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
		contribution to the character of the area, or their recreational value
S4: Renewable Energy	Policy DM2, Policy DM11, Policy DM12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy supports solar farm development where it does not have an adverse visual impact and does not adversely impact on Features of Local Heritage Interest
S5: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy DM6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats and ensure that new development does not harm these features ▪ New development should maintain and enhance these features ▪ Seeks a net gain in biodiversity.
S6: Water Management	Policy DM7, Policy DM10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems ▪ Seeks to avoid adverse impacts from flooding
S7: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Policy DM11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to protect the Parish's historic environment, namely its features of local heritage interest, from harm ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan provides a consolidated list of features of local heritage interest
S8: Design	Policy DM10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to prevent adverse impact on residential amenity ▪ Support development that would complement and enhance the character of the surrounding area ▪ Protects important existing features including landscaping
S9: Local Green Spaces	Policy DM8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to prevent the loss of the character and value of Sheepy Magna Playing Fields and All Saints Churchyard
S10: Housing Development	Policy DM5, Policy DM14 and Policy DM15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the development of rural worker accommodation, replacement dwellings in rural areas and the re-use and adaptation of redundant rural buildings,
S11: Housing Mix	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies

Sheepy Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
S12: Affordable Housing	Policy DM3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks the provision of affordable housing ▪ In some instances, commuted sums in lieu of on-site affordable housing may be acceptable
S13: Hornsey Rise Memorial Home	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
S14: Community Services and Facilities	Policy D25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resists the loss of existing community facilities
S15: Car Parking and New Housing Development	Policy DM18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to provide an appropriate level of parking provision, taking into account local circumstances and ensure existing parking issues are not exacerbated
S16: Communications Infrastructure	Policy DM3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support development
S17: Rural Economy	Policy DM3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for development that contributes to the rural economy and rural diversification

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

- 5.1 A Neighbourhood Plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:
- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
 - Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Statement provides a screening opinion as to whether the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.
- 5.3 The outcome of this assessment concludes that whilst environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the neighbourhood plan, including in relation to the majority of the SEA 'topics', it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA directive. Therefore, it is considered that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Assessment and their responses are summarised below:
- Historic England – No significant effects have been identified with respect to cultural heritage.
 - Natural England – On the basis of the consultation material supplied, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, advise that there are unlikely to be significant effects from the proposed plan.
 - Environment Agency – Having reviewed the Sheepy Parish SEA Screening Statement concur with the conclusions within the statement that neither SEA or HRA are a requirement for this plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.4 The Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected species. There are no Special Areas of Protection within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area. There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 10km of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.5 The Hinckley and Bosworth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017 confirms there is no physical connection between the Borough and The Ensor's Pool SAC. From this we consider that activities within the Borough – and indeed the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area - would not have implications for this site.
- 5.6 Part of the River Mease (not the part defined as a SAC) passed through the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. In addition, three tributaries of the river flow down towards and through Norton juxta Twycross. As a result, given the Physical connection to the River Mease SAC, provided by its flow through the Borough and via these tributaries, it might be conceivable that some areas of the Borough could have an impact on this site despite the actual designation being outside the Borough.
- 5.7 However, no part of the River Mease or its tributaries as described above flow through the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries as described above are located roughly 3km away from the closest part of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Area boundary. In view of this as well as considering the scope of proposals within the draft Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council considers that further stages in the HRA process are not required (including further screening, or Appropriate Assessment) and that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.
- 5.8 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out another basic condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This is that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.
- 6.2 As set out in paragraphs 23 to 27, a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

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

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

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

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

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2011 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Sheepy Parish for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 1,174 people living in Sheepy Parish, 47% were Male and 53% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

17.9% of the population was 0-15 years old and 23.7% were 65% or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

2% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

74.3% of the population was Christian and 1.2% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

8.6% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 10.1% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

63.5% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

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

Summary

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

The proportion of older people is higher than the national picture, common with rural areas.

The proportion of BMEs (British, Black and Minority Ethnic) is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural areas.

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

Key Issues and Policies of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Sheepy;

Maintaining the rural character of the area

Protecting the countryside

Supporting an accessible countryside

Minimising flood risk

Conserving local heritage

Protecting green areas in settlements

Ensuring new development is consistent with strategic requirements

Meeting local housing needs

Improving or retaining local services and facilities

Controlling speeding traffic

Providing more employment opportunities for local people

These issues are reflected in the Vision for Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan;

Sheepy Parish in 2036:

The unique character and heritage of Sheepy Parish's settlements is conserved

New developments will take full account of flood risk

Development reflects local needs

Important views and valued landscapes are protected

A prosperous local economy

The character and beauty of the countryside and its natural environment are safeguarded

Important green spaces are protected

An accessible countryside

Local services and facilities are retained.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 17 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy S11 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing types to reflect evidence of need, noting in particular the need to demonstrate how the housing needs of older households and smaller, lower cost homes will be met in developments of 10 or more dwellings. Policies S10 and S12 seek a supply of affordable housing in the parish; and for priority to be given to people with a local connection to Sheepy Parish when

allocating affordable housing. There is a strong potential for positive impacts on young or new households or the elderly seeking to address their needs.

Policy S9 requires local green spaces to be protected and enhanced and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact. This potential positive impact is also supported by Policy 2 which seeks to protect Rights of Way and create new links to the network including footpaths and cycleways.

Policy S14 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Sheepy Magna and Sibson. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the parish services include a primary school, public houses and village halls. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Disability

Policy S8 to have a safe and suitable access and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy S11) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy S11 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy S2 seeks the creation of footpath links. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy S8 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision, such as the primary school and village halls (Policy S14). These impacts might be considered to be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities (Policy S14), including Sheepy Magna Memorial Hall and Sibson Village Hall with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy S8 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic the potential for tangible impacts is unknown and consequently this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

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

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of racial or religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

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