

Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

Introduction

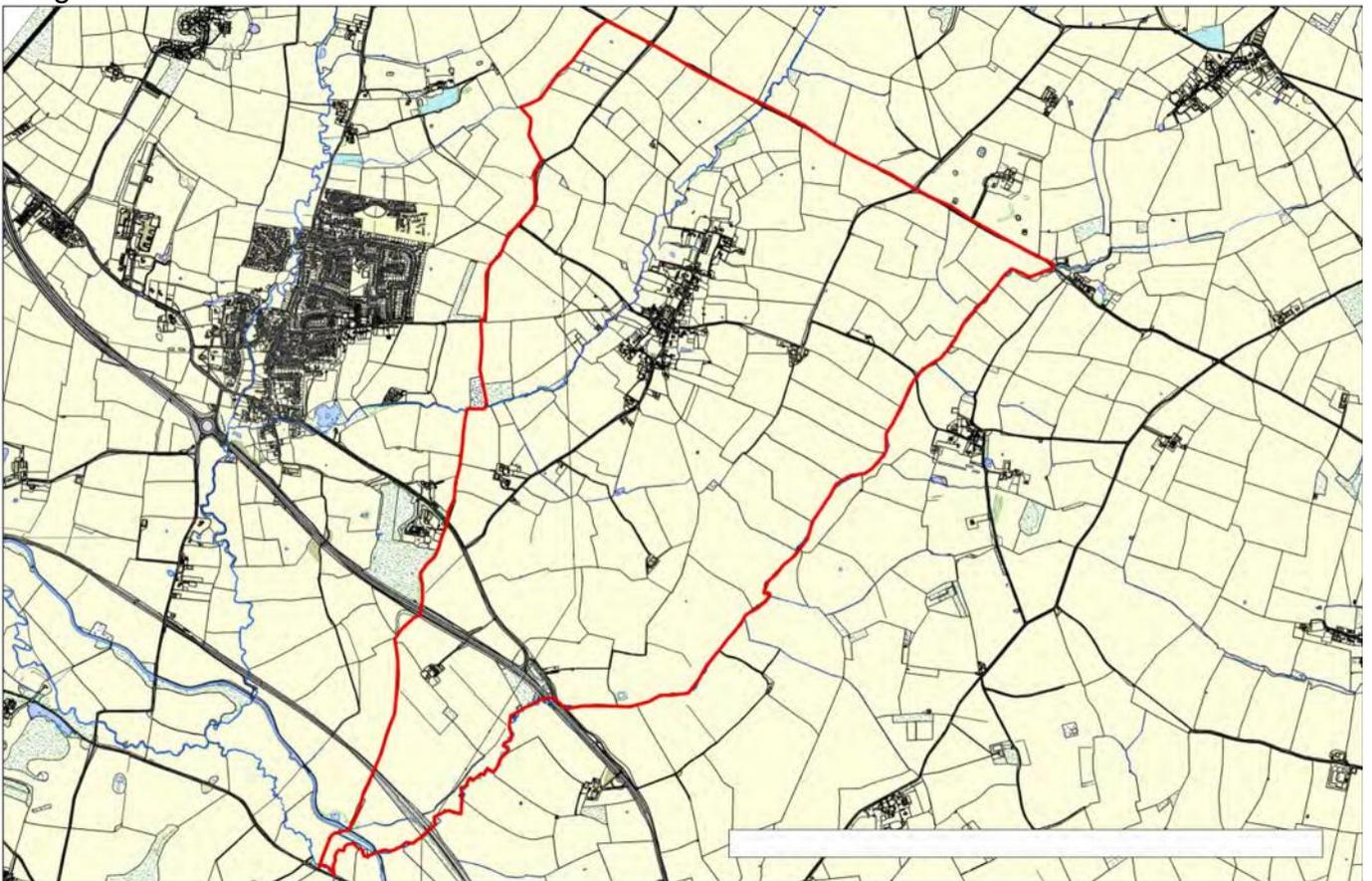
1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain. According to the Regulations, a Consultation Statement:

- a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- b) explains how they were consulted;
- c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;
- d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

This document provides a record of the engagement that took place at the various stages of the plan's evolution.

The main methods used to publicise the consultation and engagement process are documented, along with the main findings from the engagement.

Figure 1 Neighbourhood Area – designated on 21 July 2015. Burton Overy Neighbourhood Area of Designation



Regulations and government guidance:

Stage 1: deciding to make a Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council (PC) took the decision to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan at its

meeting on 10 March 2015. This was endorsed by a show of hands at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May. At this meeting local people expressed an interest in being members of the Burton Overy Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee. The first meeting of the committee took place on 12 Oct 2015.

Stage 2: defining the neighbourhood

The Parish Council applied to the local planning authority on 15 June to designate the neighbourhood as identified above.

A formal engagement period provided members of the public and other key stakeholders an opportunity to submit comment on the proposed neighbourhood plan area and proposed neighbourhood planning body for Burton Overy. The proposed neighbourhood planning body was Burton Overy Parish Council and the proposed neighbourhood planning area is shown in Fig 1 above.

Harborough District Council checked that the application was appropriate, and undertook the appropriate notification process. The designation was made on 31 July 2015.

Stage 2: preparing the plan

Burton Overy Neighbourhood Development Plan (BONDP) Committee was a sub-committee of Burton Overy Parish Council. Two parish councillors and four other residents served on the Committee.

The Committee and Parish Council established terms of reference to follow. The BONDP Committee is a sub-committee of the PC and will work to produce a draft plan, ensuring that it is:

- Generally in line with local and national planning policy framework;
- In line with other legal frameworks;
- Mindful of the need to contribute to sustainable development;
- Prepared on the basis of sound governance arrangements.

The Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan seeks to establish specific and local planning policies for the development and use of land in the Parish. The neighbourhood plan establishes a vision for the future taking into account the data gathered through community engagement and consultation alongside demographic and socio-economic data.

Following a recruitment process the BONDP Committee appointed YourLocale as consultants to help create the plan.

The BONDP Committee met on:

06 OCT 2015 (to appoint officers)
12 OCT 2015 (to interview consultants)
16 Nov 2015
17 Jan 2016
04 Feb 2016
05 April 2016
03 May 2016
25 May 2016
27 June 2016

Minutes of the Committee can be found at Appendix 1.

On 13 May 2016 two theme groups were launched. Local people were engaged in order to pull together and prioritise ideas emerging from the first consultation and start to work up their plans. Thirteen people were involved in the theme groups, undertaking valuable research and assessment.

The housing group met three times between May 2016 and Aug 2016.

The Environment group met 7 times Between May 2016 and Aug 2017.

Communications

Below are listed the main ways that information about the Neighbourhood Plan has been communicated to local people and stakeholders.

- Village Noticeboard: invitation to join the BODP Committee Aug 2015; notice showing the area for designation Aug 2015; all BODP Committee agendas posted 2 weeks prior to meetings; BODP Committee minutes were posted.
- Newsletter articles in Burton Overy News which is delivered every 6 months to every home in the Parish
- Door drops were distributed to all households advertising all events.

- Parish Council website: BODP Committee agendas, minutes, the questionnaire and all consultation results were posted on the PC website <http://www.burtonoveryparishcouncil.org.uk> from January 2016, The Regulation 14 consultation was posted on the website;
- Stakeholder letters/email: A letter was sent to stakeholders in March 2016; local landowners were contacted in March 2016; all stakeholders were contacted either by email or letter for the Regulation 14 consultation Nov 2017-Jan 2018;
- Fliers/questionnaire: fliers advertising the drop in consultations were posted through every door in the parish; every household received a questionnaire;

Consultations

Two consultations have taken place, each building on the evidence of the last.

- A community consultation event took place in the Village Hall 23rd April 2016 & 10 July 2017;
- A questionnaire was delivered to every household in April 2016;
- A community consultation event focusing on the plan policies took place 10 June 2017;
- Regulation 14 consultation took place 27th Nov 2017 for a period of 7 weeks until Sunday 14th Jan 2018.

Consultation methodology

The consultations aimed:

- To inform as many people as possible of the existence of the neighbourhood planning process
- To seek the views of people from the community on the proposals being developed by the BODP Committee.

Activities:

As well as meetings of the BODP Committee and the work of the theme groups the following activities were undertaken:

- The intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and an invitation to contribute toward the process was publicised in the Parish newsletter, Burton Overy News
- Notices were placed on the Parish noticeboard asking people to get involved and informing them of progress;
- All BODP Committee meeting agendas and minutes and key documents were posted on the PC Website;
- The Parish newsletter was used to keep the community up-to-date on progress with the NP and offered the chance for people to comment and get involved. The Bi annual newsletter, Burton Overy News, is delivered free to all households in the Parish;
- The Neighbourhood Plan was included as a regular agenda item at Parish Council meetings. Minutes of meetings are publicly available on the Parish website;
- A staffed exhibition about the Neighbourhood Plan was held in April 2016. At this event people were asked to give their thoughts and ideas on priority issues for the Plan. The event was extensively publicised.
- A community questionnaire was undertaken in March 2016;
- A second staffed exhibition took place in July 2017 at which the community was presented with the draft policies. The plans and policies were available to view in large format on presentation boards. Again the event was extensively publicised;
- Agencies with a statutory or other significant interest in the Plan were invited to submit their comments in writing by email and letter, at appropriate stages of the planning process, according to the regulations.

Detailed consultation activities

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

Statutory and other stakeholders

The first task was to contact local stakeholders and announce the commencement of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The following stakeholders were contacted at the outset:

Age UK,
Anglian Water Ltd,
British Gas Properties,
British Telecommunications Plc,
CPRE Leicestershire,
The Coal Authority,
East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG,
English Heritage,
Environment Agency,
Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
Harborough District Council
Harborough District Disability Access Group.
Highways Agency,
Historic England,
Homes and Communities Agency,
Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire,
Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living,

Leicestershire County Council,
Leicestershire County Council transport
Leicestershire County Council, Policy and Community
Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership,
Leicestershire Fire and Rescue,
Leicestershire Police,
Market Harborough Chamber of Commerce,
National Grid,
Natural England,
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited,
NHS,
Severn Trent Water Ltd,
Voluntary Action Leicestershire

Adjoining Parishes:

Great Glen
Kings Norton
Little Stretton
Carlton Curlieu
Kibworth

Councillors/MP:

Edward Garnier MP
Niel O'Brien MP
Kevin Fetham County Councillor
Graham Spendlove Mason, District Councillor

Local Businesses:

The Bell,
Holmans Yard,
Statutory/Voluntary Organisations:

Woodland Trust
Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

Landowners

Landowners all part of the community communication

The same groups, individuals and organisations have been consulted as part of the Regulation 14 consultation arrangements.

First community consultation

An open consultation event took place in the Village Hall on 23rd April 2016 seeking the views of the community on what the Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan should focus on. 60 people attended this event.

Summary of findings from the event

Comments were made reflecting a wide range of opinions, however, people who attended the consultation event demonstrated a consistency in a number of key areas:

Environment

There was a considerable degree of interest shown in the environmental displays, which generated the greatest number of responses at 18. Numerous responses were specifically about the importance of retaining and protecting open green spaces in and around Burton Overy, including rural views and the protection of wildlife areas (6). One respondent suggested cooperating with adjoining parishes to protect the village's rural setting, and another comment

highlighted the significance of the ancient landscape, e.g. ridge and furrow, and the need to protect it from encroaching developments (e.g. Great Glen). There were 2 specific wishes expressed in terms of wildlife enhancement in the area: a large pond/lake and a wildlife meadow. A further 2 comments advised the need to protect the village ridgeline, and 2 others felt that there was too much road signage present.

Housing

This section generated the second-highest response after the section addressing Environment. Out of a total of 15 comments on Housing in the village, 7 were in favour of any housing development being of a rural design sympathetic to the village. 3 respondents wished to protect the green space setting of the village if building took place, and 2 respondents specifically referenced the need for affordable housing for young families, and one stating that consideration be given to the village not becoming “a retirement zone”.

Business/Employment

This display generated 9 responses. 3 respondents raised the issue of poor current broadband and mobile phone reception in the village. One villager promoted countryside employment to “keep the village alive”. Two others felt that a shop was not a viable option, citing on line shopping and ease of access to shops by car

Transport and Highways

This area of the consultation drew a total of 11 responses. In the event of development, respondents drew attention to the need to provide more traffic calming and traffic management, adequate parking and improved public transport links. The need for improved public transport was cited by 3 people, along with consideration being given to vehicle speed limits and sympathetic traffic calming being raised by 4.

Concerns over current lack of available car parking in the village was raised by 2 respondents, with one example given of the difficulty experienced in getting past parked cars along Bell Lane.

Community Facilities

10 respondents commented on this section. 4 people felt that a play/adventure area/facility was needed for children and young people with a specific suggestion of “a tennis court, given a very strong tennis tradition in the village”. 3 villagers would like a bus service running 1-2 times per week, one noting the specific destination of Leicester. One person suggested that providing more facilities would “open up” the village for development whilst another said that there were sufficient amenities provided nearby.

Other

One respondent asked how the Neighbourhood Plan could protect against the “creep” of the villages of Great Glen and Kibworth.

A further respondent reiterated the point already raised by others: the importance of retaining the “heritage” of rural life, and added that this should be for the benefit and appreciation of everyone in the area, living either rurally or in a more “urban” environment.

Full analysis see appendix 2

Community Questionnaire

An important part of this inclusive process is, of course, obtaining the views and aspirations of the community. A key means to achieve this has been the development and dissemination of a community questionnaire.

The questionnaire contained 12 questions and was based on subject areas established following initial consultation work by the Burton Overy Parish Council. These subjects are: Housing, Transport, the Parish Environment and the future work of the Parish Council.

The survey took place between February and March 2016. It was available to complete electronically and as a paper copy. The level of response from the community was good, there being 39 returns, (25 paper copies and 14

electronic), this represents a return from 9% of the total population, 11% of the adult population, excluding children. Given that some households choose to respond collectively rather than as individuals; it is also pertinent to consider the number of responses in relation to the number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The number of responses represents 20% of the 191 households.

This demonstrates the level of commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan by the small community and, in turn, adds strength to the validity of the collected views expressed.

Population data taken from 2011 Census

Summary of findings from the Questionnaire

Housing

When considering the type of housing required, there was a relatively even spread of responses which, nonetheless, indicated strong preference for smaller homes and starter homes.

There was virtually no difference in number between those favouring detached and those preferring semi-detached homes.

There was also strong desire for eco-friendly homes, only four respondents failed to support this option.

Bungalows, houses with four bedrooms plus and terraced houses all received an almost equal balance between those in support, those who were unsure and those not keen.

The only house type which was predominantly opposed by respondents was luxury executive housing. Two thirds of respondents said 'no' to this house type.

(The responses to this question received a weighting of 2 for yes, 1 for not sure and 0 for no)

Housing tenure

When asked to consider the tenure of new housing, respondents were predominantly in favour of owner occupied housing, only two of 36 were opposed to this form of tenure.

Rented accommodation received a near equal number of yes and no responses, but a predominance of don't know responses. One respondent explained that there is already rental accommodation in the Parish and they would not automatically support any more but would want to evaluate each, based on individual circumstances before offering their support.

Shared Ownership was supported by only three respondents. Sixteen opposed it but 14 were unsure, implying perhaps a lack of clarity, amongst some, over exactly what opportunities it might offer.

Social Housing was supported by just 9% and opposed by over 60% of respondents.

(The responses to this question received a weighting of 2 for yes, 1 for not sure and 0 for no)

Housing comments

We are a conservation village under present planning policy. It is important that these policies remain.

Small starter homes for young people who want to stay in the village as they grow up to adults. We do not need any more "executive" houses to bring only the rich to our village and make the builders and developers lots of money.

The biggest threat to the characteristic English village is creeping urbanisation by way of unsympathetic housing styles, population and increased traffic. Therefore, all additional housing should reflect empathy and character to that existing, without exception and subject to strict selective planning authority preferences.

We have quite a lot of rented accommodation here already, but it isn't a problem if people want more.

Transport

Respondents were asked to rate any transport concerns on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 is the greatest level of concern. The speed of traffic through the village is of greatest concern to respondents with a weighted average in excess of 4 out of 5. The second highest concern is access for large HGV vehicles in the village and the third, presumably caused in part by the first and second concerns, is the condition of roads in the village.

Of less concern are stationary vehicles: parking during daytime, evenings and weekends all registered as concerning to a slightly smaller number of respondents than those who are unconcerned. Additional comments indicated that walkers and sightseers add to parking in the Burton Overy. A small car park specifically for visitors was suggested. There seems to be little concern about visitors and their cars, indeed there was acknowledgement that this brings added business to the pub.

Characteristics and amenities

The majority of the characteristics and amenities identified in the question were considered important to respondents, indicating a close correlation with responses from earlier consultation.

Working farms, rural atmosphere, protection of fields and rights of way were considered most important. Together they create a sense that respondents believe them to be central to the essence of their Parish.

This is perhaps reinforced by the next most important characteristics: the village hall, the church and the general upkeep of the village.

Of least importance are amenities such as street lighting, the book exchange and fixed seating. Whilst these do still appear to be considered generally important, these individual items are not perceived by respondents to compare with the importance of characteristics such as rural atmosphere, which encompass a much wider sense of what makes Burton Overy special.

Full analysis see appendix 3

Second community consultation

The draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan were developed from this evidence by the Committee and the consultants, led by the theme group chairs.

In July 2017 a second Open Consultation event was held for one days in the Village Hall.

This event was focused on the emerging Plan policies, for which there was majority support in every case. 40+ people attended this event.

The analysis of the results of this event can be found at Appendix 4.

Regulation 14 consultation

This consultation took place over the winter of 2017/18 (27 Nov – 14 Jan) . The resulting comments were tabulated and the committee met to consider its responses and make amendments to the draft plan in Feb. *These are detailed Appendix 5.*

Conclusion

Comments from HDC Planning Officers in relation to latest versions of the draft

Neighbourhood Plan have helped to shape the pre-submission version.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be submitted to Harborough District Council, who will publicise it for a further six weeks and then forward it, with accompanying documents and all representations made during the publicity period, to an Independent Examiner who will review it and check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions'. If the Plan successfully passes this stage, with any modifications, it will be put forward for referendum. The referendum question will be a straight "yes" or "no" on the entire Plan, as set out by Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. People will not be able to vote for or against individual policies. If 50% or more of those voting vote for the Plan, it will be brought into force ('Made') and become part of District-wide planning policy.

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