

Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation Statement

Introduction

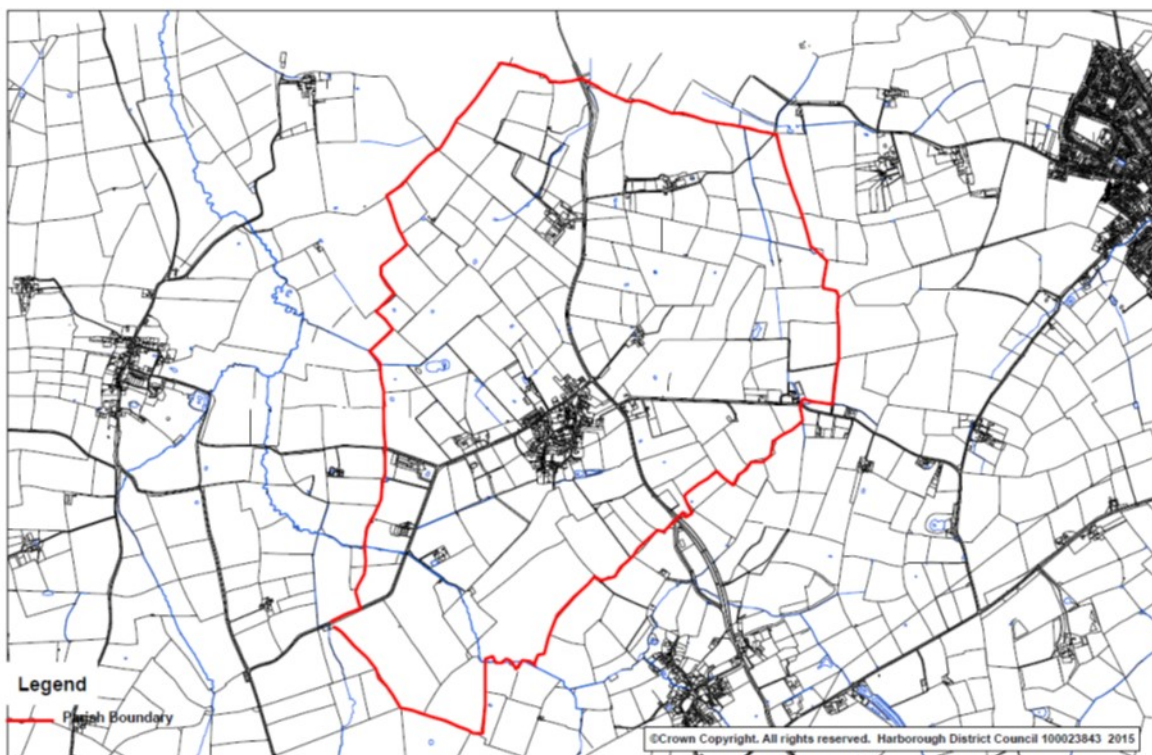
This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain. According to the Regulations, a Consultation Statement:

- 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 4 August 2016



Regulations and government guidance:

Stage 1: deciding to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council (PC) took the decision to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 19TH January 2016.

The Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan passed Referendum on 28 February 2019 with a 90% 'yes' vote and a turnout of 46.7%. The Plan was Made (became a part of the Local Development Plan for Harborough District), by Harborough District Council on 8 March 2019 and has been used since then to help determine planning applications in the Parish based around the Plan's commitment to ensuring that any new housing meets a local need, that the important environmental areas in the parish are protected and that business development remains appropriate to the community.

The Parish Council took the decision to review the Neighbourhood Plan in summer 2022 to see how the policies were working and whether any needed to be updated or added to.

This Consultation Statement reflects on the process followed in preparing the now Made Neighbourhood Plan, and describes the ways in which the community has been engaged in the Review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Stage 2: defining the neighbourhood

The Parish Council applied to the local planning authority in June 2016 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 Arnesby. The proposed neighbourhood planning body was Arnesby 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 4 August 2016. (Appendix i).

The designated area has remained the same with the Review version.

Stage 3: preparing the plan

Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan Review was driven forward by the Parish Council, working to produce a draft plan, ensuring that it:

- Has regard for national planning policy (primarily through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance);

- Is in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (i.e. the Harborough Local Plan, Adopted in April 2019);
- Is compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

The Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan seeks to establish specific and local planning policies for the development and use of land in the Parish, building on the Made Neighbourhood Plan. 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.

Stage 4: Representation

1. Following the decision taken by Arnesby Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, on 19th January 2016, an Advisory Committee was appointed.
2. The Advisory Committee comprised five Parishioners including one Parish Councillor.
3. The Advisory Committee met on nine occasions, commencing in September 2022.
4. The Advisory Committee appointed local planning Consultants 'Your Locale' to provide professional assistance and guidance throughout the Neighbourhood Plan Review process.
5. The Advisory Committee updated the Neighbourhood Plan and its evidence base and utilised technical support through AECOM, commissioned through Locality.

Communications

- Below are listed the main ways that information about the Neighbourhood Plan has been communicated to local people and stakeholders.
- Village Noticeboard: Minutes from Parish Council meetings; agendas for meetings; notification of consultation events.
- Parish Council website: Neighbourhood Plan, minutes and all consultation results once available. The Regulation 14 consultation was posted on the website;
- Stakeholder letters/email: A letter was sent to all stakeholders in August 2016, and again either by email or letter for the Regulation 14 consultation January – March 2024.
- Fliers advertising the drop-in consultations were posted through every door in the parish.
- Posters: Posters were produced advertising the consultation events which were displayed on the Village, Noticeboards, Website and at Arnesby Village Hall.

Consultations

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

- A community consultation event took place in Arnesby Village Hall in February 2023 (Leaflet Appendix ii; analysis Appendix iii);
- A further community consultation event focusing on the plan policies took place at Arnesby Village Hall in November 2023. (Leaflet Appendix 4a, analysis Appendix 4b);
- Regulation 14 consultation took place from 1 March 2024 for a period of 6 weeks until 12 April 2024. (Appendix 5). Leaflets were circulated to every household in the Parish and copies of the Plan were made available on the Parish Noticeboards and on the Village Website.

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 Parish Council at the various stages of the process.

Activities:

As well as meetings of the Parish Council, the following activities were undertaken:

- The intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and an invitation to contribute toward the process was widely publicised on the Village Website and through newsletters;
- Leaflet drops and an Open Session at Arnesby Village hall were 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 Neighbourhood Plan was included as a regular agenda item at Parish Council meetings. Minutes of meetings are publicly available on the Parish website. All Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes were posted on the PC Website and the community invited to attend meetings;
- A good working relationship was established with the District Council including regular dialogue and meetings;
- A staffed open event about the Neighbourhood Plan was held in February 2023. At this event people were asked to give their thoughts and ideas on priority issues for the Plan. The event was extensively publicised.
- A further staffed Open Event took place in November 2023 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 as part of the pre-submission consultation.

Statutory and other stakeholders

The following stakeholders were contacted at Regulation 14 stage, reflecting statutory stakeholders; local groups and landowners, local organisations, adjoining Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, local authorities; District and County Councillors and the MP alongside residents.

British Gas Properties,

British Telecommunications Plc,

The Coal Authority,

East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG,

English Heritage, East Midlands Region,

Homes and Communities Agency,

Highways Agency,

National Grid,

Natural England, Hornbeam House,

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited,

Seven Locks Housing,

Severn Trent Water Ltd

Anglian Water Ltd,

Shearsby Parish Council

Environment Agency,

Fleckney Parish Council,

Peatling Magna Parish Meeting,

Bruntingthorpe Parish Council

Leicestershire County Council,

Harborough District Council

Arnesby Primary School

Neil O'Brien, MP

County Councillor

District Councillor

CPRE

Voluntary Action Leicestershire

Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership

Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups

Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire

Market Harborough Chamber of Commerce.

Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living.

Harborough District Disability Access Group.

Arnesby Baptist Church

St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council, Arnesby

Little India Restaurant

Conclusion

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.