

Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan Review February 2024

Consideration of Minor (non-material)/Major (material) updates to the Made Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan (8 March 2019)

1. Planning process

The Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan passed Referendum with an 90% vote in favour on a turnout of 46.7% on 28 February 2019. The Neighbourhood Plan was formally 'Made' by Charnwood Borough Council on 8 March 2019. However, since this time, the Harborough Local Plan (April 2019) has been adopted and there is a new National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) in force and updates have been made to the Planning Practice Guidance.

These significant developments resulted in the Parish Council taking the decision to formally review the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it remains relevant and shapes development within the Parish up to 2031, the timescale for the Harborough Local Plan.

The opportunity has been taken to refresh and update the approach taken in relation to residential allocations. The revised Neighbourhood Plan allocates a site for residential development in order to meet its agreed housing requirement for the Plan period and has revisited the settlement boundary. Some policies are new whilst others have a strengthened evidence base.

Most other provisions within the Neighbourhood Plan remain as they were in the version which passed referendum in 2019. We have sought to change only those policies that require updating in line with changed circumstances.

The process for reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan is set out in the Consultation Statement which will be included within the Submission material.

In addition to the Consultation Statement, on submission, the Neighbourhood Plan will be accompanied by:

- An updated Statement of Basic Conditions;
- Housing Needs Assessment

- Design Guide and Codes
- Local Heritage list
- Environmental Inventory
- Updated Local Green Space assessment
- Updated SEA determination/screening
- Updated Regulation 14 Consultation feedback and responses
- Responses to request for confirmation amongst Regulation 14 Consultees as to whether the amendments are considered material or non-material.
- Statement from the Qualifying Body about whether the amendments are considered material or non-material.

2. Planning Strategy

The timescale for the Made Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan was already aligned to the emerging Harborough Local Plan in reflecting a time period to 2031. The Review Neighbourhood Plan reflects the same timescale for the Local Plan.

The first Neighbourhood Plan took the opportunity to include a settlement boundary in order to control development over the Plan period and to reinforce the different approach to development within and outside of the redline boundary. This redline boundary is updated in this Review.

3. Status of changes

Planning Practice Guidance, reviewed in September 2023, introduces the following categories:

1. Minor (non-material) modifications to a neighbourhood plan or order are those which would not materially affect the policies in the plan or permission granted by the order. These may include correcting errors, such as a reference to a supporting document, and would not require examination or a referendum.
2. Material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan or order would require

examination but not a referendum. This might, for example, entail the addition of a design code that builds on a pre-existing design policy, or the addition of a site or sites which, subject to the decision of the independent examiner, are not so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the plan.

3. Material modifications which do change the nature of the plan or order would require examination and a referendum. This might, for example, involve allocating significant new sites for development. The changes made in the review of the Made Neighbourhood Plan are considered against these categories of modifications.

4. **Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

The Review Neighbourhood Plan has introduced the following changes to the Neighbourhood Plan which was Made in January 2019.

The Chair of the Parish Council and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has updated the Foreword to reflect the additional work that has been undertaken and the changed circumstances which led to the decision to undertake the Review.

The introductory chapters have been updated to reflect changes since the Made Neighbourhood Plan was prepared, including updating the socio-economic data to reflect 2021 Census data and the results from an updated Housing Needs Assessment.

Section 6 on Consultation has been updated to incorporate the results from two open events that took place in February and November 2023 and the process that was followed in reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Section 5.1 in the Made Neighbourhood Plan has become Section 8 in the Review Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy S1: Limits to Development has been updated to incorporate the Mixed-Use Allocation for light industrial use and 4 small residential dwellings.

A new policy S2: Design has replaced the old Policy D1: Design from the Made Neighbourhood Plan. It has drawn on a comprehensive Design Guide and Codes which was commissioned specifically for the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

A new policy HBE1: Residential Allocation replaces Policy H1: Residential Allocation from the Made Neighbourhood Plan and allocates a small site for residential development.

Section 9 is titled Housing and the Built Environment which was Section 5.2 in the Made Neighbourhood Plan. The introductory section to this chapter contains updated house price information.

Policy HBE2: Housing Mix replaces Policy H2 from the Made Neighbourhood Plan. The only change in this policy is to reference the new Housing Needs Assessment which was commissioned by the Qualifying Body to update the evidence base to the 2021 Census.

Policy HBE3: Windfall sites is the same as Made Neighbourhood Plan Policy H3.

Policy HBE4: Affordable Housing Exception Site is a new policy to ensure that local circumstances are taken into consideration should an Exception Site be put forward.

Policy Env1: Local Green space has an additional, small, local green space added, which is a LGS in the Harborough Local Plan (2019).

Policy Env 2 Important Open Spaces is new –the policy provides a comprehensive audit of open spaces (OSSRs, as distinct from Local Green Spaces) in the Plan Area and gives them appropriate protection.

Policy Env 3 Protection of sites and features of natural environment significance and Policy Env 5 Protection of sites of historical environment significance were formerly a single policy, (old Env 2 Protection of other sites and features of environment significance) in the Made Neighbourhood Plan. The policy has been split for clarity, to add further local detail, to incorporate the latest Leicestershire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) and Historic Environment Record (HER) data and to update the policy having regard to the updated current relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and the recent changes to the national approach to biodiversity protection and enhancement (e.g. Environment Act 2021).

Policy Env 4: Biodiversity across the Plan Area (previously Biodiversity and wildlife corridors) – takes into account the updated current relevant paragraphs of the NPPF (2023) and the recent

changes to the national approach to biodiversity protection and enhancement (e.g. Environment Act 2021). No wildlife corridors have been identified in the Plan area.

Policy Env 6: Heritage assets of local historical and architectural interest – has been renumbered Policy Env 7 and renamed non-designated heritage assets (NDHA) – buildings and structures in line with NPPF terminology. The buildings and structures identified are the same as in the Made Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy Env 7: Ridge and Furrow – has been updated with a more comprehensive evidence base and to record (2023 re-survey) the changes since 2018.

Policy Env 9 Rights of Way – renamed Footpaths and Bridleways to avoid confusion with the definitive list of statutory rights of way.

Policy Env 10: Managing Flood Risk has been strengthened following advice from the Environment Agency.

Policy 8 (Views) remains the same as in the Made Neighbourhood Plan.

Policies in Section 11 – Community Facilities and Amenities; Section 12: Transport and Section 13: Business and Employment (with the exception of Policy BE3) are the same as in the Made Neighbourhood Plan, with the evidence base updated where necessary to reflect 2021 Census data and consultation findings.

Policy BE3 is an allocation of a commercial site to help enhance local employment opportunities.

Section 14 – Monitoring and Review – the time period covered by the Neighbourhood Plan has changed and therefore the monitoring cycle has been amended too from what was in Section 10 of the Made Neighbourhood Plan.

5 Note on the Nature of the Changes

Discussions took place in the Parish Council about the modifications in the Review of the Neighbourhood Plan and whether they represent Material or Non-Material changes to the Made Neighbourhood Plan.

The Qualifying Body considers that the allocation of a single site for development represents a material modification which does not change the nature of the Plan and will therefore require examination but not a referendum. The Made Neighbourhood Plan also allocated a single site for development.

6. How are these changes regarded by the Qualifying Body?

The Qualifying Body are fully supportive of the changes to the Made Neighbourhood Plan as described above.

Arnesby Parish Council

February 2024