



PLAN-IT X
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SERVICES

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

April 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Stoke Golding 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 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 adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD 2006 -2026 (2016); and
 - 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 five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Stoke Golding 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);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and
 - Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.

- 1.4 The Stoke Golding 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 Stoke Golding Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Plan applies to the whole of Stoke Golding Parish together with part of the neighbouring parish of Higham on the Hill, which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 15 June 2016. In accordance with Regulation 6, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, on behalf of the relevant body (Stoke Golding Parish Council), completed the necessary statutory processes to enable its designation as a Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.7 The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the parish of Stoke Golding together with part of the neighbouring parish of Higham on the Hill, and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan 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 Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan covers the period up to 2039. 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 2039. This new Local Plan will not be finalised until 2022 at the earliest and once finalised we may have to review the Neighbourhood Plan to make sure 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.

Stoke Golding: Location

- 1.11 The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area lies in south west Leicestershire, close to the Warwickshire boundary. The parish amounts to 356 hectares. Stoke Golding village is 16 miles from Leicester and about 3 miles north west of Hinckley. Nuneaton is 4 miles to the south west and the A5 corridors is 3 miles to the south

west. The Ashby Canal passes through the western part of the Neighbourhood Area.

- 1.12 Stoke Golding has a good range of services and facilities, including schools, shops, churches, three pubs, GP surgery and sports & recreation facilities.

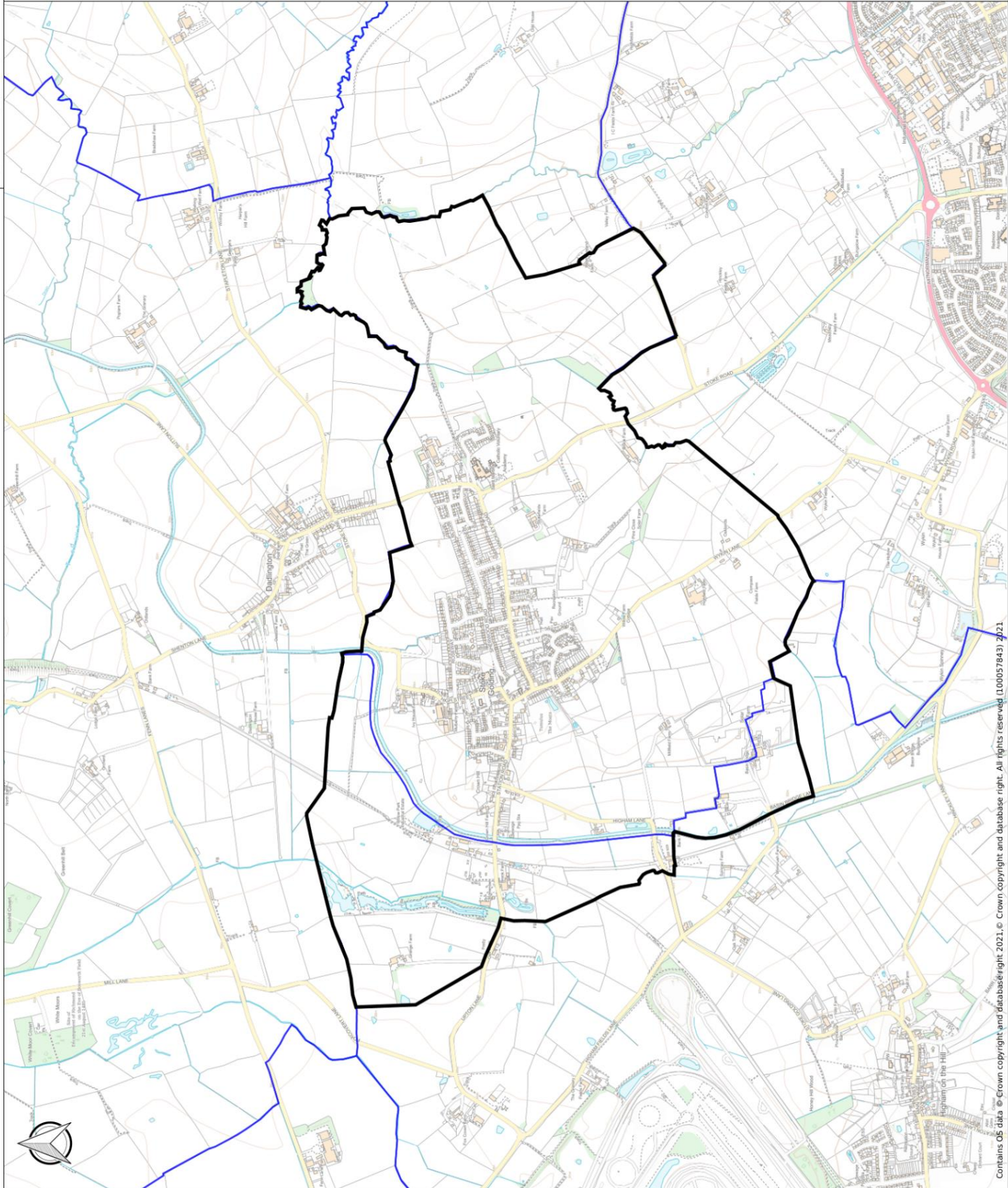
Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.13 The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan has been led by Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee on behalf of Stoke Golding Parish Council, with 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 Consultation Statement.

Neighbourhood Area



-  Parish
-  Parish



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

- 2.1 It is required that the Stoke Golding 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. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 February 2019 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all 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.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Stoke Golding 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
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment;
 - Design: process and tools;
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Challenge;
 - Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Land affected by contamination;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Housing for Older and Disabled People;
 - Housing Needs of Different Groups;

- Planning Obligations;
- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Town Centres and Retail

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

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG1: Housing Requirement – Identifies the housing requirement for Stoke Golding. This is to be met by a committed development and windfall development.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 68, 78, 117</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan defines the Limits to Development which takes into account the character and built form of Stoke Golding. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities.</p>
<p>SG2: Housing Reserve Site at Mulberry Farm, High Street- Identifies a reserved housing site to provide, if needed, around 25 dwellings with a mix of house types. Regard to be had to the provision of a suitable access, heritage and archaeological assets, protected species, landscape and visual impact, residential amenity, character of the area, land contamination, and the management of surface water.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 67, 68, 108, 118, 119, 127,148,157, 163,170,174, 178, 179, 185</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p> <p>How can the character of landscapes be assessed to inform plan-making and planning decisions? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 8-001-20140306)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p>	<p>This policy seeks the re-use of previously developed land to meet a local housing need, whilst seeking appropriate remediation of any land contamination that maybe present. It plans positively for new homes whilst protecting the character of the area including environmental and heritage features.</p> <p>The policy also has regard to a range of other issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework including the provision of sustainable links and flooding.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>Why should local planning authorities be concerned about land contamination? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 33-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is the role of planning when dealing with land which may be contaminated? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 33-002-20190722)</p> <p>When is contamination likely to be present? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 33-003-20190722)</p> <p>Are concerns about land contamination relevant to neighbourhood planning?</p>	

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 33-004-20190722)</p> <p>What is the general planning approach to development and flood risk? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p>	
<p>SG3: Windfall Housing Development – Supports appropriate forms of windfall development within the defined settlement boundary for Stoke Golding.</p> <p>Identifies the limited forms of housing development that will be permitted outside of the settlement boundary, which should be sympathetic to its immediate setting and be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 68, 69, 77, 79 117, 127</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that respects the character of the locality. The Neighbourhood Plan defines the Limits to Development which takes into account the character and built form of Stoke Golding. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. Identifies the limited forms of housing development allowed outside the settlement boundary, including a housing reserve site, the sub division of dwellings, dwellings of exceptional quality, rural worker accommodation, replacement dwellings, re-use of buildings and exception sites.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG4: Housing Mix – Expects developments of four or more dwellings to provide for a mix of housing types to reflect the 2019 Housing Needs Study. Variations in housing mix will be supported where justified by local housing need or more up to date evidence.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG5: Affordable Housing – Identifies the circumstance when affordable housing will be sought and the level of provision. Allows for consideration to be given to site circumstances. Also allows for the development of Rural Exception Sites within or adjoining the Stoke Golding Settlement boundary to meet an identified need.</p> <p>When allocating these homes or when they are sold, priority will be given to those with a local connection to Parish Council.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 77</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What types of households are considered to be in affordable housing need? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 67-005-20190722)</p> <p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG6: Countryside - Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, landscape, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. Subject to specified policies of the Local Plan, lists the forms of development that may be considered sustainable in countryside locations.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 78, 83, 91,151, 170</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy mirrors this approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.</p>
<p>SG7: Areas of Separation – Protects the open character of the Stoke Golding and Dadlington Areas of Separation. New buildings or inappropriate uses of land which adversely impact on the character or the setting of the villages, will not be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 125 130, 170</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area.</p>
<p>SG8: Green Infrastructure – Protects the Green Infrastructure Network.</p>	<p>20, 91, 150, 171,</p>	<p>What can green infrastructure include? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 8-004-20190721)</p>	<p>This policy seeks the creation and protection of green infrastructure as well</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
Supports the creation of a walking and cycling route along the former Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway, and links along the former railway and with the Ashby Canal.		<p>Why is green infrastructure important? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 8-005-20190721)</p> <p>What planning goals can green infrastructure help to achieve ? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 8-006-20190721)</p>	as supporting the creation and promotion of healthy communities.
SG9: Public Rights of Way Network – Seeks to protect and enhance existing Public Rights of Way, including for biodiversity value. Where possible seeks the creation of new links (footpaths, bridleway and cycleways) to the network.	Paragraph 98	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	This policy supports the protection and enhancement of public rights of way, as well as cycleways and supports greater accessibility to these links.
SG10: Locally Important Views - Development should be located to safeguard, and, where possible, enhance a number of identified views. Major development proposal should be	Paragraphs 20, 170, 185	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
supported by a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment.			
<p>SG11: Ecology and Biodiversity – Development should not harm the identified network of local ecological features and habitats. Development should maintain and enhance these as well as BAP Priority Habitats and other ecological corridors and landscape features. Development proposals should provide for biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 170, 174, 175</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG12: Trees – New and existing trees should be integrated into new development. Policy seeks to resist development that damages or results in the loss of ancient trees or trees of good arboricultural or amenity value. Their retention is considered of value to the area. Tree surveys should accompany development proposals.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 127, 170, 175</p>	<p>How can I find out whether an area is 'ancient woodland'? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 8-021-20140306)</p> <p>How can I find out whether trees that could be affected by a development proposal are 'aged or veteran' trees? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20140306)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment. Development resulting in the loss of ancient trees will not be supported. It also seeks to ensure development is sympathetic to local character including the surrounding landscape setting.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG13: Renewable Energy - This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. It also states that wind turbines will not be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 148, 151, 154</p>	<p>How can local planning authorities identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 5-005-20150618)</p> <p>How are 'suitable areas' defined in relation to wind energy development? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 5-032-150618)</p> <p>What are the particular planning considerations that relate to large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 5-013-20150327)</p> <p>Do local people have the final say on wind farm applications? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 5-033-150618)</p>	<p>The NPPF 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. The views of local communities likely to be affected should be listened to.</p> <p>In the case of wind turbines, a planning application should not be approved unless the proposed development site is an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. There is no local community support for wind turbines and the policy reflects this.</p>
<p>SG14: Features of Local Heritage Interest – The determination of</p>	<p>Paragraphs 185, 189, 197</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>applications which would affect identified Local Heritage Assets will balance the need for, or public benefit of, the proposed development against the significance of the asset. Expect new development to enhance or better reveal the significance of the asset.</p>		<p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p>	<p>seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>SG15: Design- Only development that reflects the traditional character of Stoke Golding will be supported unless the development is of exceptional quality or design. The policy also identifies a range of issues that any development must address including, scale, traditional and historic features, access and parking, linkages, residential amenity, topography, landscaping, public and private space</p>	<p>Paragraphs 124, 125, 127, 130, 131</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy seeks 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 reflects the surrounding area and the character of Stoke Golding.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
and storage of bins and cycles.			
<p>SG16: F10: Local Green Spaces – Identifies the allotments at Zion Baptist Church as Local Green Space which will be protected. New development which would be harmful to this Local Green Spaces will not be supported unless there are very special circumstances.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 99-101</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Space meets the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The full reasons for designation are included in the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>SG17: Retention of Key Services and Facilities - This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision or wider community benefits.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 84, 91, 92</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in Stoke Golding and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.</p>

<p>SG18: Commercial, business and services uses in the Village Centre – Policy seeks to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Village Centre. Supports the provision of uses that will meet the day to day needs of the local community, whilst not detracting from the character of the area. Seeks to ensure Class E uses remain the dominant use within the village centre and a sequential test will be applied to these uses outside of the defined Centre. Details the circumstances an impact assessment will be required.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 85, 86, 87, 89, 90</p>	<p>Planning for town centre vitality and viability (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 2b-001-20190722)</p> <p>What planning tools are available to local planning authorities to help them shape and support town centres? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 2b-002-20190722)</p> <p>When is planning permission not required for changes involving town centre uses? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 2b-007-20190722)</p> <p>What is the sequential test? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 2b-009-20190722)</p> <p>How should the sequential approach be used in plan-making? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 2b-010-20190722)</p> <p>What is the impact test? (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 2b-014-20190722)</p> <p>When should the impact test be used? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 2b-015-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy recognises and supports the role that the Village Centre plays in supporting the local community and takes a positive approach to its growth and management. Seeks to ensure the vitality and viability of the Village Centre. Follows the sequential approach and the impact assessment as detailed in the NPPF.</p>
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Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How should the impact test be used in plan-making? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 2b-016-20190722)</p>	

<p>SG19: Infrastructure - Seeks new development to support the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for education, health, community and recreation and recreation provision, as well as environmental and community infrastructure improvements. The viability of development will be taken into account.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 8, 28, 34, 56 and 91</p>	<p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>What evidence is needed to support policies for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20190315)</p> <p>What funding is available for education? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 23b-007-20190315)</p> <p>What contributions are required towards education? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 23b-008-20190315)</p> <p>Are planning obligations negotiable? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 23b-010-20190315)</p> <p>How should plan makers set policy requirements for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 10-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should plan makers and site promoters ensure that policy requirements for</p>	<p>This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of health, and community and education facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment and improve quality of life. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan.</p>
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Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>contributions from development are deliverable? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 10-002-20190509)</p> <p>How should viability for education provision be addressed? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 10-029-20190509)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	
<p>SG20: Tourism – Supports the development of new tourism facilities associated with the Bosworth Battlefield and Ashby Canal, where its respects the character of the countryside and heritage assets. Major proposals should be supported by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 83, 170, 185</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports several themes promoted in the NPPF. It seeks to conserve the historic environment, supports a sustainable rural economy and allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>

Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
SG21: Willow Park Industrial Estate – Safeguards the industrial estate for employment development. Supports the expansion of existing businesses together with new employment development, taking into account identified criteria.	Paragraphs 81, 83	Not relevant.	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, including the protection and expansion of existing businesses.
SG22: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings - This policy identifies the circumstances the re-use and adaptation of redundant and extension of rural buildings for business use will be supported. Regard should be had to scale, historic assets, local character, protected species, traffic generation and character of the surrounding area.	Paragraph 83, 84, 127	Not relevant	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas whilst respecting the character of the area.

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 Stoke Golding 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:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build 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, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan against each of the Planning Policy ‘subjects’ as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supporting a supply and mix of housing types to meet local needs. Supports the development of Rural Exception Sites and priority will be given to those with a local connection to Stoke Golding Parish when affordable housing is allocated.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support local businesses and employment, including the safeguarding and expansion of existing business establishments. Supports sustainable economic growth including through the business conversion of rural buildings. Seeks the protection, improvement and enhancement of community services and facilities, including those within the defined Village Centre, supporting the viability of the community, as well as the provision of new facilities. Supports sustainable tourism and recreation.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The village of Stoke Golding has a good range of services and facilities and an ambition of the plan is to protect the vitality of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities. Supports the maintenance and enhancement of the vitality and viability of the Village Centre.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside, local green spaces and Rights of Way, and provision of footpath links and cycle ways and bridleways, as well community and recreational facilities. Provides opportunities for people to meet and protect quality of life. Seeks the creation and protection of green infrastructure.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports housing development within the defined Stoke Golding Settlement Boundary with its range of service and facilities. Seeks to re-use previously developed land. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth and the provision of rural worker accommodation.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports housing development within the defined Stoke Golding Settlement Boundary, the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use and conversion of redundant and rural buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside and the setting of Stoke Golding.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Safeguards Rights of Way and seeks the creation of new footpath links. Supports the conversion and re-use and adaptation of existing buildings. As there are well-established national and local policies that manage development and flood risk, there is no need for the Neighbourhood Plan to duplicate them. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. 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, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance. Seeks to positively contribute to and manage the district's historic environment.
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 Work on the new Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan began in early 2017 and the intention is to consult on a draft Local Plan in April 2021 and submit for examination in September 2021. The Borough Council aims to have a new local plan adopted by October 2022. Account has been taken of the emerging Local Plan, following discussion with the Borough Council. However, the plan is not at a stage where consideration can be given to whether the policy of the Neighbourhood Plan would be in general conformity. Therefore, it is acknowledged that there may be value in a review of the Neighbourhood Plan once the new Local Plan is adopted.

4.3 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Stoke Golding 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

4.4 The Stoke Golding 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.

Policy 7:	Key Rural Centres
Policy 11:	Key Rural Centres Stand Alone
Policy 14:	Rural Areas; Transport
Policy 15:	Affordable Housing
Policy 16:	Housing Density, Mix and Design
Policy 17:	Rural Needs
Policy 20:	Green Infrastructure
Policy 23:	Tourism Development

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
SG1: Housing Requirement	Policy 7, Policy 11	The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy identifies Stoke Golding as a Key Rural Centre and allocates land for the development of a minimum of 60 new homes over the period 2006 - 2026. This minimum housing requirement was exceeded by the recently completed Bosworth Manor development of 83 dwellings and the Convent Drive development containing 59 dwellings. Supports housing development within settlement boundary of Stoke Golding, a stand alone Key Rural Centre.
SG2: Housing Reserve Site at Mulberry Farm, High Street	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG3: Windfall Housing Development	Policy 7, Policy 15, Policy 17,	Supports housing development settlement boundary of Stoke Golding, a stand alone Key Rural Centre. Allows for rural housing and the provision of rural exception sites,
SG4: Housing Mix	Policy 7, Policy 11, Policy 16	Requires a mix of housing types based on evidence of housing need
SG5: Affordable Housing	Policy 7, Policy 11, Policy 15, Policy 17	Seeks the provision of affordable housing taking account of local need. Allows for rural exception sites within or adjacent to settlement boundary of Stoke Golding where the development would meet an identified local need, When affordable housing is allocated, priority will be given to people with a local connection to Sheepy Parish.

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
SG6: Countryside	Policy 7, Policy 11, Policy 21, Policy 23.	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
SG7: Areas of Separation	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG8: Green Infrastructure	Policy 11, Policy 20	Supports the implementation of Green Infrastructure Supports the delivery of a walking and cycle route along the former Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway. Improves the village's links with the Ashby Canal.
SG9: Public Rights of Network	Policy 11, Policy 14	Seeks the delivery of safe walking and cycle routes.
SG10: Locally Important Views	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG11: Ecology and Biodiversity	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG12: Trees and Hedgerows	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG13: Renewable Energy	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG14: Feature of Local Heritage Interest	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG15: Design	Policy 11	Requires development to respect the character and appearance of the Stoke Golding Conservation Area, and its distinctive features.
SG16: Local Green Spaces	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG17: Community Services and Facilities	Policy 7	Resist the loss of local shops and facilities in Stoke Golding.

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy
		The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded
SG18: Commercial, business and services uses in the Village Centre	Policy 7	Support new retail development to meet local need within the defined Village Centre.
SG19: Infrastructure	Policy 11	Supports improvements in GP facilities in Stoke Golding. Seeks improvement in green spaces provision, including youth facilities, and in the quality of the Village Hall.
SG20: Tourism	Policy 7, Policy 11, Policy 23	Supports tourism development, including those associated with the Ashby Canal and the Bosworth Battlefield, that respects the character of the area.
SG21: Willow Park Industrial Estate	Policy 7, Policy 11	Protects and enhances an existing employment area and supports new employment.
SG22: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies.

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

4.5 The Stoke Golding 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 Geological Interest

Policy DM8: Preserving the Borough's Archaeology

Policy DM9: Safeguarding Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces

Policy DM10: Development and Design

Policy DM11: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Policy DM12: Heritage Assets

Policy DM14: Replacement Dwellings in the Rural Area

Policy DM15: Redundant Rural Buildings

Policy DM17: Highways and Transportation

Policy DM19: Existing Employment Sites

Policy DM22: Vitalising District, Local and Neighbourhood Centres

Policy DM24: Cultural and Tourism Facilities

Policy DM25: Community Facilities

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
SG1: Housing Requirement	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG2: Housing Reserve Site at Mulberry Farm, High Street	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG3: Windfall Housing Development	Policy DM4, Policy DM5, DM10,	Supports the development of rural worker accommodation, replacement dwellings in rural areas and the re-use and adaptation of redundant rural buildings. Allows for support to be given, in exceptional circumstances, to developments of outstanding and innovative design.
SG4: Housing Mix	No relevant policies	Not applicable as there are no relevant policies
SG5: Affordable Housing	Policy DM3	Allows for consideration to be given to how the viability of a development proposal may affect the provision of affordable housing

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
SG6: Countryside	Policy DM2 Policy DM4, Policy DM5, Policy DM14, Policy DM15, Policy DM24	<p>Protects the countryside for its intrinsic value, beauty, and open and landscape character.</p> <p>Allows for development for recreational purposes.</p> <p>Supports the re-use and adaption of existing buildings in the countryside and replacement dwellings.</p> <p>Supports the provision of rural worker accommodation.</p> <p>Supports the provision of renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Supports the rural economy and the protection and enhancement of tourism facilities.</p> <p>Supports the development of designated and site renewable energy development.</p>
SG7: Areas of Separation	Policy DM4	Seeks to ensure development does not undermine the physical and perceived separation and open character between the settlements of Stoke Golding and Dadlington.
SG8: Green Infrastructure	Policy DM9	<p>Supports the retention of Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>Seeks to enhance accessibility to Green Infrastructure and the establishment of pedestrian footpaths and cycleways</p>
SG9: Public Rights of Way Network	Policy DM9	<p>Seeks the protection of Rights and Way and promote the creation and enhancement of new links including footpaths and cycle ways.</p> <p>Seeks to retain access to and usability of these links</p>

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
SG10: Locally Important Views	Policy DM4, Policy DM19	<p>Protects the open and landscape character of the countryside.</p> <p>Development should complement or enhance the character of the surrounding area.</p>
SG11: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy DM6	<p>Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats and ensure that new development does not harm these features.</p> <p>New development should maintain and enhance these features.</p> <p>Seeks a net gain in biodiversity.</p>
SG12: Trees and Hedgerows	Policy DM10	Seeks to incorporate a high standard of landscaping
SG13: Renewable Energy	Policy DM2, Policy DM6, Policy DM11, Policy DM12	<p>Policy supports solar farm development where it does not have an adverse visual impact, on its own or cumulatively and does not adversely impact on the historic environment.</p> <p>Also seeks biodiversity net gain</p>
SG14: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Policy DM11	<p>Seeks to protect the Parish's historic environment, namely its features of local heritage interest, from harm.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides a consolidated list of features of local heritage interest</p>
SG15: Design	Policy DM10, Policy DM12, Policy DM17	<p>Support development that would complement and enhance the character of the surrounding area, although it does allow for development of exceptional quality or innovative design.</p> <p>Seeks to prevent adverse impact on residential amenity</p>

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
		<p>Protects important existing features including landscaping.</p> <p>Protected heritage assets and the historic landscape.</p> <p>Seeks to avoid an adverse impact on highway safety and offer alternatives to non- car modes forms of travel.</p>
SG16: Local Green Spaces	Policy DM8,	Protects the openness, special character, significance and value of the Zion Baptist Church Allotments Local Green Space.
SG17: Community Services and Facilities	Policy DM8, Policy DM22, Policy DM25,	Resists the loss of existing facilities and service, including neighbourhood centre services (retail), green spaces and community facilities
SG18: Commercial, business and service uses in the Village Centre	Policy DM22	Seeks to protect the vitality and viability of Stoke Golding Village Centre.
SG19: Infrastructure	Policy DM3	<p>Seeks the provision of appropriate infrastructure to support development.</p> <p>Allows for consideration to be given to how the viability of a development proposal may affect the provision of infrastructure.</p>
SG20: Tourism	Policy DM24	Supports the development of tourism facilities within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
SG21: Willow Park Industrial Estate	Policy DM19	<p>Seeks to safeguard this existing employment site.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the criteria to be met</p>

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
		<p>for a non-B class uses to be permitted.</p> <p>Supports the expansion of existing businesses and the development of new businesses, within this designation.</p>
SG22: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy DM10. Policy DM15	Supports the appropriate reuse of rural buildings, subject to scale and impact on character of the area.

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

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan (Draft Pre-Submission) (March 2020) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Stoke Golding 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 Stoke Golding 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 environmental assessment consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) have been consulted on this Screening Statement and their responses are summarised below:

- Environment Agency – No comments received.
- Natural England – The screening opinion concludes that there is the potential for significant effects of the Kendall's Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located to the north of the Neighbourhood Area. The allocated housing sites lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Kendall's Meadow SSSI. Natural England has identified that the SSSI is particularly sensitive to residential dwellings of 100 or more dwellings outside of existing settlements. The proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site cumulatively proposed around 50 dwellings. Based on the information submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not

damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified.

- Historic England – Advice is confined to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. It is noted that the proposed site allocation (for up to 50 dwellings) are located within Bosworth Battlefield near to Crown Hill, where Henry VII was crowned after defeating Richard III. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations (Annex II of 'SEA' Directive), Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is likely to be required.

5.4 The assessment recognises that environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, including in relation to the majority of the SEA 'topics'. The outcome of this assessment concludes that there is the potential for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan to have significant effects on designated heritage assets. The proposed housing allocation and the proposed housing reserve site lie within the Battle of Bosworth Field Registered Battlefield and the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. A Grade II Listed Building lies adjacent to the proposed housing site allocation. Therefore, it is considered that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken.

5.5 In light of this conclusion, AECOM has produced an independent SEA (October 2020) in support of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA, undertaken of the Pre-Submissions Draft of the neighbourhood plan, concludes that the potential effects arising from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, are predominantly mainly positive and neutral, although with respect to the historic environment, potential effects could be negative. With regards to the historic environment, the Neighbourhood Plan is considered to be broadly focused on protecting heritage assets and does not set out a framework to enhance heritage assets or their significance. This report therefore identifies a number of recommendations to policy to enhance the positive effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and mitigate any negative effects, to improve the performance of the plan. These changes have been incorporated into the Submission Version of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

5.6 The Stoke Golding 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.

- 5.7 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 it is considered that activities within the Borough – and indeed the Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Area - would not have implications for this site.
- 5.8 Part of the River Mease (not the part defined as a European site (SAC)) passes through the Borough coming in from Snarestone over the border of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, flowing shortly after towards Swepstone. In addition, three tributaries of the river flow down towards and through Norton juxta Twycross, ending to the east, west and north of 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.
- 5.9 However, no part of the River Mease or its tributaries as described above flow through the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area. The tributaries as described above are located roughly 13 kilometres away from the closest part of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area boundary. In view of this as well as considering the scope of proposals within the draft Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, the Borough Council considers that further stages in the HRA process are not required (including further screening, or Appropriate Assessment) and that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.
- 5.10 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 Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
 - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Hinckley and Bosworth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017.

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 Stoke Golding 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 Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Stoke Golding 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 Stoke Golding 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 Stoke Golding 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 1684 people living in Stoke Golding Parish (closest geographic dataset to Neighbourhood Area), 50.1% were Male and 49.9% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

15.7% of the population was 0-15 years old and 22.1% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

1.2% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

74.1% of the population was Christian and 0.5% other religions including Buddhist 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.

7.1% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 10.9% 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).

62.7% 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, and the proportion of 0-15 year olds is lower.

The proportion of BMEs 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 of the Stoke Golding Parish Neighbourhood Plan

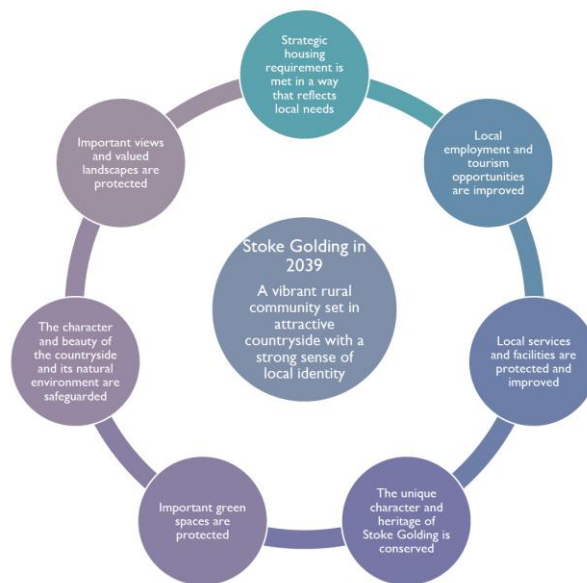
The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Stoke Golding that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address;

- Maintaining the rural character of the area
- Conserving local heritage
- Protecting important views and open space
- Retaining separation from Dadlington

- Protecting the character of Stoke Golding and preventing loss of character through more housing estates
- Meeting local housing needs
- Improving or retaining local services and facilities
- Through-traffic
- Controlling speeding traffic
- Inconsiderate parking
- Providing more employment opportunities for local people

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

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The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 22 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues and objectives.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy SG4 requires new developments to of more than four dwellings to deliver a mix of housing types that reflects local housing needs. Any variations in the housing mix to be justified by local housing need.

Policy SG5 seeks affordable housing provision to reflect local need. Affordable housing may also be permitted on Rural Exception Sites where the development would meet a local need. Homes will be allocated or sold with priority given to those with a local connection to Stoke Golding Parish.

Policy SG16 requires the designated local green space, Zion Baptist Church Allotments, to be protected from development that would harm its value to the local community. This is likely to benefit the older population who could use the facility and is considered to have potential for a positive impact. It is however acknowledged that other groups of the community would benefit from the protection of this community facility.

Policy SG17 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Stoke Golding. 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, GP surgery, recreation ground, convenience store, public houses, community halls, places of worship and allotments. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact. Policy SG18 which seeks the protection of the vitality and viability of the village centre is also considered to have a strong benefit for young and old and a positive impact for the same reasons.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy SG4) 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 SG4 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy SG15 requires all individual housing developments have a safe and suitable access, and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy SG15, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, 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 community hall (Policy SG17). These impacts might 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 and their potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision (Policy SG17), including the community halls with potential for multi-use facilities and places of worship. 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 Sg15, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, 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 retribution 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.

Conclusion

The Stoke Golding 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 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. There is also the potential 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 Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.