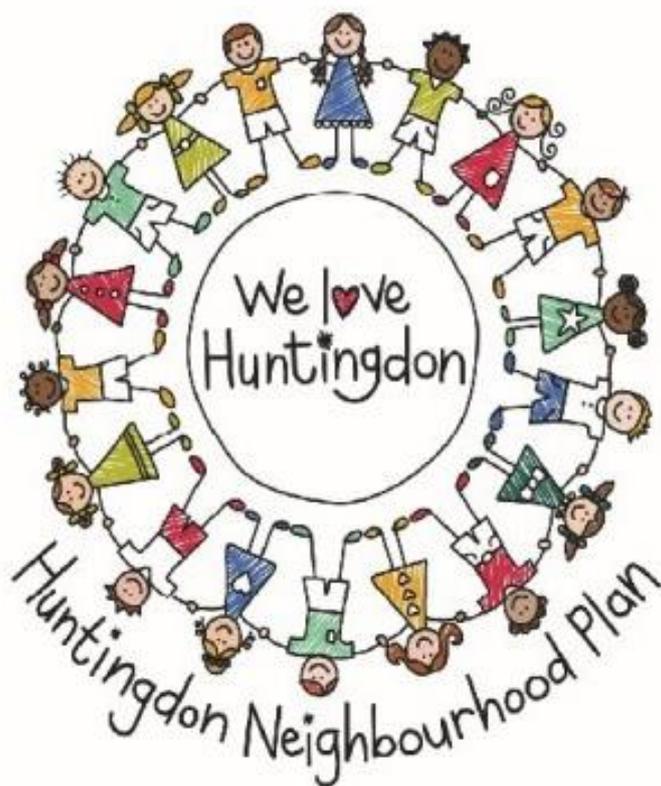


Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2026



SUMMARY VERSION

**Draft Plan
July 2018**

Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2028

Draft Plan - July 2018

Pre-Submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012

Produced by the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee on behalf of Huntingdon Town Council:

2017/18

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Councillor Ann Blackwell
Councillor Jay Dyne
Councillor Tanya Forster
Councillor Leedo George
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Councillor Patrick Kadewere
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2018/19

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The Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee has been supported by Hayley Burns from Huntingdon Town Council.

The Town Council received professional planning support from NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK and marketing support from



Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2026

Draft Plan - July 2018

Pre-Submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012

This draft Neighbourhood Plan has been published for public consultation - we want to know your views, you must do this in writing as follows:

By post to:

Neighbourhood Plan, Huntingdon Town Council, Town Hall,
Market Hill, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3PJ

By email to:

town.council@huntingdowntown.gov.uk

Use subject line - 'Neighbourhood Plan Consultation'

**The public consultation runs for a
period of 6 weeks:**

16th July 2018 to 26th August 2018

www.huntingdowntown.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan

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Foreword

The Draft Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan provides a vision and objectives for the future of the town, and sets out planning policies to achieve this vision over the period 2018 to 2028. This document is a summary version of the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan, which outlines the objectives and policies contained in the full version. For more in depth information, please see the full Draft Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to enhance the natural environment, support and encourage high quality housing, local jobs and improved retail and leisure facilities in a healthy, green and attractive town.

The plan has been drawn up by the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee, made up of Town Councillors and residents. Huntingdon Town Council is the designated body for the plan area and has provided the funding for the plan. All comments and suggestions received as part of the consultation process will be carefully considered and if viable and/or suitable the Neighbourhood Plan will be amended accordingly.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets down a series of planning policies which will ultimately form part of Huntingdonshire's wider statutory development plan. This means that all planning applications submitted within the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area must comply with the Neighbourhood Plan. Section 2 of the plan also sets out a number of non-planning issues. These are areas that cannot be addressed through planning applications, but that the Town Council still feel are important.

Following the public consultation, the plan must go to an independent examination and will finally be subjected to a local town referendum requiring a majority "yes" vote for it to be accepted.

It is intended that the policies will be reviewed periodically to monitor the cumulative effects of the policies and, if necessary, make changes to keep them up to date and relevant.

Huntingdon Town Council would like to thank everyone who has been a part of the Neighbourhood Plan project, through completing a questionnaire, coming along to a community engagement event or commenting on the draft plans. In undergoing this process, we have seen first-hand the passion that our community has for our town and how it develops over the coming years.

Councillor Tom Sanderson
Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee



Councillor Sarah Gifford
Mayor of Huntingdon 2018/19



Section 1

The Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

1. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan is a way for communities to play a greater role in determining the future of their area. The Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan once made. This means that Huntingdonshire District Council will have to determine planning applications within Huntingdon in accordance with this Neighbourhood Plan alongside other Development Plan Documents.
2. This Neighbourhood Plan is a true Community Led Plan. It has been prepared by the Town Council through a Sub-Committee made up of Town Councillors and residents. It has been informed by public consultation with the local community. The plan has been shaped by the results of the previous public consultation to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan accurately reflects the aspirations of the community.

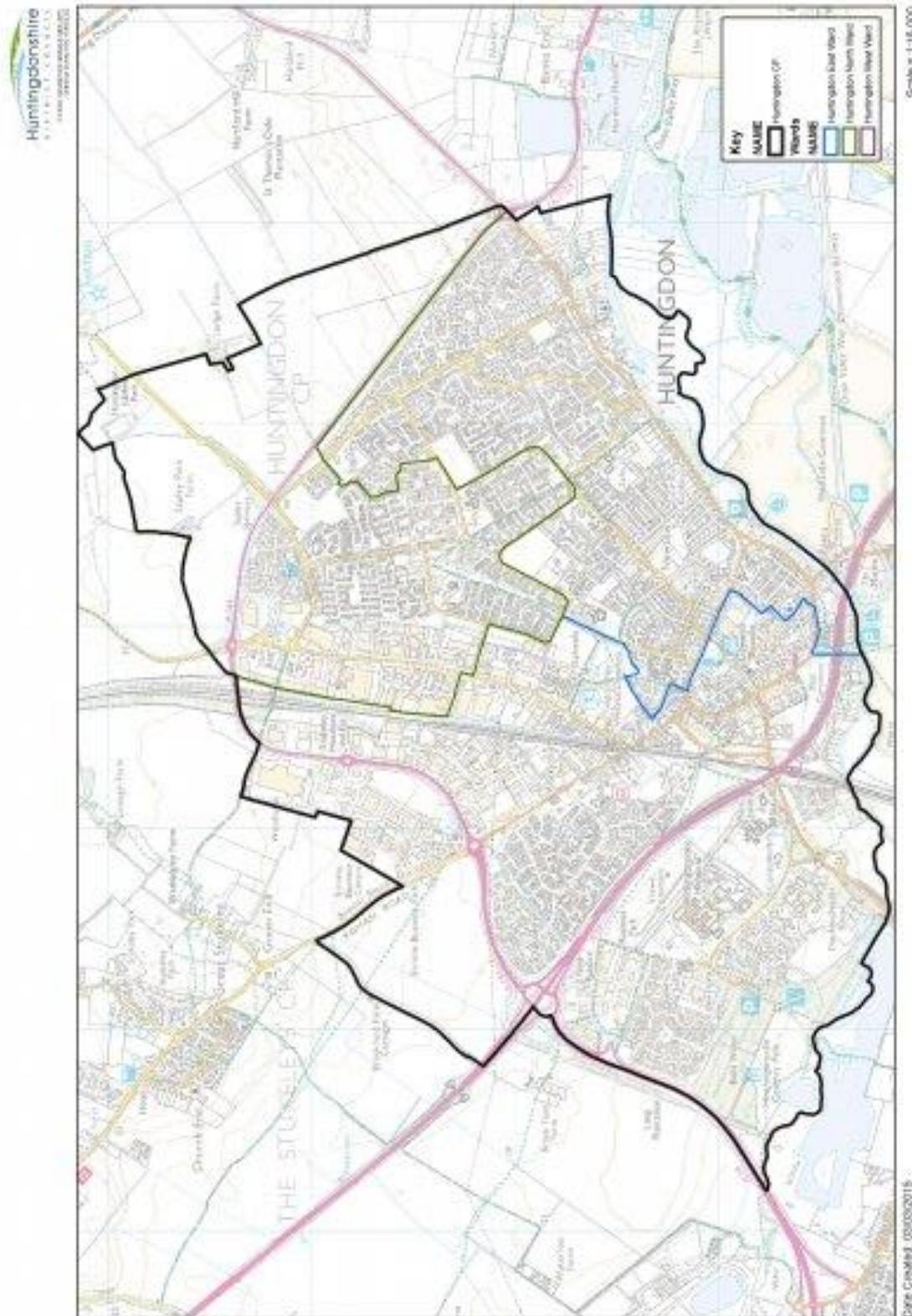


Designation of Huntingdon Town as a Neighbourhood Planning Area

3. A formal [application](#) was made by Huntingdon Town Council in March 2015 as a 'relevant body' under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area in order to develop a neighbourhood plan. The area of the Neighbourhood Plan is the parish boundary for the town, which was seen as appropriate as this area is recognised as the distinct community of Huntingdon. The request was that the Town Council be recognised as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a neighbourhood plan, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
4. Huntingdonshire District Council publicised this application to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the required 6 week period. Huntingdonshire District Council designated the Town of Huntingdon as a neighbourhood area on 23 April 2015.

The Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan Area

The [plan](#) below identifies the designated Neighbourhood Area:



Community Engagement

5. Since the designation of Huntingdon as a neighbourhood area, various elements of continuous consultation have been undertaken. Initial consultation on early issues was undertaken in mid-2015, with further consultation on issues then undertaken in early 2016. Further consultation on issues took place through a series of community roadshows in early 2017 (as set out in the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement).
6. Many residents felt that there were not enough job opportunities within Huntingdon. Only 18% of questionnaire respondents felt there were sufficient job opportunities in the town. Huntingdon is a suitable place for businesses to invest, given the excellent transport links Huntingdon can offer and its prime location, a huge selling point for potential investors.
7. The shops within Huntingdon are well used by residents, with many residents citing shopping as a common activity. However, it was also an area commonly mentioned as being in need of improvement, with 45% of people describing the variety of retail outlets in the town centre as poor.
8. The HDC Huntingdonshire Retail Study (2013) notes that while Huntingdon is the largest retail centre in Huntingdonshire, it fails to attract a high number of shoppers from surrounding towns. The study highlights that Huntingdon has a reasonable provision of convenience goods, from supermarkets as well as specialist food retailers, but has a shortage of fashion and footwear retailers.
9. Residents have told us that they would like to see more on offer for tourists in Huntingdon. Naturally, tourist attractions will also appeal to residents, so any development in Huntingdon will provide an all-round benefit. Furthermore, a town that is appealing to visitors will also be attractive to potential investors.
10. Families were felt to be well served by leisure and community facilities, but the young and older residents were not. The Neighbourhood Plan in itself can help to increase the sense of a community spirit, but there needs to be a more sustainable outcome. Future planning considerations need to take into account the needs of all of Huntingdon residents, not just those with families. Satisfying the needs of all residents will help to raise community spirit levels.
11. When we asked 'what is the best thing about Huntingdon' the riverside area and the green spaces were amongst the most popular responses, with three quarters of people rating these areas as good or excellent.
12. Huntingdon is a town with great transport connections, but they can also be a source of frustration for the community. A third of residents use the car as their main form of transport, but almost two thirds of residents travel either on foot, by bus or by bike. This split highlights the importance of ensuring that the whole transport network is fit for purpose. Car users want uncongested roads that are in good condition, and easily available parking. While others want a reliable bus service, more cycle paths or safe pedestrian routes.

Vision

13. The following vision has been developed for the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan:

Huntingdon is a vibrant market town in Cambridgeshire with a great community feel.

Huntingdon's great historic significance will be preserved and promoted - including the Cromwell Museum, the Market Square, the Falcon, Hinchingbrooke House and the Town Hall. Tourism will have increased in the town, supported by the 5-year Heritage Programme running from the Town Hall.

Traffic management around Huntingdon will be improved, and future developments will have considered the impact of traffic in the town. The footpath network around the town will also have improved to encourage more people to walk and help minimise traffic.

The town centre will have flourished, with the Chequers Court development revitalising the area, increasing footfall to the town centre. An increase in both big name and independent retailers taking on empty shops in the High Street will keep the High Street thriving alongside Chequers Court.

The town's night-time economy will be boosted, with more bars and restaurants to keep the High Street lively into the evenings.

The Neighbourhood Plan has guided developments to preserve local green spaces, and encourage new developments that benefit the town, through providing services and employment opportunities. New developments will be mainly concentrated in the areas surrounding the town, and any within the centre of Huntingdon will be in keeping with existing developments. The correct infrastructure will be in place to support any new developments.

The town will benefit from new facilities including a crematorium and sports hub to the north of the town. The sport hub will bring together the leading sports teams in the area, including football, rugby, hockey, archery and netball.



Objectives

14. The following objectives have been set out for the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan:

(A) Promote Huntingdon as a place of great potential for investment and opportunity

- Promote Huntingdon as a place of great potential for business investment thus providing increased employment opportunities to residents
- Promote tourism within Huntingdon. A town that is appealing to visitors will also be attractive to potential investors.
- Ensure the residents are well served by high quality retail and community facilities within Huntingdon centre

(B) Ensure that the whole community is well provided for, younger and older, and increase a positive sense of community

- Future planning considerations should take into account the needs and provide facilities for all Huntingdon residents.

(C) Ensure that the local distinctiveness of the built and natural environment of Huntingdon is protected

- Protect and enhance our valuable and well-loved green spaces. The Neighbourhood plan seeks to safeguard the future of the town's green spaces and look at how these assets can be further enhanced.
- Ensure that future housing developments are built with careful consideration to the existing infrastructure.

(D) Ensure that the community can travel in and around Huntingdon using a transport infrastructure that is fit for purpose

- The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure planning applications that will impact upon the transport infrastructure will need to demonstrate that the development does not negatively impact existing transport systems, and will ideally help to ease current infrastructure problems.

Policy Delivery of Objectives

15. The following table demonstrates how the policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan meet the objectives contained within the previous chapter. The policies that have been developed seek to address at least one of the objectives.

	Objective A	Objective B	Objective C	Objective D
Employment and Investment				
Policy E1 - Opportunities for Employment	✓	✓		✓
Policy E2 - Business Investment	✓	✓		✓
Policy E3 - Protection of Employment Land	✓	✓		✓
Huntingdon Town Centre				
Policy TC1 - Retail Development	✓	✓		✓
Policy TC2 - Public Realm	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy TC3 - Car Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy TC4 - Non Retail Town Centre Uses	✓	✓		✓
Policy TC5 - Local Neighbourhood Shopping	✓	✓		✓
Tourism, Leisure and Community Facilities				
Policy TL1 - Tourism Development	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy TL2 - Leisure and Community Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy TL3 - Protection of Community Assets	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Natural and Built Environment				
Policy NE1 - Local Green Space	✓	✓	✓	
Policy NE2 - Open Space and Green Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	
Policy NE3 - Setting of Huntingdon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy BE1 - Design and Landscaping	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy BE2 - Local Distinctiveness and Aesthetics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy BE3 - Heritage Assets	✓	✓	✓	✓
Travel and Transport				
Policy TT1 - Sustainable Transport	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure				
Policy Inf1 - Community Infrastructure Levy Local Priorities	✓	✓	✓	✓

Employment and Investment

Policy E1 - Opportunities for Employment

Proposals for economic development throughout Huntingdon will be favourably considered subject to compliance with other relevant planning policies. The regeneration and intensification of previously developed land will be particularly supported.

Change of use of existing employment sites or premises to alternative uses where permission is required will be supported where the applicant has demonstrated that no unacceptable adverse amenity or transport impacts will arise.

Applications which facilitate working from home will be supported, provided that they are small scale and do not undermine neighbouring amenity.

Policy E2 - Business Investment

Proposals for development schemes which involve business investment which will result in the provision or opportunity for high skilled employment will be strongly supported subject to compliance with other relevant planning policies.

Policy E3 - Protection of Employment Land

Change of use of existing or allocated employment sites or premises will only be supported where the applicant has demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of the site or premises being used for employment uses. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that the existing or allocated use is no longer viable and that the site has been marketed for a reasonable period of time for alternative employment uses.

Where it has been successfully demonstrated that the site or premises is no longer suitable for employment uses preference will be given to the change of use to community or leisure use.

Huntingdon Town Centre

Policy TC1 - Retail Development

Additional retail provision, including the sub-division of existing shop units or the creation of larger shop units involving two or more existing units will be favourably considered at ground floor level in the primary shopping area (as defined in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan).

Policy TC2 - Public Realm

Development proposals which have the potential to impact on the public realm will be expected to demonstrate how they will contribute to high quality streets, pavements and other publicly accessible areas (the public realm) within the area defined by the Ring Road (the B1514), subject to complying with all other planning policies.

Where appropriate, improvements to the existing public realm, to ensure safe and high quality access for all users, should be delivered alongside proposals. Residential and commercial schemes should make provision for new public squares, parks or spaces of a scale and type appropriate to the development and its context.

In this policy reference is made to the Ring Road, the B1514, which is made up of Cromwell Walk; Brookside; Riverside Road; Castle Moat Road; Walden Road; and St John's Street.

Policy TC3 - Car Parking

The loss of public car and motorcycle parking spaces within the area defined by the Ring Road (the B1514), will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the loss of any such spaces would not adversely affect the vitality and viability of the Town Centre as a retail, service and visitor destination.

Support will be given to the development of additional car parking provision in the area defined by the Ring Road (the B1514) which is intended to serve the Town Centre provided that it is of an appropriate scale, layout and design and has appropriate regard to the character and appearance of the surrounding area, the Conservation Area and other heritage assets.

Support will be given to improving the quality of parking in the area defined by the Ring Road (the B1514) so that it is convenient, safe, secure and available for short-stay use in order to protect the vitality and viability of the Town Centre as a retail, service and visitor destination.

The loss of any privately owned or controlled parking provision within the area defined by the Ring Road (the B1514), will be resisted where it will result in additional on-street parking or reliance on public car parking provision.

In this policy reference is made to the Ring Road, the B1514 which is made up of Cromwell Walk; Brookside; Riverside Road; Castle Moat Road; Walden Road; and St John's Street.

Policy TC4 - Non-Retail Town Centre Uses

The provision of non-retail uses, excluding residential, within the Town Centre (as defined in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan) will be supported where they meet the following:

- On the ground floor of Primary Shopping Frontages (as defined in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan) where it encourages residents, visitors or tourists into the town centre; makes a positive contribution to the vitality and viability of the town centre; continues to provide an active frontage where there is an existing shopfront; and enhances the existing quality, diversity and distribution of retail, leisure, entertainment, arts, heritage, cultural facilities, community facilities or tourist attractions.
- On the ground floor of the Primary Shopping Area (as defined in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan) where it encourages residents, visitors or tourists into the town centre; makes a positive contribution to the vitality and viability of the town centre; and enhances the existing quality, diversity and distribution of retail, leisure, entertainment, arts, heritage, cultural facilities, community facilities or tourist attractions.
- The provision of non-retail uses, including residential, will be supported on upper floors of Primary Shopping Frontages; upper floors of the Primary Shopping Area; or elsewhere in the Town Centre (as defined in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan).

Policy TC5 - Local Neighbourhood Shopping

Proposals which result in the loss of existing local neighbourhood shops will be resisted, they will only be supported where the applicant has demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of the site or premises being used for ongoing retail or community uses. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that the existing use is no longer viable and that the site has been marketed for a reasonable period of time for a permitted retail or community use.

Proposals which provide local shops of a relative scale to serve existing and new communities within Huntingdon will be supported. Proposals which provide local neighbourhood retailing of a relative scale at existing petrol station sites will be supported; as will local shopping facilities for more of our community for small top-up shopping and pharmacies nearer to where people live.

Tourism, Leisure, Sports and Community Facilities

Policy TL1 - Tourism Development

Proposals for new tourism development, including holiday accommodation within the existing built up area of the Town will be supported where it can be demonstrated that no adverse impact to the amenity or character and appearance of the surrounding area will arise; and no adverse impact on the highway network will occur.

Proposals for new tourism development, excluding holiday accommodation within the countryside outside of the existing built up area of the Town will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the location is well-related to the existing built up area of the Town. Where a location within the existing built up area of the Town is not achievable; it will be necessary to demonstrate that the impact of the scale, siting, character and design on both its immediate surroundings and the wider landscape are minimised as far as possible.

Policy TL2 - Leisure and Community Infrastructure

Proposals for leisure and community infrastructure within the existing built up area of the Town will be supported where it can be demonstrated that no adverse impact to the amenity or character and appearance of the surrounding area will arise; and no adverse impact on the highway network will occur.

Policy TL3 - Protection of Community Assets

Development proposals that would result in the loss of community assets will be resisted unless it can be shown that they are poorly used and lack community support; that they are not financially viable; or an equivalent service or community facility will be provided in a location with an equal or better level of accessibility for the community it is intended to serve.

In all cases appropriate and effective marketing will need to be demonstrated that the community asset has been offered at a price appropriate to its community role over a reasonable period of time without success.

Natural and Built Environment

Policy NE1 - Local Green Space

The following sites are designated as Local Green Spaces:

- Land at Sapley Road Park
- Land at Oxmoor Lane
- Land at Frenchs Field
- Land at Castle Hills

The policy taken towards development in these areas is consistent with that taken towards development in Green Belt. Inappropriate development will not be allowed other than in very special circumstances. Development should not adversely affect the tranquillity of the Local Green Spaces.

Proposals adjacent to these sites will need to demonstrate that they will not harm the setting of the Local Green Space and where possible enhance access to the Local Green Space for people and wildlife.

Policy NE2 - Open Space and Green Infrastructure

The following sites are designated as Areas of Important Green Infrastructure:

- Land at Coneygear Park
- Land at King George V Playing Field St Peters
- Land at King George V Park Hartford
- Land at Riverside
- Land at Bloomfield Park (Huntingdon Town Park)

Proposals for built development within these sites will be permitted where it relates to supporting their ongoing community use as green infrastructure including the provision of additional facilities for leisure and recreation.

Open spaces within Huntingdon that provide an amenity area or make a positive contribution to the streetscene or form part of the overall form and character of the settlement will be protected from encroachment.

Proposals involving the loss of open spaces that provide an amenity or recreation function will only be supported, if following an assessment, it is clearly demonstrated that the open space is no longer required for that purpose or the open space would be replaced by equivalent or enhanced provision in a suitable location or the proposal involves the development of a sports or recreation facility the need for which clearly outweighs the loss.

All new major residential development of 10 or more dwellings must contribute to open space provision within the site.

Where possible new areas of useable open space delivered as part of new development, should be provided within central locations within the development site to ensure good accessibility. Elsewhere new areas of open space should be located at sites which are accessible to the community it intends to serve.

Policy NE3 - Setting of Huntingdon

Development within and on the edge of Huntingdon will only be permitted where it does not adversely affect views and linkages into and out of the town.

New development will be supported provided that it does not adversely affect or devalue the structure, diversity or views of the streetscene and landscape. New development, where supported by other plan policies, must be integrated into the streetscene and landscape through design and the incorporation of suitable green buffers and the planting including trees.

Development will only be supported where it doesn't adversely affect the character, appearance, setting, recreational purpose, and tranquillity of the river corridors of Alconbury Brook and the River Great Ouse.

Development will only be supported where it doesn't adversely affect the character, appearance, setting, recreational purpose, and tranquillity of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.

Development will only be supported where it doesn't adversely affect the character, appearance or ecological importance of the Great Stukeley Railway Cutting SSSI or the Portholme Meadow SSSI/Special Area of Conservation where it sits within the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan boundary.

New development must be sufficiently screened by new tree & hedgerow planting to maintain and where possible enhance current landscape views and rural character

Policy BE1 - Design and Landscaping

Proposals will be supported where they provide landscaping and green public open space to help it integrate into the built form and the landscape appropriate to the scale of development proposed. The following design principles must be taken into account:

- a) promote a sense of place to include streets, squares and other public spaces with a defined sense of enclosure through high quality hard and soft landscaping with attractive green spaces and corridors for recreation and biodiversity;
- b) deliver attractive, usable and durable buildings and spaces that function well and promote accessibility and permeability by creating safe and welcoming places that connect with each other and are easy to move through, putting people before traffic and integrating land uses and transport;
- c) reflect the density of development in the local area, including reducing density where appropriate on parts of sites adjacent to the countryside edge of the Town; and
- d) accesses should be attractive and must ensure that good vision is achieved for drivers.

All soft landscaping should contribute to supporting native fauna where possible.

Where applicable, proposals must be supported by a plan clearly showing the extent of the landscaping and form this will take. Proposals will also need to make it clear how the landscaping will be managed in the future. In addition proposals should demonstrate how they have been designed to:

- Encourage access for all users;
- Reduce the risk of fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour; and
- Be maintained in the long term.

New major developments should include green public open space, including both mature and newly planted indigenous trees. This is important for the well-being of the occupants, for wildlife and to help ease the threat of flooding by providing areas to soak water away

Policy BE2 - Local Distinctiveness and Aesthetics

All development must be designed to a high quality that reinforces local distinctiveness, including in relation to materials, built form and settlement patterns.

Design should be guided by the:

1. Overall scale & density;
2. Massing & height;
3. Landscape and
4. Access to the site and its surroundings including considerations of flood risk management.

Buildings in major developments should have variations in height, style and position. They should reflect the local heritage design and characteristics with a variety of traditional and modern building materials.

Careful consideration should be given to the servicing requirements of buildings to ensure that essential items such as car parking and space for the storage of waste and recycling bins are successfully integrated into the design, including access for service and emergency vehicles.

Policy BE3 - Heritage Assets

Proposals for the change of use of listed buildings and development affecting or within the setting of listed buildings requiring planning permission will be required to demonstrate that the proposal is compatible with the significance of the listed building as a heritage asset.

Development proposals should take account of the distinctive character and setting of the Huntingdon Conservation Area including open spaces and natural features and reflect this in their layout, design, form, scale, mass, use of materials and detailing.

Development proposals should take account of their effect on sites and their settings with the potential for archaeological interest. Proposals that are likely to affect known important sites, sites of significant archaeological potential, or those that become known through the development process, will be required to submit an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. This will then be used to inform a range of archaeological mitigation measures, if required, for preservation by record and more occasionally preservation in situ. Planning permission will not normally be granted for development proposals which would destroy or detrimentally affect archaeological interests.

All development proposals affecting heritage assets and their settings, including new operational development and alterations to existing buildings, where they form or affect heritage assets should utilise appropriate siting, design, detailing, materials and methods of construction. Particular attention should be paid to reflecting locally distinctive styles of development and these should respect traditional methods and natural materials wherever possible. Development should maintain history and wildlife trails, help to restore forestation and hedgerows to ensure the green heritage is enhanced.

Where development proposals requiring planning permission involve demolition, the resulting impact on heritage assets will be assessed under this policy.

Travel and Transport

Policy TT1 - Sustainable Transport

Development proposals will be supported where they demonstrate how opportunities for the use of sustainable modes of transport are maximised. New development should connect to existing networks of sustainable transport to encourage travellers to use the sustainable travel opportunities within the development and the surrounding areas. The imbalance between housing and employment needs to be redressed for sustainable modes of transport to be able to make an appreciable impact on traffic congestion, particularly on the A14.

Proposals will be supported, appropriate to the scale of development, where they maximise the potential for cycling and walking throughout the site and linkages, including bus connections through to the town centre; employment provision; and services & facilities elsewhere in Huntingdon.

DRAFT

Infrastructure

Policy INF1 - Community Infrastructure Levy Local Priorities

Community priorities in terms of additional local facilities to be provided as a result of new development are as follows:

- Highway Capacity Improvements
- Public Open Space
- Improvements to Cycleway and Footpath Provision
- Community Facilities
- Public Realm Improvements
- Children's Play Area
- Art or Cultural Facilities
- Street lighting
- Facilities for the proposed new Crematorium and Sports Hub
- Provision of Equipment for Grounds Maintenance

DRAFT

Section 2

Non-Planning Issues and Community Aspirations

(This Section Does Not Form Part of the Statutory Development Plan)

The Neighbourhood Plan consultation identified the issues that are important to the local community. Some of the issues identified were non-planning issues and so cannot be included in the main body of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, these issues are important to local people. To show the community that their comments have been taken into account and will be addressed by the Town Council, all non-planning issues are included in this section.

In addition there are some matters which will be dealt with through the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan, for example the allocation of sites for housing. The Town Council will influence these matters through making representations on the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan.

Housing

Although the Neighbourhood Plan does not contain any housing specific policies, this is an aspect which is important to local residents and to the future development of the Town. Our feedback found that most residents would prefer new housing developments outside the current town boundaries. Alconbury Weald provides an opportunity to provide housing provision that meets the needs of all residents of the Town and the surrounding area. Huntingdon Town Council would also support additional development on the land to the north of the A141.

Investment

The Town Council will work with the Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership; Huntingdonshire District Council; and Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure that the Town is not disadvantaged by the enterprise zone at Alconbury Weald.

The Town Council wants to ensure that the Town itself is marketed effectively as an investment location to ensure that the built-up area retains the appropriate balance and mix between jobs; housing; infrastructure; and community facilities.

Transport

The Government has confirmed plans for a new A14 as a nationally important major infrastructure project between Huntingdon and Cambridge. This is now under construction.

The Town Council will work with Highways England; Huntingdonshire District Council; and Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure that the Town is able to fully capitalise on the environmental and social benefits that the removal of the existing A14 viaduct can bring.

Retail

The Town Council would like to see the retail offer in the town centre increase and diversify. Local residents through consultation have identified that development of the retail offer of the town centre is the most important issue. Many residents have requested a greater variety of shops in the town including more national retailers.

The Town Council will work with Huntingdon First; Huntingdonshire District Council; and the commercial sector to continue to promote the Town as being open to new retailers, both independents and national. The main objective should be to attract residents to shop within the town centre rather than going elsewhere.

Community Facilities

The Town Council will work with Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to explore options for improving existing community facilities and green spaces. The Town Council will also work with landowners, developers, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council and to develop new community facilities.

Community Priorities

The Town Council will work with a range of partners to try and address the concerns of local residents expressed during consultation which are set out in detail in the Consultation Statement.

The Town Council will also work with a range of partners to deliver the improvements local residents expressed during consultation which are set out in detail in the Consultation Statement.

Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2026

Draft Plan - Summary Version
July 2018

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