

2019

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan: Basic Conditions Statement

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Fosse Villages 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 Blaby Local Plan comprises the Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013 and Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019;
- 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 four sections:

- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
- Section 3 shows how the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
- Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Blaby Local Plan; and
- Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters.



- 1.4 The Fosse Villages 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 Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan area comprises the following 10 parishes which are situated in the south-west part of Blaby District, Leicestershire:

Parish Councils

Croft, Huncote, Sapcote, Sharnford, Stoney Stanton and Thurlaston

Parish Meetings

Aston Flamville, Leicester Forest West, Potters Marston and Wigston Parva

- 1.6 The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has been overseen by the parish councils and meetings through the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Joint Working Board.
- 1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Sapcote Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.8 Following Elmesthorpe Parish Council's decision to formally withdraw from the original Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan, the remaining ten Parishes have been designated as a new Neighbourhood Area. This new Neighbourhood Area comprises the parishes of Aston Flamville, Croft, Huncote, Leicester Forest West, Potters Marston, Sapcote, Sharnford, Stoney Stanton, Thurlaston and Wigston Parva.
- 1.9 The application for Neighbourhood Area designation was submitted by the Qualifying Body, Sapcote Parish Council, on 29 June 2015. The Neighbourhood Area was designated by Blaby District Council on 13 January 2016.
- 1.10 The Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Area and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.11 It 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.
- 1.12 The Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan covers the period to 2029. This is to align with the Blaby Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013 and Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019.



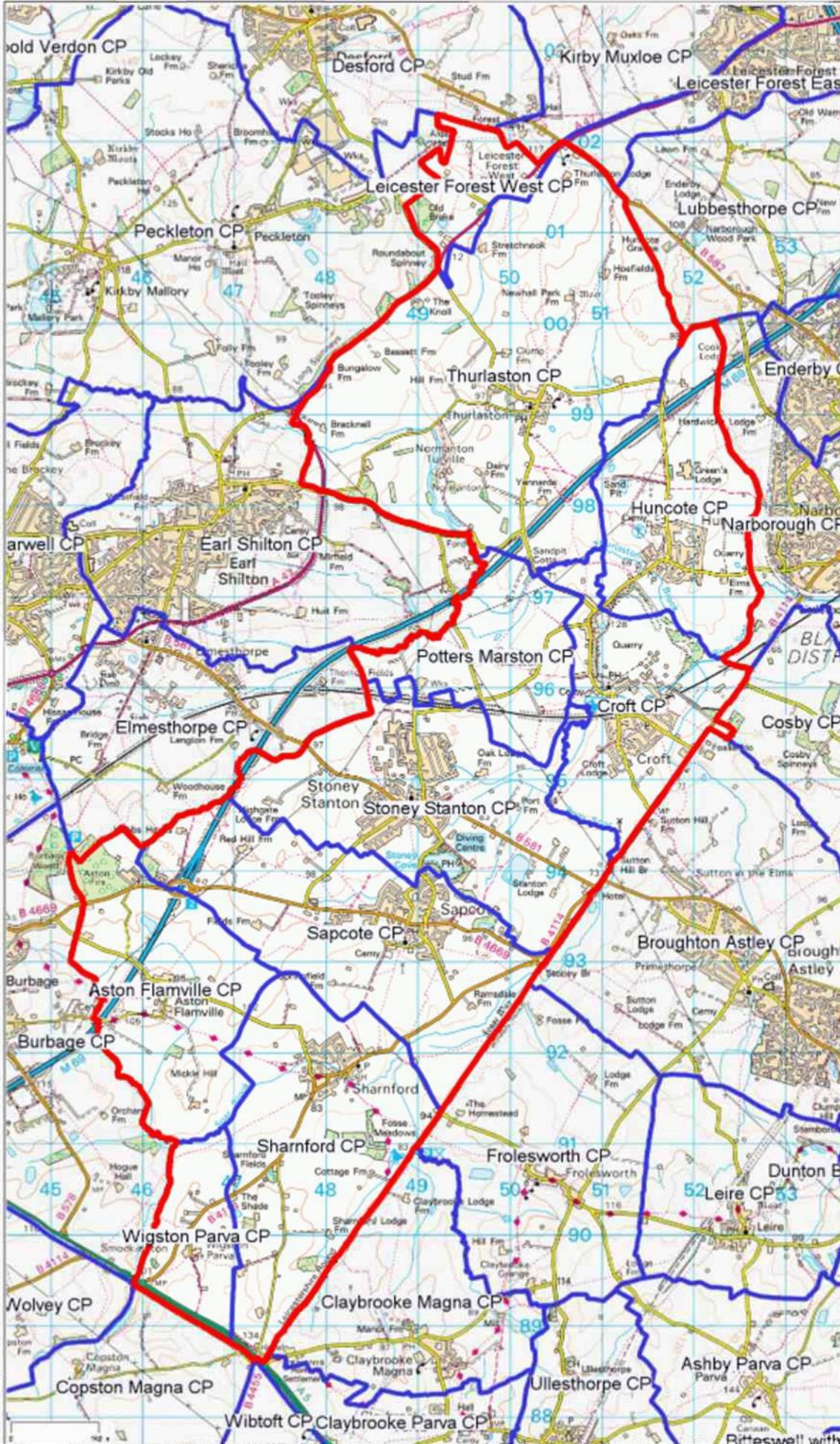
- 1.13 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Fosse Villages: Location

- 1.14 The Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Area comprises the Parish of Fosse Villages which is located within the Blaby District Council area of Nottinghamshire. It is a rural parish of some 792 hectares, in the Vale of Belvoir, with a population of 327 and 135 homes (2011 Census). The parish is located on the border with Leicestershire approximately 9km north west of Melton Mowbray. The parish contains the settlement of Fosse Villages which is now mainly a commuter village, well situated for Leicester, Nottingham, Melton Mowbray, Loughborough and surrounding areas.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.15 The Fosse Villages area amounts to 5,311 hectares, representing 41% of the District of Blaby. In administrative terms, the area shares a common boundary with parts of both Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Harborough District Council in Leicestershire and with Rugby Borough Council in Warwickshire along a short length of its south-western boundary.
- 1.16 The Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the 10 parish councils and meetings through the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Joint Working Board. The Working Board has had benefitted from input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement.
- 1.17 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.



Legend

Fosse Village Boundary



Parishes



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

- 2.1 It is required that the Fosse Villages 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.
- 2.2 The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published July 2018 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed. It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Fosse Villages 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 Fosse Villages 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 Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment;
 - Design;
 - Health and Well Being;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Noise;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;



- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Rural Housing

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



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Policy FV1: Road Traffic Measures that provide reductions in traffic on the B4114 will be supported. New developments of more than 10 dwellings will be required to contribute to off-site improvements to the highway network to mitigate the effects of new development. Development will not be supported if the residual or cumulative impact on congestion or highway safety is severe.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 108-109</p>		
<p>Policy FV2: Rail Development that would prejudice the provision of a railway station, access or parking at Station Road Croft will not be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 104</p>	<p>What baseline information should inform a transport assessment of a Local Plan? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 54-005-20141010)</p>	<p>Policy identifies and protects site which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice.</p>
<p>Policy FV3: Bus Services New developments will only be supported where all new homes are within 400m walking distance of a bus stop that is served by at least an hourly weekday bus service.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 84, 110</p>		<p>The Policy recognises that sites may have to be found in locations that are not well served by public transport. In these circumstances it will be important to ensure that development exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable.</p>



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Policy FV4: Countryside Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. Policy provides a list of suitable development in the countryside.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 79, 83, 84, 91, 92 151, 170</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>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>Policy FV5: Areas of Separation Areas of Separation will be maintained to retain the of identity of Huncote, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 79, 83, 84, 91, 92 151, 170</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>National planning policy recognises the need to protect valued landscapes.</p>
<p>Policy FV6: Biodiversity New development should not harm the network of local ecological features and habitats.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 170, 174</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: 007 Reference ID: 8-007-20140306) How should local planning authorities set about planning for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 8-008-20140306) What are local ecological networks and what evidence should be taken into account in identifying and mapping them? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20140306) Why are Local Sites important and how can I find out more about them? (Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 8-012-20140306)</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. 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. The policy pursues opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity. The Policy supports a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence.</p>



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
			Local designated sites (which include ‘Local Wildlife Sites’) make an important contribution to ecological networks and are identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.
<p>Policy FV7: Local Green Spaces - Identified Local Green Spaces within Fosse Villages will be protected.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 99-101</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306) How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306) How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306) What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306) Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306) What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306) What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306) How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves? (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306)</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Spaces meet 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>



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How big can a Local Green Space be? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306)</p> <p>Is there a minimum area? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306)</p> <p>What about public access? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306)</p> <p>What about public rights of way? (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>Does land need to be in public ownership? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306)</p> <p>Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306)</p> <p>Who will manage Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306)</p> <p>Can a Local Green Space be registered as an Asset of Community Value? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306)</p>	
<p>Policy FV8: Local Heritage Assets The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 185, 197</p>	<p>How should heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 18a-007-20140306)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets and how important are they? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20140306)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and how important are they? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20140306)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Designated heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately taken into account. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plans includes information about local non-designated</p>



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20140306)	heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest.
Policy FV9: Design Supports development which reflects the distinctive character of Fosse Villages.	Paragraphs 79, 108, 124, 127, 131	Why does good design matter? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20140306) What does good design achieve? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20140306) How is good design delivered through plan making? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 26-003-20140306)	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.
Policy FV10: Housing Provision This policy sets out the housing provision for each of the Fosse Villages.	68, 77, 78, 79, 83, 102	How should local authorities support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 50-001-20160519) What evidence is needed to support a neighbourhood plan or Order? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 41-040-20160211)	This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs.
Policy FV11: Windfall Housing This policy supports housing development within defined Limits to Development.	68, 77, 78, 79, 83, 102	How should local authorities support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 50-001-20160519) What evidence is needed to support a neighbourhood plan or Order? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 41-040-20160211)	This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. The policy avoids the development of isolated homes in the countryside.
Policy FV12: Community Services and Facilities This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed	Paragraphs 84, 91, 92	What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306) What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)	The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
or viable or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.			
<p>Policy FV13: GP Services Directs developer contributions for improved healthcare provision to the Fosse Villages.</p>	Paragraphs 84, 91, 92	<p>What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306) What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)</p>	The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.
<p>Policy FV14: Sharnford Allotments The extension of Parson’s Lane allotments, Sharnford will be supported.</p>	Paragraphs 84, 91, 92	<p>What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306) What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)</p>	The policy supports the development of local services and community facilities in villages.
<p>Policy FV15: Stoney Stanton Cemetery A broad area of search has been identified for the development of a new cemetery between Hinckley Road and Station Road, Stoney Stanton.</p>	Paragraphs 84, 91, 92	<p>What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306) What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)</p>	The policy supports the development of local services and community facilities in villages.
<p>Policy FV16: Infrastructure New development will be supported by the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for the following off-site infrastructure requirements where appropriate.</p>	Paragraphs 8, 16, 20, 22, 25, 26, 28, 34, 41, 81, 91		Plans should set out the contributions expected from development. This should include setting out infrastructure requirements (such as that needed for education, health, transport, flood and water management, green and digital infrastructure). Such policies should not undermine the deliverability of the plan.



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Policy FV17: Housing Mix New housing development shall provide for a mix of housing types that will be informed by the most up to date evidence of housing need, unless such an approach would make a scheme unviable.</p>	<p>61, 79</p>	<p>How does the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 2a-020-20180913)</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>
<p>Policy FV18: Affordable Housing Affordable housing will be permitted on rural exception sites. All affordable housing will be subject to conditions to ensure that when homes are allocated, priority is given to people with a local connection to the local parish, then people with a local connection to other places within the Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>20, 34, 41, 61, 62, 63, 64</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. Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing).</p>
<p>Policy FV19: Croft Quarry Employment development (uses falling within class B of the Use Classes Order including offices (B1) manufacturing (B2) and small-scale warehousing and distribution (B8)) at the cement</p>	<p>81, 83</p>		<p>This policy supports the development of a prosperous rural economy and allows for the provision of new and flexible working practices, allowing people to work from home and reducing the need to travel.</p>



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
area at Croft Quarry, as defined on the Polices Map, is supported.			
Policy FV20: Employment Areas Employment Area, as defined on the Polices Map, will be safeguarded for employment development.	81, 83		This policy supports the development of a prosperous rural economy and allows for the provision of new and flexible working practices, allowing people to work from home and reducing the need to travel.
Policy FV21: Rural Economy The sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in the Countryside will be supported where the development	81, 83		This policy supports the development of a prosperous rural economy and allows for the provision of new and flexible working practices, allowing people to work from home and reducing the need to travel.
Policy FV22: Renewable Energy- This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. It also states that wind turbines will not be supported.	Paragraphs 148, 151, 154	How can local planning authorities identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 5-005-20150618) How are 'suitable areas' defined in relation to wind energy development? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 5-032-150618) What are the particular planning considerations that relate to large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 5-013-20150327) Do local people have the final say on wind farm applications? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 5-033-150618)	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.



Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
			<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>Policy FV23: Aston Firs New sites or the extension or intensification of existing sites at Aston Firs, whether for Gypsies and Travellers or other households, will not be supported.</p>			

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 Fosse Villages 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 types 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 wellObeing; 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 however summarises how the relevant sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Fosse Villages 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.
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support local business and employment, including safeguarding and expansion of existing employment areas. Supporting sustainable economic growth, including the provision of live/work units.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The ambition of the plan is also to see the continuation of a thriving local village community supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside, local green spaces and provision of community facilities providing opportunities for people to meet. Seeks to protect quality of life.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports infill housing development within the defined Fosse Villages Limits to Development with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth, including the provision of live/work units.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the defined Fosse Villages Limits to Development and the re-use and conversion of buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require good design and reflect local distinctiveness, including landscape as well as the built environment.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Protects the five purposes of Green Belt land.
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	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 and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development not to harm valued landscapes and 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 landscape, including non-designated assets of local importance.
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 comprises the Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013 and Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019.
- 4.2 The following sections identifies how the policies of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013 and Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019.

Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013

- 4.3 The Local Plan (Core Strategy) sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and core policies for the spatial planning of the Blaby district up to 2029.
- 4.4 The Core Strategy states how the District Council proposes to accommodate the need for new homes, jobs and infrastructure that is required in the District. It proposes a sustainable approach which balances development requirements whilst protecting important areas of the natural and built environment.
- 4.5 The Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted by Blaby District Council on 21 February 2013. It is the first part of the Local Plan and sits alongside the Local Plan Delivery DPD adopted on 4 February 2019.
- 4.6 The Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy CS2: Design of new development

Policy CS5: Housing distribution

Policy CS6: Employment

Policy CS7: Affordable housing

Policy CS8: Mix of housing

Policy CS9: Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

Policy CS10: Transport infrastructure

Policy CS11: Infrastructure, services and facilities to support growth

Policy CS12: Planning obligations and developer contributions

Policy CS14: Green Infrastructure (GI)

Policy CS15: Open space, sport and recreation

Policy CS17: Areas of Separation

Policy CS18: Countryside

Policy CS19: Bio-diversity and geo-diversity

Policy CS20: Historic environment and Culture

Policy CS21: Climate change

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013
<p>Policy FV1: Road Traffic Measures that provide reductions in traffic on the B4114 will be supported. New developments of more than 10 dwellings will be required to contribute to off-site improvements to the highway network to mitigate the effects of new development. Development will not be supported if the residual or cumulative impact on congestion or highway safety is severe.</p>	<p>Policy CS10 – Transport infrastructure</p>	<p>The Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013 recognises that solutions to local transport problems caused by Heavy Goods Vehicle movements in Sharnford and the other Fosse Villages are required.</p>
<p>Policy FV2: Rail Development that would prejudice the provision of a railway station, access or parking at Station Road Croft will not be supported.</p>	<p>Policy CS10 – Transport infrastructure</p>	<p>Policy CS10 supports the exploration of realistic opportunities for improving rail-based movement of goods and people. The development of Birmingham to Leicester rail services is an early priority for the Midlands Connect Strategy. Many Fosse Villages residents commute to Leicester or the West Midlands, so the Neighbourhood Plan would like to see increased station provision on the existing Birmingham to Peterborough line that runs through the area.</p>
<p>Policy FV3: Bus Services New developments will only be supported where all new homes are within 400m walking distance of a bus stop that is served by at least an hourly weekday bus service.</p>	<p>Policy CS10 – Transport infrastructure</p>	<p>Policy CS10 seeks to maximise modal shift, safe, sustainable and accessible transport modes. Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy FV3 contributes to this aim by providing new routes for public transport as part of new development proposals and enhancing existing facilities.</p>

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013
<p>Policy FV4: Countryside Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. Policy provides a list of suitable development in the countryside.</p>	<p>Policy CS18 – Countryside</p>	<p>The Countryside is an important designation encompassing those areas of the District which are outside the limits to built development and are not subject to any other designations. The detailed boundaries of the Countryside have been determined through the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Policy FV5: Areas of Separation Areas of Separation will be maintained to retain the of identity of Huncote, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton.</p>	<p>Policy CS17 – Areas of Separation</p>	<p>Areas of Separation include the following general locations: a) between Narborough and Huncote b) between Stoney Stanton and Sapcote</p>
<p>Policy FV6: Biodiversity New development should not harm the network of local ecological features and habitats.</p>	<p>Policy CS19 – Bio-diversity and geo-diversity Policy CS14 – Green Infrastructure (GI)</p>	<p>Policy CS19 states that the District of Blaby has several sites of ecological and geological importance of national, regional and local level significance, which the Council will seek to safeguard and enhance. These are identified in more detail through Policy FV6.</p>
<p>Policy FV7: Local Green Spaces - Identified Local Green Spaces within Fosse Villages will be protected.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV8: Local Heritage Assets The determination of planning applications, which will affect ‘identified’ features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed.</p>	<p>Policy CS20 – Historic environment and Culture</p>	<p>Policy CS20 aims to protect (and where possible enhance) archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and other cultural assets. Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy FV8 supports the policy by identifying non-designated features of local heritage interest and the Sapcote Local Heritage Area.</p>

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013
<p>Policy FV9: Design Supports development which reflects the distinctive character of Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>Policy CS2 – Design of new development</p>	<p>By setting out how our communities have evolved and what makes them distinctive we will help guide the overall scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials and access of new development to ensure that they are sensitive to the character of the local area. Each Village Statement contains a description of its architectural style which should be considered when planning new development in accordance with Policy FV9.</p>
<p>Policy FV10: Housing Provision This policy sets out the housing provision for each of the Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>Policy CS5 – Housing distribution</p>	<p>In order to give certainty to the quantity of development suitable in each settlement Policy CS5 provides a target figure to inform the scale and distribution of housing growth for some settlements. Except for Stoney Stanton, Policy CS5 contains no specific housing provision for each of the Fosse Villages. Instead, Huncote, Croft and Sapcote (including 'The Limes') are grouped with the other Medium Central Villages of Littlethorpe and Cosby. Sharnford and Thurlaston, along with Elmesthorpe and Kilby are Smaller Villages. Having regard to housing completions and commitments at 31 March 2017, the minimum housing provision for each of the Fosse Villages is set out in Policy FV10. The quantum of development proposed is consistent with Policy CS5.</p>
<p>Policy FV11: Windfall Housing This policy supports housing development within defined Limits to Development.</p>	<p>Policy CS5 – Housing distribution</p>	<p>Detailed locations of proposed developments are determined through the Neighbourhood Plan Limits to Development.</p>
<p>Policy FV12: Community Services and Facilities This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a replacement is provided, of</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013
equivalent or better provision.		
<p>Policy FV13: GP Services Directs developer contributions for improved healthcare provision to the Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>Policy CS11 – Infrastructure, services and facilities to support growth Policy CS12 – Planning obligations and developer contributions</p>	<p>Where new development creates a need for new or improved infrastructure, services and facilities, developer contributions will be sought.</p>
<p>Policy FV14: Sharnford Allotments The extension of Parson’s Lane allotments, Sharnford will be supported.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Policy FV15: Stoney Stanton Cemetery A broad area of search has been identified for the development of a new cemetery between Hinckley Road and Station Road, Stoney Stanton.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Policy FV16: Infrastructure New development will be supported by the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for the following off-site infrastructure requirements where appropriate.</p>	<p>Policy CS11 – Infrastructure, services and facilities to support growth Policy CS12 – Planning obligations and developer contributions</p>	<p>Where new development creates a need for new or improved infrastructure, services and facilities, developer contributions will be sought.</p>
<p>Policy FV17: Housing Mix New housing development shall provide for a mix of housing types that will be informed by the most up to date evidence of housing need, unless such an</p>	Policy CS8 – Mix of housing	<p>Policy CS8 seeks to provide a range of house types and tenures to reflect current and future requirements, modified, where appropriate, for local circumstances. The Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan refers to more recent evidence about the future need for housing set out in the 2017 Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic</p>

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013
<p>approach would make a scheme unviable.</p>		<p>Development Need Assessment. The Neighbourhood Plan highlights the need for housing that meet the needs of older households and the need for smaller, low-cost homes.</p>
<p>Policy FV18: Affordable Housing Affordable housing will be permitted on rural exception sites. All affordable housing will be subject to conditions to ensure that when homes are allocated, priority is given to people with a local connection to the local parish, then people with a local connection to other places within the Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>Policy CS7 – Affordable housing</p>	<p>Many villages are not able to meet affordable housing needs as part of larger schemes. In cases where there is a demonstrable need for affordable housing in rural villages, small scale Rural Exceptions Schemes in suitable locations can help to meet affordable needs. The schemes should meet the needs of ‘local people’ or those with a strong local connection and houses should be well related to the settlement. Policy FV18 requires in allocating affordable homes, priority is given to people with a local connection.</p>
<p>Policy FV19: Croft Quarry Employment development (uses falling within class B of the Use Classes Order including offices (B1) manufacturing (B2) and small-scale warehousing and distribution (B8)) at the cement area at Croft Quarry, as defined on the Polices Map, is supported.</p>	<p>Policy CS6 – Employment</p>	<p>Policy CS6 allows for smaller scale opportunities to provide additional employment land and premises in the rural areas. Opportunities to meet employment land requirements and local needs have been considered through the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan. Croft Quarry remains an important mineral resource of national significance which needs to be protected. Excavation has been going on for hundreds of years, but the quarry is nearing the end of its economic life. The quarry is also the site of several businesses belonging to Aggregate Industries. Local people support using the cement area at Croft Quarry for general industrial use.</p>
<p>Policy FV20: Employment Areas Employment Area, as defined on the Polices Map, will be safeguarded for employment development.</p>	<p>Policy CS6 – Employment</p>	<p>Policy CS6 allows for smaller scale opportunities to provide additional employment land and premises in the rural areas. Opportunities to meet employment land requirements and local needs have been considered through the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan. As part of our strategy for generating new and better jobs for local people Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan</p>

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013
		Policy FV20 supports the retention and growth of key business areas in the Fosse Villages.
<p>Policy FV21: Rural Economy The sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in the Countryside will be supported where the development</p>	Policy CS6 – Employment	<p>Policy CS6 allows for smaller scale opportunities to provide additional employment land and premises in the rural areas. Opportunities to meet employment land requirements and local needs have been considered through the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Within the Fosse Villages area, most development will take place within or adjoining villages but to support jobs and prosperity Policy FV21 takes a positive approach to sustainable new employment development in the countryside.</p>
<p>Policy FV22: Renewable Energy- This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. It also states that wind turbines will not be supported.</p>	Policy CS21 – Climate change	To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan recognises the responsibility to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources.
<p>Policy FV23: Aston Firs New sites or the extension or intensification of existing sites at Aston Firs, whether for Gypsies and Travellers or other households, will not be supported.</p>	Policy CS9 – Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers	<p>Policy CS9 provides criteria to guide land supply allocations and to provide a basis for decisions on planning applications for traveller development.</p> <p>However, it relies on pitch and plot targets from the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment Refresh 2013. This assessment predates the revised definition of Gypsy and Travellers for planning purposes and as such is out of date.</p>

Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019

- 4.7 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. While the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area are contained in the Blaby District Local

Plan (Core Strategy) 2013, the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan is also broadly aligned with the Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019.

4.8 The Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) Development Plan Document (known as the 'Delivery DPD') was adopted by Blaby District Council on 4 February 2019.

4.9 The Delivery DPD includes site allocations and development management policies. It sits alongside the adopted Core Strategy and these two documents form the development plan for the District that will be used to make decisions on planning applications. These documents replace the Blaby District Local Plan 1999 in its entirety.

4.10 The table below provides a further explanation of alignment with the following policies:

SA4: Broad Locations for Accommodating Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

SA5: Key Employment Sites and Other Existing Employment Sites

DM1: Development within the Settlement Boundaries

DM2: Development in the Countryside

DM3: Employment Development on Unallocated Sites

DM12: Designated and Non-designated Heritage Assets

DM15: Mineral Safeguarding Areas

Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019	Explanation of Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Blaby District Local Plan (Delivery) DPD 2019
<p>Policy FV1: Road Traffic Measures that provide reductions in traffic on the B4114 will be supported. New developments of more than 10 dwellings will be required to contribute to off-site improvements to the highway network to mitigate the effects of new development. Development will not be supported if the residual or cumulative impact on congestion or highway safety is severe.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

<p>Policy FV2: Rail Development that would prejudice the provision of a railway station, access or parking at Station Road Croft will not be supported.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV3: Bus Services New developments will only be supported where all new homes are within 400m walking distance of a bus stop that is served by at least an hourly weekday bus service.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV4: Countryside Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. Policy provides a list of suitable development in the countryside.</p>	<p>DM2: Development in the Countryside</p>	<p>Core Strategy Policy CS18 sets out the strategic approach to development outside the settlement boundaries and within the area designated as Countryside. Development Management Policy 2 gives detailed guidance about development that is appropriate in the Countryside and the criteria that should be taken into account when determining planning applications. Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy FV4 sets out in more detail the types of uses that are appropriate in the Countryside.</p>
<p>Policy FV5: Areas of Separation Areas of Separation will be maintained to retain the of identity of Huncote, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV6: Biodiversity New development should not harm the network of local ecological features and habitats.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV7: Local Green Spaces - Identified Local Green Spaces within Fosse Villages will be protected.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

<p>Policy FV8: Local Heritage Assets The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed.</p>	<p>DM12: Designated and Non-designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Policy DM12 applies a balanced consideration to proposals which may impact non-designated heritage assets. Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Policy FV8 supports the policy by identifying non-designated features of local heritage interest and the Sapcote Local Heritage Area.</p>
<p>Policy FV9: Design Supports development which reflects the distinctive character of Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV10: Housing Provision This policy sets out the housing provision for each of the Fosse Villages.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV11: Windfall Housing This policy supports housing development within defined Limits to Development.</p>	<p>DM1: Development within the Settlement Boundaries</p>	<p>Within the Settlement Boundaries development proposals consistent with other policies of the Local Plan will be supported. Settlement Boundaries are identified on the Local Plan Policies Map. The Limits to development identified by the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan are largely aligned with the Delivery DPD.</p>
<p>Policy FV12: Community Services and Facilities This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV13: GP Services Directs developer contributions for</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

improved healthcare provision to the Fosse Villages.		
<p>Policy FV14: Sharnford Allotments The extension of Parson's Lane allotments, Sharnford will be supported.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Policy FV15: Stoney Stanton Cemetery A broad area of search has been identified for the development of a new cemetery between Hinckley Road and Station Road, Stoney Stanton.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Policy FV16: Infrastructure New development will be supported by the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for the following off-site infrastructure requirements where appropriate.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Policy FV17: Housing Mix New housing development shall provide for a mix of housing types that will be informed by the most up to date evidence of housing need, unless such an approach would make a scheme unviable.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
<p>Policy FV18: Affordable Housing Affordable housing will be permitted on rural exception sites. All affordable housing will be subject to conditions to ensure that when homes are</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable

<p>allocated, priority is given to people with a local connection to the local parish, then people with a local connection to other places within the Fosse Villages.</p>		
<p>Policy FV19: Croft Quarry Employment development (uses falling within class B of the Use Classes Order including offices (B1) manufacturing (B2) and small-scale warehousing and distribution (B8)) at the cement area at Croft Quarry, as defined on the Polices Map, is supported.</p>	<p>DM3: Employment Development on Unallocated Sites DM15: Mineral Safeguarding Areas</p>	<p>Although sufficient employment land is available and allocated in the District to support the identified growth over the period of the Local Plan, it is important that further employment opportunities are not stifled and to encourage sustainable economic growth. In particular, there is evidence in the District of small and medium sized businesses finding it difficult to find suitable and affordable sites.</p> <p>In addition to site allocations, Policy DM3 favourably considers new employment proposals which cannot be accommodated within allocated employment areas, Key Employment Sites or other existing employment sites.</p> <p>Minerals Safeguarding Areas will be defined by Leicestershire County Council in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Policy DM15 helps developers to understand the general locations where these policies will apply. There are currently igneous rock reserves at Croft and Huncote.</p>
<p>Policy FV20: Employment Areas Employment Area, as defined on the Polices Map, will be safeguarded for employment development.</p>	<p>SA5: Key Employment Sites and Other Existing Employment Sites DM3: Employment Development on Unallocated Sites</p>	<p>Of the Employment Areas safeguarded for employment development by Neighbourhood Plan Policy FV20, only Foxbank Industrial Estate, Stoney Stanton is specifically safeguarded by Policy SA5. However, other non-identified, existing employment sites are also safeguarded.</p> <p>Although sufficient employment land is available and allocated in the District to support the identified growth over the period of the Local Plan, it is important that further employment opportunities are not stifled and to encourage sustainable economic growth. In particular, there is evidence in the District of small and medium sized businesses finding it difficult to find suitable and affordable sites.</p>

		<p>In addition to site allocations, Policy DM3 favourably considers new employment proposals which cannot be accommodated within allocated employment areas, Key Employment Sites or other existing employment sites.</p> <p>Policy FV20 allows for the expansion of existing businesses and new employment development within identified Employment Areas.</p>
<p>Policy FV21: Rural Economy The sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in the Countryside will be supported where the development</p>	<p>DM3: Employment Development on Unallocated Sites</p>	<p>Although sufficient employment land is available and allocated in the District to support the identified growth over the period of the Local Plan, it is important that further employment opportunities are not stifled and to encourage sustainable economic growth. In particular, there is evidence in the District of small and medium sized businesses finding it difficult to find suitable and affordable sites.</p> <p>In addition to site allocations, Policy DM3 favourably considers new employment proposals which cannot be accommodated within allocated employment areas, Key Employment Sites or other existing employment sites.</p>
<p>Policy FV22: Renewable Energy- This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. It also states that wind turbines will not be supported.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Policy FV23: Aston Firs New sites or the extension or intensification of existing sites at Aston Firs, whether for Gypsies and Travellers or other households, will not be supported.</p>	<p>SA4: Broad Locations for Accommodating Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</p>	<p>The current supply of unimplemented planning permissions means that there is no additional need to allocate specific sites for the period 2016 to 2021 for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople meeting the planning definition.</p> <p>It follows that new sites or the extension or intensification of existing sites at Aston Firs are not required.</p>

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 Screening Statement

- 5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan (October 2018) was used to determine whether or not the contents of the Fosse Villages 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 Fosse Villages 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 In January 2018, Blaby District Council, following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, determined that the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.
- 5.4 AECOM was subsequently commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of the emerging Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan. In February 2018 a Scoping Report was published for consultation with the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency).



- 5.5 Following this an Environmental Report was published in May 2018. The purpose of the Environmental Report, which accompanied the Pre-Submission Version of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan for consultation, was to:
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan and alternatives; and
 - Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.
- 5.6 The Environmental Report contains:
- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
 - Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
 - The SEA framework of objectives against which the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed;
 - The appraisal of alternative approaches for the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan
 - The likely significant environmental effects of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan
 - The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan; and
 - The next steps for the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SEA process.
- 5.7 Several recommendations were made throughout the Environmental Report and these have been incorporated into the Submission version of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan. An updated Environmental Report has been prepared to accompany the Submission version of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.8 Blaby District Council's January 2018 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion Report concluded that the Leicestershire Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have a significant effect on any of the designated sites within approximately 25km of the Parish boundary for the following reasons:
- There are no internationally designated wildlife sites (i.e. SACs or SPAs) within the Neighbourhood Area;



- Mitigation and management plans already in place at these sites, particularly at Rutland Water, appear adequate to accommodate any increased in visitors potentially generated from housing growth; and,
- The Neighbourhood Plan accords with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy that seeks to locate development in the most sustainable locations and promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport and preserve the most valuable green spaces around the village, therefore helping to improve air quality.

5.9 Therefore, it was concluded that a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment of the Leicestershire Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan was not required.

5.10 In February 2019, Blaby District Council reviewed its Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion of the Leicestershire Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan in light of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling 'People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta'. In summary, the ECJ judgement ruled that 'mitigation measures' should be assessed within the framework of 'Appropriate Assessment' and that it is not appropriate to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site at the screening stage.

5.11 The District Council considered that the conclusions of the 2018 HRA remain robust in that there would be no significant adverse effects and no requirement for Appropriate Assessment.

5.12 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 Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out another basic condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This is that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.
- 6.2 As set out in paragraphs 5.8 to 5.12, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion Report concluded that the Leicestershire Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have a significant effect on any of the designated sites within approximately 25km of the Parish boundary.

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

Appendix 1: 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 Fosse Villages 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 Fosse Villages 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 11,633 people living in Fosse Villages, 49.0% were Male and 51.0% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

18.1% of the population was 0-15 years old and 19.6% were 65% or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

2.3% 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%.

66.1% of the population was Christian and 1.0% other religions including Buddhist only. 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.

7.0% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 9.4% 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).

57.0% 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 slightly higher than the national picture.

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 and Policies of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Fosse Villages;

Road Traffic and Congestion

Protecting Village Identity

How much development and where?

Improved Services and Facilities

Improved public transport

Meeting Local Housing Needs

Providing Jobs for Local People

Opportunities for Renewable Energy

Gypsies and Travellers

These issues are reflected in the Vision for Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan;

Fosse Villages in 2029:

Individual character of the area's communities is maintained

Rural character of the area has been retained

There are good opportunities for local work

Development is supported by appropriate infrastructure

Impact of traffic on local communities is reduced

Important open areas have been protected

New homes reflect local housing needs

Local people have a bigger say over how their area develops

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 23 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy FV17 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households and/or smaller, affordable homes.

Policy FV7 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

Policy FV12 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Fosse Villages. 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 sports clubs, public houses and village halls. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Disability

Policy FV9 requires all new development to have a safe and suitable access and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy FV17) 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 FV17 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy FV9 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 the village halls (Policy UB3). 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

Policy FV23 addresses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The policy aims to ensure that the combined scale of the sites does not dominate the settled community.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities (Policy FV12), including the Village Hall with potential for multi-use facilities. 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 FV9 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 the potential for tangible impacts is unknown and consequently this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Fosse Villages 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 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. It also seeks 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 Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.