

Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan Examination

North Hertfordshire District Council's Response to the Examiner's Clarification Questions

17 September 2021

The District Council's response to the examiner's clarification question for Policy ASH15 – Ashwell Village Centre

In response to the examiner's question about Policy ASH15, criterion A, the District Council read the criterion as scene setting and understands the community's wish to retain a variety of services within the village.

Ashwell village centre has been recognised in the emerging Local Plan as a Local Centre (both in Strategic Policy SP4: Town Centres, Local Centres and Community Shops and in Policy ETC6: Local Centres). Policy SP4 seeks to promote, protect and enhance the provision of shops and facilities in the local centres with Policy ETC6 stating that development proposals will be permitted which would continue to provide a range of facilities in the defined local centre. The District Council did put forward main modifications to both policies to reflect the changes to the use classes order made in 2020. (The full schedule of main modifications are available to view on the [website](#).)

In terms of assessing the balance of uses in the village as part of a planning application, it is acknowledged that the District Council has no published evidence which could be used to assess the balance of uses. However, the Council has started monitoring work for Policy SP4 and this will be available in the future to help assess the facilities available in the local centres across the District.