

Representations for Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan

Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan

Ref. Rep No. Applicant Agent

LDF/00060 34 Sport England - East Region

Document Section: Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan

Comment

Representation:

Planning Policy in the National Planning Policy Framework identifies how the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this process and providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type and in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This means positive planning for sport, protection from unnecessary loss of sports facilities and an integrated approach to providing new housing and employment land and community facilities provision is important.

It is important therefore that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects national policy for sport as set out in the above document with particular reference to Pars 73 and 74 to ensure proposals comply with National Planning Policy. It is also important to be aware of Sport England's role in protecting playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing fields (see link below), as set out in our national guide, 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England & Planning Policy Statement'.

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>

Sport England provides guidance on developing policy for sport and further information can be found following the link below:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>

Sport England works with Local Authorities to ensure Local Plan policy is underpinned by robust and up to date assessments and strategies for indoor and outdoor sports delivery. If local authorities have prepared a Playing Pitch Strategy or other indoor/outdoor sports strategy it will be important that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the recommendations set out in that document and that any local investment opportunities, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, are utilised to support the delivery of those recommendations.

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/>

If new sports facilities are being proposed Sport England recommend you ensure such facilities are fit for purpose and designed in accordance with our design guidance notes.

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/>

LDF/01503 3 Bruning

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Support

Representation:

Agree.

LDF/01517 3 Slatter

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Support

Representation:

I support the application of Ashwell Parish Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan Area under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

LDF/02959 148 English Heritage

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English Heritage has no objection to this designation. However, given the numbers of designated heritage assets within Ashwell (a quick desk-based check indicates 78 listed buildings including 1 at Grade I and 8 at Grade II*, plus 5 Scheduled Monuments and a Conservation Area), in the event that the parish council is granted this status we would request that you remind the Parish Council that English Heritage has a statutory role in the development plan process, and that there is duty to consult English Heritage where our interests are considered to be affected. We can then provide specific advice concerning the inclusion of the historic environment in their plan.

Of course the nature of the locally-led neighbourhood plan process is that the community itself should determine its own agenda based on the issues it is concerned about. At the same time, as a national organisation able increasingly to draw upon our experiences of neighbourhood planning exercises across the country, our input, agreed on a case by case basis, can help those communities reflect upon the special (heritage) qualities which define their area to best ensure that optimum and sustainable outcomes are achieved.

LDF/03117 22 Natural England - East of England Region

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Comment

Representation:

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee on Neighbourhood Plans where these are likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or 20 hectares or more of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. We must also be consulted where proposals require Environmental Impact Assessment or screening for Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA).

Designated sites

We note that the proposed Ashwell Neighbourhood Area incorporates Ashwell Springs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), hence the Neighbourhood Plan will be required to demonstrate that policies will not have an adverse effect on the notified interest features of this statutorily designated site.

Additional information

The following is offered as advice to assist the Parish Council in preparing their Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into development proposals. This is available at:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf>

Local environmental record centres hold a range of information on the natural environment. A list of local records centre is available at: <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

Protected species

You should consider whether the plan is likely to have any impacts on protected species. To help you do this Natural England has produced standing advice to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, you should undertake further consultation with Natural England: Natural England Standing Advice

The Plan should ensure that protected and/or biodiversity habitats and species are protected, and ideally enhanced, through its policies.

Opportunities for enhancing the natural environment

Proposals may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature. You should consider encouraging such enhancements through development policies.

Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes should also be promoted through development policies where possible.

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The lack of specific comment from Natural England should not be interpreted as a statement that the Plan will have no impacts on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may make comments that will help the Parish Council to fully take account of the environmental value of this area in their Plan making process.
Natural England looks forward to commenting further as the Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan

LDF/04752 23 'Hertfordshire County Council - Spatial and Land Use Planning'

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Comment

Representation:

The proposed Neighbourhood Plan area does not coincide with any of the county council's minerals or waste designations.

It should be noted however, when the Parish Council develops its vision and objectives or shaping development and growth within the neighbourhood, that minerals and waste matters will need to be taken into account as Minerals and Waste Local Plans form part of the Development Plan. New development and growth of an area results in the generation of waste and this will be an important aspect needing consideration in due course.

The county council wishes to be consulted at future stages in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

LDF/05264 6 Powell

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Support

Representation:

Please take this as our Agreement to the Local Plans LDF/05264 being used to designate the neighbourhood planning area in conjunction of the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan for Ashwell.

LDF/10202 1 Coston

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Support

Representation:

Agree.