

## **WYMONDLEY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

### **BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT**

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#### **1. Overview**

This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared in support of the Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan' or 'WPNP') and intends to demonstrate that the Plan has been prepared observing:

- All legal aspects of neighbourhood plan making;
- All relevant national and local level planning policies relevant to Wymondley Parish;
- An appropriate level of guidance, both statutory and non-statutory, on all aspects of plan making; and
- Best practice in transparent and inclusive consultation and engagement.

The policies we have tested the Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan against are:

- Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990)
- Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (as amended)
- The policies of the adopted North Hertfordshire Local Plan (adopted 1996 with policies saved 2007);
- The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) as a whole; and
- The Planning Practice Guidance suite.

The above are all referenced throughout this document.

Principally, this statement demonstrates the way in which the Plan conforms to the basic conditions as identified in Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990) and is legal in every other respect.

The structure of this statement will be as follows:

- Background to the Plan: providing a broad overview of the reasons for the Plan and the processes included in its production;
- Statement of Legal Conformity: confirming that the plan proposal package comprises the appropriate level of information to be considered compliant with the Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (as amended) and that the Plan has been prepared in conformity with the further provisions of the TCPA 1990; and in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework; and
- Assessment against the basic conditions: demonstrating that compliance with the basic conditions has been at the heart of the Plan's production.

## **2. Background to the Plan**

Wymondley Parish Council submitted their area application to North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) on 16 June 2015 to confirm their role as a qualifying body eligible to produce a neighbourhood plan. As part of this submission they proposed the adoption of the entire Parish as the relevant neighbourhood area. The neighbourhood area was then formally designated with amendment by NHDC on 26th August 2015, following a cabinet decision to amend the parish on 28 July 2015. A copy of this map can be found at Annex 1 of the plan and attached to this statement.

The proposed Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan (or ‘the Plan’) was proposed by way of a reaction to the dated nature of the adopted NHDC Local Plan (first adopted 1996) and the emerging status of what was at the time a very early iteration of the new Local Plan. The intention of the Wymondley Plan was, and remains, to ensure that development is delivered in the village and Parish in a sustainable manner, sensitive to local constraints and with the views of the local resident’s, taken into account.

The Plan preparation successfully engaged the people of the parish to ensure that they are at the centre of helping to shape its delivery. In particular the Plan sets out a forward-looking framework of policies that are detailed enough to safeguard and where possible, enhance the most important features of the Parish and its character.

The Plan has been researched and written by members of a steering group appointed by Wymondley Parish Council with the benefit of support from NHDC officers, Planning Aid England and a number of specialist consultants who have assisted in the fields of evidence gathering and analysis, legal and policy conformity and consultation / engagement.

The majority of work towards the Plan, has been undertaken by the members of the steering group themselves and at the time of submission this group comprises ten members of residents in the Parish and at times, Wymondley Parish Councillors. Due to its open membership, set against a detailed constitution prepared in June 2015, the steering group has included numerous other members over its course. All of the previous members of the steering group are identifiable from the website at <http://wymondley.org/about.html> and Annex 11 of the Plan.

All decisions made within the Plan have been informed by significant community consultation via surveys, with responses solicited in online, paper and telephone feedback facilities. The process has been transparent and inclusive. The full programme of consultation and engagement is set out and explained in detail in the Consultation Statement accompanying the plan or found here

<http://wymondley.org/assets/wymondley-np---consultation-statement---june-2016.pdf>

The Plan is also supported by a proportionate evidence base that comprises of a mixture of; the current Saved Local Plan Policies, documentation prepared to underpin the new emerging local plan (such as the North Hertfordshire Landscape Survey); the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Wymondley Parish Residents Survey; a Local Traffic Survey, public consultation feedback; and a mixture of national studies and statistics.

The Plan is underpinned by a clear set of strategic planning policies, set out on page 12 of the submission document.

### 3. Statement of Legal Conformity

The table below sets out a clear statement of the Plan's conformity with the relevant sections and schedules of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (as amended). The following checklist has been informed by the Planning Advisory Service guidance issued to inform Local Planning Authorities of the legal requirements of Neighbourhood Plans which can be found at:

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/documents/332612/0/Legal+compliance+guide+for+production+of+Neighbourhood+Development+Plans/239ae1dc-e319-40e4-b642-b2866e683ab2>

Act, section, schedule or regulation	Test	Comment	Legally compliant?
TCPA 1990 Schedule 4B para 5	Is the proposal in question a repeat proposal? Has the local planning authority refused a previous similar proposal under para 12 or Section 61E or has it failed at referendum?	No on both fronts. This is the first Neighbourhood Plan prepared by Wymondley Parish Council.	Yes
TCPA 1990 Schedule 4B para 6(2)(a) and Section 61F	Is the body who submitted the Plan a qualifying body, for the purpose of neighbourhood plan making?	Yes. As clarified under Section 61F a parish council can act as a qualifying body for neighbourhood planning purposes. The plan has been prepared and submitted by Wymondley Parish Council.	Yes
TCPA 1990 Schedule 4B para 6(2)(b) and Section 61F	Does the plan proposal comply with the other relevant provisions made under Section 61F relating to neighbourhood area designation?	Yes. The parish area was designated as the neighbourhood area by NHDC following a 6 week period of consultation, and advised on 26th August 2015 with amendments. A map of the neighbourhood area can be found at Appendix 1 of the Plan and attached to this statement.	Yes
TCPA 1990 Schedule 4B para 1, para 6(2)(c) and NP (General) Regs 2012 Regulation 15	<p>Have the qualifying body submitted the following in a satisfactory form to NHDC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A map or statement identifying the area to which the plan relates;</li> <li>2. A consultation statement (which contains details of those consulted, how they were consulted, in the Neighbourhood Plan);</li> <li>3. The proposed neighbourhood plan;</li> <li>4. A statement explaining how the Neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions; and</li> <li>5. Either an environmental statement or a statement confirming why no SEA is required in support of the</li> </ol>	<p>Yes. All of the documents (including this Basic Conditions Statement) have been submitted to NHDC.</p> <p>Copies of or links to the key evidence documents prepared in support of the Plan are available to officers. Links to all relevant evidence documents are included within the Plan.</p>	Yes

	Neighbourhood Plan.		
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Act, section, schedule or regulation	Test	Comment	Legally compliant?
TCPA 1990 Schedule 4B para 4, para 6(2)(d) and NP (General) Regs 2012 Regulations 14 and 15(2)(a)	Has the qualifying body complied with the requirements regarding the scope of pre-submission consultation?	Yes. The Plan was made available for consultation for a period of 6 weeks between 10 April and 25 May 2016 inviting representations from all residents of the parish, plus all statutory consultees. This was done through advertising the Plan within the Parish area as described in the accompanying Consultation Statement, and individual emails/letters to statutory and other consultees. A copy of the Plan was also sent to NHDC for comment with their feedback discussed and included where relevant. The Consultation Statement can also be viewed here <a href="http://wymondley.org/assets/wymondley-np---consultation-statement---june-2016.pdf">http://wymondley.org/assets/wymondley-np---consultation-statement---june-2016.pdf</a>	Yes

Act, section, schedule or regulation	Test	Comment	Legally compliant?
TCPA 1990 Schedule 4B para 6(3), Section 61J (and also PCPA 2004 Section 38B(1)(b))	Does the Plan seek to grant or support planning permission for any development categorised as 'excluded development' under Section 61K of the TCPA 1990?	No.	Yes
PCPA 2004 Section 38A(2)	Does the Plan meet the definition of 'neighbourhood plan' in that does it set out policies in relation to the development and use of land in the neighbourhood area?	Yes.	Yes
PCPA 2004 Section 38B(1)(a)	Does the 'neighbourhood plan' specify the time period for which it is to have effect?	Yes. The period is stated as 2011 to 2031 mirroring that of the current emerging NHDC Local Plan.	Yes
PCPA 2004 Section 38B(1)(c)	Does the 'neighbourhood plan' relate to more than one neighbourhood area?	No.	Yes

The table above demonstrates that the Plan has accurately observed the required procedures and exclusions and is legal in every respect.

## **4. Assessment against the basic conditions**

The principal objective of this statement is to demonstrate the way in which the Plan complies with the basic conditions tests.

The basic conditions applicable to both Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders are identified at Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990). The basic conditions specifically relevant to Neighbourhood Development Plans, as clarified by paragraph 065 of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), are as follows:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the plan.
- The making of the plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- The making of the plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- The making of the plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan. For clarity, further conditions have been prescribed relating to the assessment of a Plan's impact on European Habitats.

This section will assess the direction and the 49 policies of the Plan against the clear tests set out above. It is recognised that there is no prescribed approach dictating how this assessment should take place. It has therefore been decided to undertake the assessment against national strategic policy on a neighbourhood plan policy by policy basis.

It is noted that there is no requirement for a neighbourhood plan to conform with any emerging local plan. However, due to the dated nature of the adopted Local Plan and the advanced stage of the emerging Plan, along with its extensive evidence base, the direction of the future strategy is considered by the Parish Council to carry weighty relevance. In this regard reference 41-009-20160211 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) suite confirms:

*"Although a draft Neighbourhood Plan or Order is not tested against the policies in an emerging Local Plan the reasoning and evidence informing the Local Plan process is likely to be relevant to the consideration of the basic conditions against which a neighbourhood plan is tested. For example, up-to-date housing needs evidence is relevant to the question of whether a housing supply policy in a neighbourhood plan or Order contributes to the achievement of sustainable development."*

The rationale is, provided the policies of the Plan do not conflict with any aspect of the NPPF, or the Local Plan, and otherwise supports their intent, then they will inherently ensure their continued delivery.

Sustainable development is classed in the NPPF guidance as NOT being development which causes harm, increases pollution (in particular green house gases) does not rely on the motor car as the only transport and also does not increase the flood risk.

## **Assessment against national policy and guidance**

To ensure compliance with basic conditions throughout the course of its production, the Plan has been produced with constant sight of the following:

The policies of the adopted North Hertfordshire Local Plan (adopted 1996 with policies saved 2007);

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a whole; and
- The Planning Practice Guidance suite.

On review of the adopted Local Plan it is clear that there are a very limited number of strategic policies that would be considered entirely up-to-date. The original plan period (1986 to 2001) has long since expired and the document therefore no longer includes relevant strategic policy, dictating the quantum of development to be delivered within the District. To this extent elements of Wymondley Parish's Neighbourhood Plan have been delivered in something of a vacuum, leaving the Parish Council with the task of effectively 'bridging the gap' between the adopted Local Plan and the NHDC's emerging strategy. They have done this through primarily referring to the NPPF and the core principle of sustainable development.

The National Planning Policy Guidance states that neighbourhood plans are able to allocate sites if they so choose – Wymondley Parish Council have opted against exercising this right, as no suitable sites on non-green belt land, or non-designated green spaces land, exist in the parish. Instead, the Neighbourhood Plan primarily comprises a set of general policies designed to ensure that any development that may arise is delivered in a sensitive, safe and sustainable fashion in the context and character of the Parish and without causing increases in air pollution, traffic congestion, flood risk, or any other detrimental effects on the health and well-being of the environment and the community.

Cross referencing of the NPPF, any relevant saved policies of the adopted Local Plan and evidence drawn upon, during the production of the Plan's strategy and policies has been interwoven into the Plan throughout.

The analysis set out below explains the direction of each policy and states how they have taken the adopted Local Plan, the NPPF and any relevant evidence into account. It also indicates the main evidence base that was considered when producing the policy.

<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies NHE1 – NHE16: Natural and Historic Environment:</b>
<p><b>NPPF:</b> Paragraphs 17, 58, 60, 61, 109, 110, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 124, 169, 170</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 3:</i> Settlements within the Green Belt</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 5:</i> Excluded Villages</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 14:</i> Nature Conservation</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 16:</i> Areas of Archaeological Significance and other Archaeological Areas</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 21:</i> Landscape and Open Space Patterns in Towns</p> <p><i>Emerging Plan:</i> Policy SP13: Historic Environment, Policy SP12: Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and landscape</p>	<p>Policies NHE1 – NHE16 are designed to ensure that the natural and historic environment is not negatively impacted by any development in or impacting on the Parish and that the natural, historic heritage assets and character of the settlement is maintained, in terms of landscape (including trees and hedgerows) and wildlife.</p> <p>They aim to ensure that landscape character assessments have been prepared where appropriate and are integrated with assessment of historic landscape character and landscape sensitivity; that development proposals result in net gains to biodiversity (and this is consistent with British Standard 42020), that clear and significant ecological gains can be demonstrated; that green Infrastructure provides permeability for wildlife through and around development, including provision for bat and bird roosting devices in the fabric of the brickwork, and lighting and movement corridors are not adversely impacted; and that the green belt, particularly in relation to the prevention of urban sprawl, is maintained, along with valued green spaces and recreational spaces.</p> <p>The policies also set out and seek to retain the rural character and intimate scale of Wymondley Parish we will work with local authorities, landowners and other interested parties to ensure that any new development is appropriately sited and of an appropriate scale, form and style and does not result in an urbanization of the Parish.</p>
<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Resident's Survey</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework/Guidance</li> <li>• NHDC Local Plan Saved Policies</li> <li>• NHDC Emerging Local Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies GB1 – GB3: Green Belt:</b>
<p><b>NPPF:</b> Paragraphs 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 87, 88 &amp; 89</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 3:</i> Settlements within the Green Belt</p> <p><i>Local Plan Saved Policy 5:</i> Excluded Villages</p>	<p>These policies are intended to protect the Parish from inappropriate development and urban sprawl, by protecting the green belt boundaries in perpetuity, in line with the NPPF paragraphs 79 to 89, and saved local policies.</p> <p>We will work positively with stakeholders to ensure that any development proposals impacting on Wymondley Parish comply with Government Green Belt policy; and that primary consideration is given to effective use of brown-field sites (such as disused farm buildings), which are not of high environmental</p>

	value, and which do not erode any green belt, green spaces or green infrastructure.
<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Resident's Survey</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework/Guidance</li> <li>• NHDC Local Plan Saved Policies</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies FR1 – FR5: Flood Risk</b>
<p><i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 17, 93, 94, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 109, 162</p> <p><i>Emerging Local Plan:</i> Policy SP11(b) and paragraphs 4.133, 4.134, 4.135, 4.139</p>	<p>Climate change and the risk of increased flooding is a major concern of the NPPF, and these policies aim to ensure that no development in, or impacting on, the Parish increases the existing flood risk to the Parish, in line with Policy SP11 (b) of the emerging local plan.</p> <p>We will rigorously pursue the need for implementation (and regular maintenance) of satisfactory Flood Prevention Measures in the Parish, particularly in relation to Little Wymondley, which sees regular, and increasingly frequent, flood events, the most recent of which triggered a full report by McCloy Consulting on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council in August 2015. We will continue to work with HCC to develop a SWMP for the Parish. We view this as particularly important, given the absence of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) policy.</p> <p>We will work constructively with local planning authorities, flood authorities, and other stakeholders, to ensure that any development proposals are sustainable and do not exacerbate flood risk; and that development proposals include (and implement) measures to satisfactorily address issues highlighted in SFRAs and SWMPs.</p>
<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey – Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework/Guidance</li> <li>• Flood Alleviation Feasibility Study – McCloy Consulting for Hertfordshire County Council, August 2015</li> <li>• NHDC Emerging Local Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies GIS1 &amp; GIS2: Green Infrastructure and Spaces</b>
<p><i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 17, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78</p> <p><i>Emerging Local Plan:</i> Policy SP10: Healthy Communities: (a) and (f),</p>	<p>We will conserve and, (where possible), enhance our green spaces for their positive impact on the health, quality of life and social cohesion of our current community and future generations, in line with the NPPF and Policy SP10 &amp; SP12 of the emerging local plan.</p> <p>This encompasses existing green belt boundaries, village greens</p>

<p>paragraphs 4.128, 4.129</p> <p>Policy SP12: Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape (a), (b), (c) and paragraphs 4.144, 4.145, 4.146, 4.149</p>	<p>and other green recreational areas within the Parish.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey, Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework/Guidance</li> <li>• NHDC Emerging Local Plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conformity:</b></p>	<p><b>Policies TL1 – TL3: Transport Links:</b></p>
<p><i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 17, 29, 30, 31, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31, 34, 123, 124, 162</p> <p><i>Emerging Plan:</i> Policy SP6: Sustainable Transport (b), (c) Paragraphs 4.64, 4.69, 4.70</p> <p>Policy D3: Protecting living conditions, especially paragraph 9.19</p> <p>Policy D4: Air Quality (a), (b), (c) and Paragraphs 9.24 and 9.25 in particular</p>	<p>These policies seek to support the NPPF guidance on climate change, air quality, pollution, health and well-being, by promoting green transport options and aiming to facilitate them.</p> <p>We will support appropriate initiatives to maintain, extend, improve, promote or facilitate use of, these “green” transport routes; and make recommendations to Hertfordshire Highways, (and local landowners), with the intention of improving footpaths and bridleways to facilitate safe walking, riding and cycling within the Parish and increasing bus usage, and reduce motoring, where possible in line with Policy SP6 of the emerging local plan.</p> <p>All the above would reduce traffic, congestion, and air and noise pollution, thereby benefiting the environment and the health of Parish residents, in line with Policies D3 and D4 of the emerging local plan.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework</li> <li>• Local (Wymondley Parish) Traffic Survey 2015/2016</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conformity:</b></p>	<p><b>Policies TM1 – TM6: Traffic Management.</b></p>
<p><i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 17, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 69, 93, 95, 110, 120, 123, 124, 162, 171</p> <p><i>Emerging Plan:</i> Policy SP6: Sustainable Transport (b), (c) Paragraphs 4.64, 4.69, 4.70</p> <p>Policy SP7: Infrastructure requirements and developer</p>	<p>Traffic volumes, congestion, consequent air pollution, road safety and parking is a major concern in the Parish. Air pollution is a particular concern, as it directly affects the health of residents, and as the Parish is bordered in very close proximity by both the A1(M) and the A602, it is important that this is taken very seriously in the consideration of any development proposals.</p> <p>These Policies also aim to support the need for safety measures to be introduced (in line with Government guidance, specifically the Local Transport Note 01/072), throughout the parish roads (as existing traffic calming measures sometime make road safety</p>

<p>contributions</p> <p>Policy D3: Protecting living conditions, especially paragraph 9.19</p> <p>Policy D4: Air Quality (a), (b), (c) and Paragraphs 9.24 and 9.25 in particular</p>	<p>worse) and particularly at the A1(M) roundabout, to ensure any development proposals do not increase congestion and air pollution from additional traffic, or increase safety concerns/promote dangerous driving, or exacerbate existing residential parking problems.</p> <p>We will study closely any development proposals, in or impacting on the Parish, to ensure that road infrastructure issues have been properly considered and addressed from project concept to implementation, to ensure the safety, health and well-being of the parish residents, in line with Policies D3 and D4 of the emerging local plan.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework</li> <li>• Local (Wymondley Parish) Traffic Survey 2015/2016</li> <li>• NHDC Emerging Local Plan</li> <li>• NHDC Action Plan for Stevenage Road, also see <a href="http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/stevenage_rd_hitchin_action_plan_final_sept2013-2.pdf">http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/stevenage_rd_hitchin_action_plan_final_sept2013-2.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Conformity:</b></p>	<p><b>Policies E1 – E3: Education</b></p>
<p><i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 72, 123, 124</p>	<p>These policies aim to ensure that our children's educational and health and well-being needs are catered for in terms of sufficient school places and Information Technology infrastructure; and that they are not adversely affected by any future development activities, both from local plans and neighbouring authority plans, in terms of school places/placement; reduced air quality and availability of green recreational space</p>
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework/Guidance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conformity:</b></p>	<p><b>Policy TB1: Telecommunications and Broadband</b></p>
<p><i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 17, 42, 43, 44, 162</p>	<p>To meet the growing need for home-working, and increasingly connected living and 'the internet of things', this policy is designed to help us work closely with the Herts LEP, local telecommunications companies and other stakeholders, to highlight the Parish's communications infrastructure requirements and ensure that necessary service improvements are made, to facilitate home-working employment opportunities and to enhance quality of life, in line with the NPPF.</p>

<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework/Guidance</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies SLBE1 – SLBE4: Supporting Local Business and Employment</b>
<i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 28, 69,  <i>Emerging Local Plan:</i> Policy ETC2: Employment development outside Employment areas (a), (b), (c)	<p>These policies continue to support and seek to encourage the economic growth of our local businesses. In line with Policy ETC2 of the emerging local plan, any proposed business development within Wymondley Parish would need to be appropriate in terms of location, scale and type; and in keeping with the intrinsic character and environment of our parish, and not cause detrimental effects on living conditions or increase any existing infrastructure problems, air pollution levels, or flood risk.</p>
<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework</li> <li>• Local (Wymondley Parish) Traffic Survey 2015/2016</li> <li>• NHDC Emerging Local Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies SCW1 &amp; SCW2: Social Cohesion and Well-being</b>
<i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 17, 69, 70, 123, 124,  <i>Emerging Local Plan:</i> Policy SP10: Healthy Communities, (a), (f) and paragraphs 4.119, 4.121	<p>These policies encourage, support and promote initiatives aimed at improving health, well-being and social cohesion within our community; particularly those which make best use of our current amenities, public spaces and recreational facilities.</p>
<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework</li> <li>• NHDC Emerging Local Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity:</b>	<b>Policies HOD1 – HOD6: Housing and Other Development</b>
<i>NPPF:</i> Paragraphs 47, 49, 50, 51, 58, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 87, 88 & 89  <i>Local Plan Saved Policy 5:</i> Excluded Villages  <i>Local Plan Saved Policy 3:</i>	<p>These policies work to ensure that any development proposed is consistent with meeting the needs of the parish.</p> <p>In considering housing proposals, parish demographic trends and needs in terms of affordability, type, tenure and range will have most weight, with all proposals including housing, design and location which enhances the character and context of the village, green infrastructure, parking provision, sustainable transport, infrastructure implications and traffic, air pollution and flood risk</p>

Settlements within the Green Belt	also being major considerations for long-term sustainability.
<b>Evidence Base:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wymondley Parish Residents Survey Summer 2015</li> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework</li> <li>• Local Plan Saved Policies</li> </ul>

In addition to National Planning Policy Framework, the production of the Plan has also had regard to national guidance; principally that contained within the NPPG, which gives clear explanation of how the statutory requirements of the process should be observed. In particular (but not exclusively) the production of the Plan has been informed by the following paragraphs within the section entitled ‘Neighbourhood Planning’: 014 and 015 relating to the role of Parish Councils and the need for transparency; and 047 to 051 relating to conducting consultation.

### **Assessing whether the plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development**

The preceding section has demonstrated that the Plan is in conformity with both the NPPF and the adopted Local Plan in every respect. The policies of the former have the achievement of sustainable development at their core with the policies of the latter having been supported by an albeit dated level of sustainability evidence at the point of adoption.

In addition, no strategic discrepancies have been identified between the draft Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging Local Plan, the latter strategy itself having been subject to an ongoing sustainability assessment process. To this end the Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with close attention to policies that inherently set the framework for sustainable development and with close attention to the needs of the residents of the Parish. What the Plan has done is build upon a base of both existing policies and evidence and has provided policies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in the context of Wymondley Parish.

### **Assessing the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment**

It was identified that the scope of the Wymondley Parish Neighbourhood Plan would not give rise to any significant environmental effects.

### **Compatibility with EU obligations**

Consideration has been given as to whether the plan should be the subject of either a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required by the Environmental Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (EAPP), or Appropriate Assessment, as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012.

The Plan has also been subject extensive consultation that has involved all sections of the community. To this end sufficient work has been undertaken to ensure that it complies with the Equality Act 2010 and fails to discriminate against any grouping of people with a protected characteristic.

To complement the analysis of the Plan’s sustainability that has taken place elsewhere, the table below takes a higher-level approach to the demonstration of how the Plan achieves sustainable development. It firstly identifies the core dimensions of delivering sustainability as defined by paragraph 7 of the NPPF, provides a summary of how Wymondley’s Neighbourhood Plan has sought to define the key sustainability issues in the Parish under each heading through the development of their objectives and then shows how the policies contribute towards overcoming these issues.

To this end, the way that both policies respond to the economic needs of the parish is proportionate to its role in the overall hierarchy of the District – effectively promoting economic uses of a scale and format suited to its rural location. In addition, the ability for initiatives such as home working and the delivery of a fuller and more diverse, rural economy, centred in and around the Parish helps to support notions around the reduction of carbon emissions and sustainable travel to work patterns.

#### **NPPF sustainability objective and synopsis**

##### Social sustainability

Support a strong, vibrant and healthy community, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

##### **Related Plan objectives**

- To encourage mixed and integrated housing growth that encompasses the needs of all ages and social strata with an emphasis on young families, elderly downsizers and affordable homes;
- To ensure that Wymondley Parish remains a safe place to live (including pedestrian, equestrian, cyclist and motorist safety, and an area largely free of crime), adequately served by public transport, and with an emphasis on encouraging walking and cycling in and around the villages and parish;
- To sustain and enhance community facilities for the benefit of all residents and the wider local community (including those with a disability); and
- To support the rural economy by increasing the opportunity for home working, improving visitor facilities for the enjoyment of Wymondley's countryside and rich heritage, and encouraging alternative business use for redundant farm buildings.

##### **Relevant Plan policies**

HOD1 – HOD4 – HOD5 – SLBE1 – SLBE2 – SLBE3 – TL1 – TL2 – TL3 – TM1 – TM2 – TM3 – TM4 – TM5

##### **Commentary**

Unsurprisingly for a Plan driven by the community's desires, there is a heavy focus on achieving a greater level of social sustainability in the Parish, albeit without the strategy being to the detriment of either the economy or the environment.

Each of the policies identified in the box above essentially seek to ensure that the people of the Parish, and indeed the surrounding Parishes, enjoy a full and sustainable life with Wymondley village, and secure its constituent facilities and amenities, at its heart.

#### **NPPF sustainability objective and synopsis**

##### Environmental sustainability

Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

##### **Related Plan objectives**

- To encourage sensitive and innovative development in accordance with the existing character of the villages within the Parish, including its greenery, wildlife habitats, its built and archaeological heritage and connectivity to the countryside;
- To prevent urban sprawl and urbanisation and maintain Wymondley Parish as a distinctive and separate place from both the neighbouring towns of Stevenage and Hitchin, by preserving the existing green belt allocation that has been in place now, for more than 20 years;
- To ensure that Wymondley Parish remains a safe place to live (including pedestrian, equestrian, cyclist and motorist safety and an area that is free from crime or the fear of crime), adequately

- served by public transport, and with an emphasis on encouraging walking and cycling in and around the villages and the whole parish;
- To ensure conservation and enhancement of the local landscape and biodiversity of the Parish of Wymondley;
  - To ensure conservation and enhancement of Wymondley's rich heritage;
  - To protect important green and open spaces within Wymondley Village and Wymondley Parish.

#### **Relevant Plan policies**

NHE1 – NHE2 – NHE3 – NHE4 – NHE5 – NHE6 – NHE7 – NHE8 – NHE9 – NHE10 – NHE11 – NHE12 – NHE 13

NHE14 – NHE15 – NHE16 – GB1 – GB2 – GB3 – FR1 – FR2 – FR3 – FR4 – FR5 – GIS1 – GIS2 – TL1 – TL2 – TM2

TM3 – TM5 – TB1

#### **Commentary**

Upon reading the Plan it is clear that the overriding central theme is one of preserving and wherever possible enhancing the rural character of the villages within the Parish, and the existing strong community spirit, of Wymondley Parish. This is clear in the attention paid to the conservation of wildlife, habitats, landscape, heritage assets and the general character of the village.

The health of local residents is at the heart of many of the plan's environmental policies, as well as the required stewardship of the countryside.

#### **Compatibility with EU obligations**

Consideration has been given as to whether the plan should be the subject of either a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required by the Environmental Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (EAPP), or Appropriate Assessment, as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012.

ANNEX.

**Appendix 1 – The Neighbourhood Area (MAP)**

**Appendix 2 – SEA Determination, as issued by NHDC**