

Thurcaston and Cropston NDP Review.

PC Meeting 11 March 2024.

Progress update.

When the Parish Council decided to formally review the Neighbourhood Plan, it re-established the Steering Group that had helped guide the Made Neighbourhood Plan through a successful examination and referendum, and this group has been meeting regularly throughout.

The Review Neighbourhood Plan has now been drafted and is ready to be presented to the community at an open event to be held on 22 March 2024.

The evidence base for the updated Neighbourhood Plan includes a housing needs assessment based on the 2021 Census data and a comprehensive design guide and codes which will help to ensure that development in the Parish is of a high standard and is in keeping with the character of the area.

The Limits to Development, the boundary within which development will be supported subject to Neighbourhood Plan policies, has been updated to reflect the situation relating to the Charnwood Local Plan.

A policy on Affordable Housing has been introduced with a strengthened evidence base to help make sure that any affordable housing development locally is prioritised for Parish residents.

The Review Neighbourhood Plan makes no residential allocation and the key environmental policy relating to Local Green Space protection remains as before, with a strengthened evidence base.

Other environmental policies have been updated to reflect changing circumstances since the current Neighbourhood Plan was made, including extending the zones of separation to include a buffer between Rothley and Cropston.

Other new policies include non-designated heritage assets, where important local buildings are identified to receive protection through the planning system, the protection of important views, a policy on flood risk resilience and one on renewable energy, adding local detail to Borough Council strategic policies.

The section on sustainability has updated the evidence base in relation to businesses and community facilities, whilst other new policies help to safeguard existing business sites and promote suitable new ones, encourage farm diversification with conditions to ensure there is no harm to the community in doing so, promote school expansion or re-siting and highlights tourism activity, which is supported subject to certain criteria being met.

After the Open Event, the Review document will be finalised and sent to CBC for a Screening process for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. After this, formal Regulation 14 Consultation will be undertaken for a statutory 6-week period, and once all comments have been received and the Plan amended as necessary, it will be submitted to CBC for further consultation and examination.

The Examiner will decide whether or not it is necessary for a referendum to be held. If not, the Plan can be Made by CBC immediately after Examination.