

Gilmorton Parish Council

Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Gilmorton 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 Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 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 Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters;

- Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation; and
 - Section 7 provides an Equalities Impact Assessment of the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4 The Gilmorton 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 Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Gilmorton Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Gilmorton (excluding the Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground area) which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 22 March 2016. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, Harborough District Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Gilmorton Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The statutory six-week consultation period ended on 7 March 2016. No representations were received to the consultation.
- 1.7 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Gilmorton and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2018 to 2031. This is to align with the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011- 2031.
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Gilmorton: Location

- 1.11 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Development Plan Area comprises the Parish of Gilmorton (excluding the Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground Area) which amounts to 1,000 hectares. Gilmorton village is approximately 3 miles north east of Lutterworth, in Leicestershire. The village is mainly linear in form, running for over 1km and is situated in a gently undulating landscape
- 1.12 Originally an agricultural settlement and whilst agricultural links remain, Gilmorton is increasingly becoming a commuter village. This has led to a decline in the provision of local services and the loss of a bus service.

However, Gilmorton has retained its primary school, village store, a number of eating and drinking establishments, village hall and sports and recreation facilities.

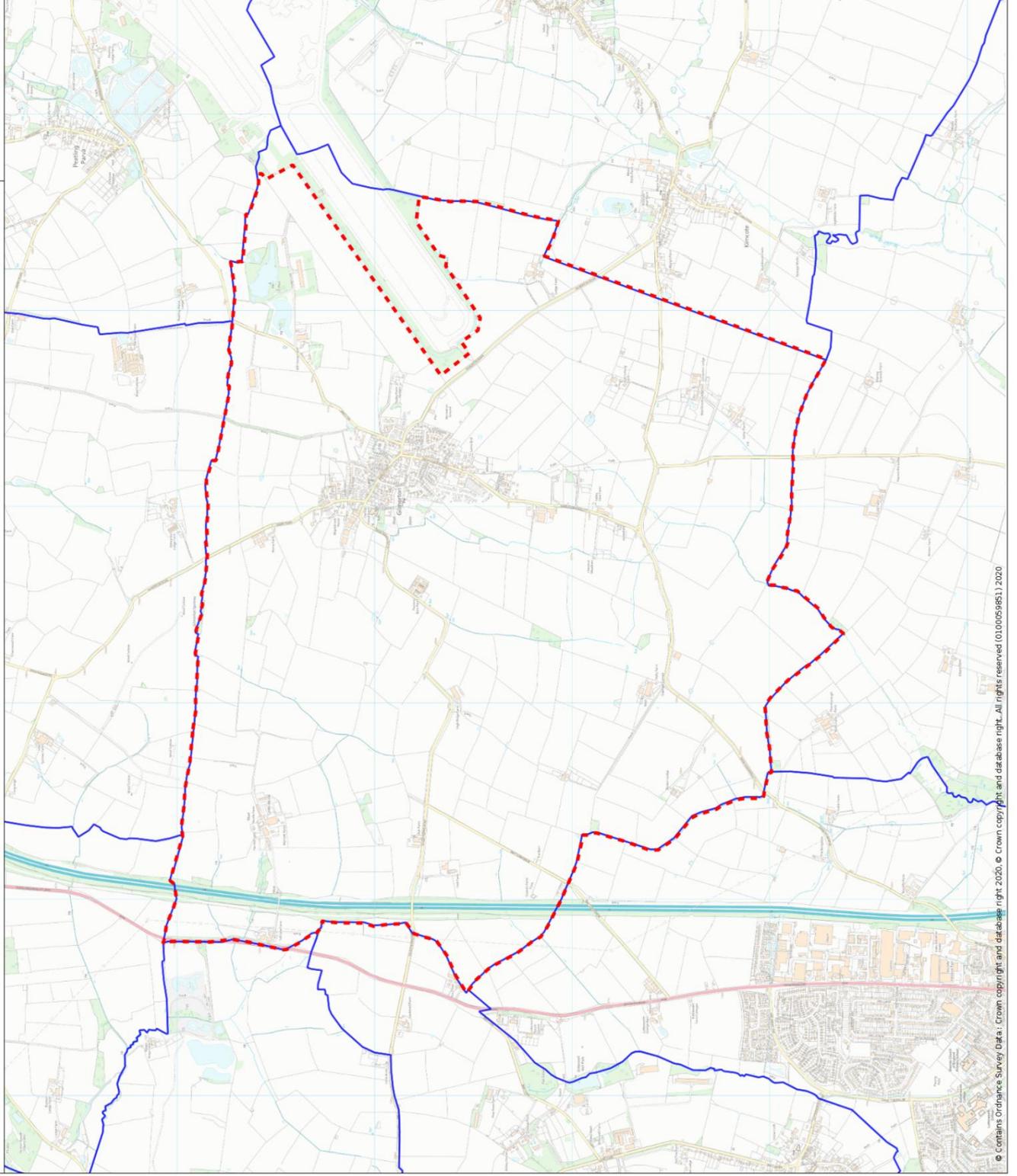
Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.13 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Gilmorton Parish Council, supported by the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Development Planning Group, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. 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.

Author: 09/04/2020
Date:

Neighbourhood Plan Area

Parish



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

- 2.1 It is required that the Gilmorton 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. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 February 2019 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Gilmorton 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 Gilmorton 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 Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment;
 - Design: process and tools;
 - Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Housing for Older and Disabled People;
 - Housing Needs of Different Groups;

- Transport evidence bases in plan making and decision taking

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

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>G1: Countryside - Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, landscape, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. States that development will be controlled in accordance with Policies SS1 and GD3 of the Harborough Local Plan.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 78 79, 83, 84, 91, 92 151, 170</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</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>G2: Gilmorton Area of Separation – Protects the defined Area of Separation. New development or buildings which would adversely affect its open character, or character and setting of Gilmorton village will not be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 125 130, 170,</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area.</p>
<p>G3: Locally Important Views – Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape. Development should safeguard, and where possible, enhance several identified views and vistas.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 170, 185</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>G4: Public Rights of Way Network – Development should protect the Rights of Way and wherever possible create new links to the footpath and cycleways network. The extension of the existing network to re-create a ‘Gilmorton Round’ across open fields is encourage.</p>	<p>Paragraph 98</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>This policy supports the protection and enhancement of public rights of way, as well as cycleways and supports opportunities to provide better facilities for users.</p>

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>G5: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features for biodiversity gain. All new buildings should incorporate measures to enhance biodiversity.</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: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>G6: 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>Paragraphs 84, 91, 92</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<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>

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
G7: Rural Economy – Supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses and enterprises through the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings, in accordance with Policy GD3 of the Harborough Local Plan.	83, 84, 127	Not applicable.	This policy supports sustainable economic rural development in accordance that is of a high-quality design. It supports a prosperous rural economy and mirrors the approach contained within the NPPF.
G8: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within Gilmorton which will be protected. New development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space will not normally be supported other than in very special circumstances	Paragraphs 99-101	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</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 as demonstrated by Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 2: Local Green Spaces: Summary of Reasons for Designation. The full reasons for designation are included in the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base.

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>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)</p> <p>What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306)</p> <p>How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves? (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306)</p> <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>	

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<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>G9: 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. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of Features of Local Heritage Assets. All</p>	<p>Paragraphs 185, 189, 197</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</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 considered. Also seeks to protect areas of high archaeological potential.</p>

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>applications within the historic settlement core of Gilmorton and Cotes de Val, should be accompanied by an appropriate desk-based archaeological assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.</p>		<p>What are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and how important are they? (Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20190723)</p>	
<p>G10: Infill – This policy supports housing development within the defined Gilmorton Limits to Development, subject to suitable design, protection of important features, amenity issues and the provision of a safe and suitable access for all. Outside of this boundary development will be limited to the re-use and adaptation of redundant rural buildings, isolated dwellings of innovative design and replacement dwellings.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 68, 77, 78, 79, 108, 117, 127, 180</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How can the need for isolated homes in the countryside for essential rural workers be assessed? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 67-010-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that respects the character of its setting and residential amenity. 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 unless special circumstances apply.</p>
<p>G11: Construction Method Statements – This policy requires the preparation of a</p>	<p>Paragraph 180</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework identifies planning as a mechanism in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people</p>

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
Construction Statement prior to the commencement of non-minor development.		What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)	live their lives. This policy seeks to minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life that may arise from new development.
G12: Housing Mix – Seeks a mix of housing types responsive to local housing needs including the needs of older households and the need for smaller homes.	Paragraphs 61, 77	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</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.
G13: Affordable Housing – On windfall housing developments of 10 dwellings or more, the	Paragraphs 61, 77	How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)	This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable

Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>minimum affordable housing provision is 40%. Policy seeks to ensure priority will be given to people with a local connection to Gilmorton Parish.</p>			<p>housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>
<p>G14: Transport – New development will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that identified traffic conditions will not be made worse. Development should also give consideration to reduce opportunities to reduce speeding traffic through the village.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 102, 108, 110</p>	<p>Why establish a transport evidence base for Local Plans? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 54-001-20141010)</p> <p>What key issues should be considered in developing the transport evidence base to support the Local Plan? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 54-003-20141010)</p>	<p>Supports the management of traffic issues, seeks to address the impacts of development on the village and reduce conflict between pedestrian and vehicles.</p>
<p>G15: Car Parking and New Housing Development – Identifies the level of parking provision to be provided.</p>	<p>Paragraph 105</p>	<p>What baseline information should inform a transport assessment of a Local Plan? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 54-005-20141010)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to set parking standards taking into account local circumstances such as existing car parking problems that is in part influenced by levels of car ownership, and the type of development that is proposed and the lack of public transport.</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 Gilmorton 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 wellbeing; 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 Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Gilmorton 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, including the needs of older households and the need for smaller homes. Priority will be given to those with a local connection to Gilmorton Parish when affordable housing is allocated.
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support the growth and expansion of local business and employment, including the protection of community services and facilities, supporting the viability of the community.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	An ambition of the plan is to protect the viability of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside, Rights of Way, local green spaces and provision of community facilities providing opportunities for people to meet and protect quality of life.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports infill housing development within the defined Gilmorton Limits to Development with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth and the provision of rural worker accommodation.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the defined Gilmorton Limits to Development and the re-use and adaptation of buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside and the setting of Gilmorton Village.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Safeguards Rights of Way and seeks the creation of new footpath links. Supports the conversion and re-use and adaptation of existing buildings. As there are well-established national and local policies that manage development and flood risk, there is no need for the Neighbourhood Plan to duplicate them.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, 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 is the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019).
- 4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019).

Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031

- 4.3 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Harborough Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy SS1: The Spatial Strategy

Policy GD2: Settlement Development

Policy GD3: Development in the Countryside

Policy GD4: New Housing in the Countryside

Policy GD5: Landscape Character

Policy GD6: Areas of Separation

Policy GD8: Good Design in Development

Policy H5: Housing density, mix and standards

Policy BE1: Provision of New Business Development

Policy HC1: Built Heritage

Policy HC2: Community Facilities

Policy G12: Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Policy G14: Local Green Space

Policy G15: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy IN2: Sustainable Transport

Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Local 2011-2031:	Explanation of Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan
G1: Countryside	Policy SS1, Policy GD3	Seeks the protection of open countryside and protects it from unacceptable development. Development will only be allowed that is in accordance with the relevant policies of the Harborough Local Plan.
G2: Gilmorton Area of Separation	Policy GD6	Seeks to ensure that development does not harmfully reduce the separation between developments, in this case, between Gilmorton and the proposal for a Strategic Development Area on land to the east of Lutterworth. The Harborough Local Plan recognises that 'Areas of Separation' may be proposed in Neighbourhood Plans.
G3: Locally Important Views	Policy GD5	Seeks to protect the local landscape and safeguard important public views, through appropriately designed development.
G4: Public Rights of Way	Policy G12	Seeks to protect the Rights of Way and deliver the provision of new footpath links and cycleways.
G5: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy G15	Protects locally designated ecological sites and requires new development to contribute towards the protection and improvements in biodiversity.
G6: Community Services and Facilities	Policy SS1, Policy HC2	Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in Gilmorton. Seeks the retention of existing community facilities where they remain viable and appropriate alternatives do not exist. The Neighbourhood Plan

Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Local 2011-2031:	Explanation of Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan
		identifies the facilities to be safeguarded.
G7: Rural Economy	Policy GD3, Policy BE1	Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy, including through the re-use of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings.
G8: Local Green Spaces	Policy G14	The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Local Green Spaces that meet the relevant national criteria. Protects and preserves high quality green spaces with benefits for the local community. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded.
G9: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Policy HC1	Supports the conservation and enhancement of the parish's heritage assets. Development will have regard to the scale of any harm and to the significance of the non-designated asset.
G10: Infill	Policy GD2, Policy GD4, Policy GD8	<p>Supports housing development with the defined Limits of Development of Gilmorton. Allows for appropriate development outside of these defined boundaries including the conversion of redundant buildings, rural working housing, homes of exceptional quality and replacement dwellings.</p> <p>Supports development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of Gilmorton. Protects the amenities of residents. Seeks to ensure safe</p>

Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Local 2011-2031:	Explanation of Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan
		access and safe and efficient movement of highway users.
G11: Construction Method Statements	Not applicable	Not applicable
G12: Housing Mix	Policy SS1, Policy H5, Policy GD8	Provides for a mix of housing types informed by up to date evidence of housing need.
G13: Affordable Housing	Policy SS1	Provides for housing that meets the needs of Gilmorton.
G14: Transport	Policy GD8, Policy IN2	Seeks to ensure the safe, efficient and convenient movement of all highway users
G15: Car Parking and New Development	Policy IN2	Seeks to provide suitable levels of car parking taking into account local circumstances.

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 Report for the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan (May 2018) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Gilmorton 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 Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the Gilmorton 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 The outcome of this assessment concludes that whilst environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the neighbourhood plan, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant effects arising from the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan, that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Harborough Local Plan. Therefore, it is considered that the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.

- 5.4 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:
- Historic England – Historic England will confine its advice to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant impact on the environment?', in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. We have identified no significant effects to cultural heritage based on the information provided in the current draft Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Natural England – Welcome the production of the SEA Screening Report. Concur with the screening outcome that no SEA is required.
 - Environment Agency – Whilst the Environment Agency is satisfied that a full a full SEA is not required we do note that there is a SSSI located approximately 2.9km to the South West of the centre of the settlement of Gilmorton. In this instance, therefore, we advise that the views of Natural England are sought as to whether a full SEA is needed.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.5 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. A full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken as part of the Harborough Core Strategy process in 2011 and an updated Habitat Regulation Assessment has been undertaken as part of the Harborough Local Plan preparation. The report concludes that the Harborough Core Strategy and subsequently the Local Plan, alone or in conjunction with other plans, are unlikely to have an adverse impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites within approximately 25kms of the boundary of the district.
- 5.6 Of the 3 Natura 2000 sites looked at in the Screening Report, Ensors Pool SAC is approximately 20km from the Neighbourhood Development Area of Gilmorton. The assessment concludes that its vulnerabilities are very local in nature and unlikely to be caused harm by the Harborough Core Strategy. The conclusion can be considered applicable to the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Development Plan. The River Mease SAC and the Rutland Water SPA were also considered. They lie approximately 35km and 50km respectively from Gilmorton. The Screening Report concluded that the Harborough Core Strategy would not lead to significant adverse effects on either area. The River Mease SAC is separate to any water course in the district and does not contribute to the water supply or drainage of the district. Any effects on the Rutland Water SPA would be indirect and relate to only a

greater number of visitors being attracted to the site from additional development in the District. These conclusions can also be considered applicable to the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan.

- 5.7 It is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will not affect the 3 specified Natura 2000 sites over and above the impacts identified in the Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report. Therefore, it is concluded that a full Appropriate Assessment is not deemed to be required.
- 5.8 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 Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
 - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Harborough Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment.

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

Appendix 1: Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan – 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 Gilmorton Parish 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 Gilmorton 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 976 people living in Gilmorton Parish, 50.9% were Male and 49.1% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

22.2% of the population was 0-15 years old and 17.3% 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%.

75.7% of the population was Christian and 0.5% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh. 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.

5.3% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 8.4% 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).

72.2% 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, as is the proportion of 0-15 year olds.

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 Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Gilmorton that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address;

Maintaining the rural character of the area

Supporting an accessible countryside

Improving or retaining local services and facilities

Preventing Gilmorton from becoming a dormitory village

Protecting green areas in Gilmorton

Conserving local heritage

Housing needs

Transport issues especially parking problems traffic speed and congestion

These issues are reflected in the Vision for the Gilmorton Parish Neighbourhood Plan;



The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 15 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy G12 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households and the need for smaller homes.

Policy G8 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. Policies G4 seeks the protection of Rights of Way and create new links to the network including footpaths and cycleways.

Policy G6 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Gilmorton. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population and no public transport services, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the parish services include a primary school, village store and post office, playing fields provision and allotments. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy G12) 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 G12 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy G4 seeks the creation of footpath links. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Policy G10 requires all new development to have a safe and suitable access and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy G10 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 G6). 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

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities and their potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision (Policy G6), 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 G10 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.

Conclusion

The Gilmorton 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 racial or 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. There is also the potential 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 Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.