

Consultation Statement

Fernwood Neighbourhood Development Plan

14-Dec-16

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1 What is the Consultation Statement?

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement is a statutory document that has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out that a Consultation Statement should contain:
- Details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
 - Explain how they were consulted;
 - A summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.2 This statement provides an overview and description of the consultation period on the Fernwood Pre Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan that ran from the 23rd June 2016 until 5pm on the 12th August 2016.
- 1.3 At a meeting of Steering Group on 20th of September it was agreed that a follow-up email should be sent to try to obtain comments from the adjoining parish councils and one of the statutory consultees who have not yet responded. All comments were received by the end of September 2016.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 Several methods were adopted to ensure that all relevant bodies and parties were able to inform the development of the neighbourhood plan and have a say during the 6 week Regulation 14 consultation period. This ensured that local residents and statutory consultees were made aware of the consultation period and were provided with the opportunity to provide their views and comments.
- 2.2 Consultations were undertaken with a range of community groups from Tawny Owl to the businesses on Fernwood Business Park. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) was formed out of an active Residents Association and Maintenance Group in addition to Parish councillors.
- 2.3 Public meetings specifically to allow discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan have been held at the beginning, to discuss draft policies and at the Regulation 14 stage. The NPSG have used other community events like the Fernwood fete and a youth consultation on play equipment to seek the views and involvement of a wide range of residents.
- 2.4 A leaflet drop was delivered to all households encouraging people to comment on the pre submission neighbourhood plan.
- 2.5 A neighbourhood plan facebook page were set up early on, both of which have been well used to promote the Plan.

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- 2.6 A questionnaire was put on the web site and paper copies were made available to seek comments at regulation 14.
- 2.7 The Steering Group have undertaken a number of consultation exercises and activities throughout the Plan process. **Table 1** sets out chronologically the consultation events and public meetings that have led to the production of the Fernwood Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1

Date	Activity
Jun 14	Initial meeting with parish council and interested local residents Website activated FNP communicated to Fernwood Residents via Residents Facebook Page
October 14	Public meeting with interested residents, parish council and planning consultant
Jun 15	NPSG commissioned Urban designer Garry Hall from Urban Forward Ltd. BFL 12 to undertake Independent Assessment completed
July 15	Consultation meeting with Lancaster Grange Care Home and representatives from Chuter Ede School Fernwood
July 15	Build for Life Assessment of Fernwood undertaken by parish councillor and resident – poor score
Sep 15	Consultation meeting with Balderton Hall and James Derry Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Completed
Oct 15	Consultation meeting with Fernwood Nursery, Tawny Owl, businesses on the Fernwood Business park
Oct 15	Initial discussions with regard to traffic issues and possible solutions put forward by residents
Mar 16	Presentation to Fernwood Residents Association on draft policies
Mar 16	Consultation event at Fernwood Village Hall (see full report on neighbourhood plan web site)
Mar 16	Consultation responses from Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England –
May 16	Meeting with NSDC Matthew Norton and NPSG to discuss draft plan policies and objectives
Jun 16	Fernwood Residents Association AGM presentation by NPSG explaining forth coming Reg 14 consultation period
Regulation 14 Consultation	
Jul 16	Consultation Event Advertising Leaflet drop to all Fernwood Residents promoting various ways people could comment – on web site, on paper questionnaire, at Fernwood fete.
Jul 16	Questionnaire on web site

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	Paper copy of questionnaires available from Fernwood PC office true?
Jul 16	Consultation event as part of Fernwood Fete - people were encouraged to fill in the questionnaire and steering group discussed Plan with 30+ people over the day.
Aug 16	Public consultation event meeting at Fernwood Village Hall 9 people attended
Stat consultees See table 1 for summary	Response from Severn Trent Water, Anglian water, National Grid, Notts County Council, Natural England, NSDC, Historic England, Natural England, Westborough and Dry Doddington, Balderton Parish Councils.

Website information

2.13 Preceding the commencement of the Regulation 14 consultation period the Fernwood Neighbourhood Development Plan (NP) website was updated explaining the Draft Plan and the consultation period. A downloadable version of the Plan itself was also uploaded to the website along with background evidence including the BFL12 Fernwood Assessment, as well as information from various consultation events. A questionnaire was also available on the web site for people to complete.

2.14 Important contact details and various methods on how to comment on the Draft Plan were detailed on the website to encourage as many responses as possible. The Neighbourhood Plan website is accessible on the link below.

<https://hugofox.com/commmunity/fernwood-neighbourhood-plan-7892/about-us>

2.15 A link to all the documents was also placed on Newark and Sherwood District Council's website. The link to the Fernwood Neighbourhood Plan on NSDC website is as below.

<http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planningpolicy/neighbourhoodplanning/>

2.16 On the 23rd June 2016 an email was sent to contacts from a database informing them of the commencement of the consultation period. These contacts involved numerous bodies and individuals that the Parish Council believe will be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan for the area, such as: neighbouring parish councils, key bodies such as English Heritage and the Environment Agency and also local business owners and land owners as well as those people who have expressed an interest in being informed on the progression of the Plan. The statutory consultee list of addresses and contacts was kindly provided by Newark and Sherwood District Council. A list of those contacted can be seen in **Appendix A** of this document, minus interested individuals and landowners/businesses whose details need to remain confidential due to data protection.

2.17 The email sent on the 15th June informed recipients of the Neighbourhood Plan website and highlighted several methods available to submit comments on the Draft Plan. The contents of the email sent can be seen in **Appendix C** of this document.

Documents

- 2.18 In addition to the digital copies of documents found on the Neighbourhood Plan website, hard copies of the Pre-Submission Draft Plan and key supporting documents were also available to view at Fernwood Parish Council offices throughout the consultation period.

3 Regulation 14 Consultation Responses

- 3.1 This section of the Consultation Statement contains the responses and comments received on the Fernwood Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Development Plan throughout the Consultation period running from the 23rd June until the 12th August 2016, from those interested bodies/parties who were contacted.
- 3.2 Table 1 contains a summary of the responses and comments received on the draft NP throughout the Regulation 14 consultation period from and other consulted bodies and statutory consultees, if it resulted in an amendment and how the NP was changed.

Summary of Residents Comments

- 3.3 Table 1 provides a summary of resident's comments from the web site questionnaire. The questionnaire asked if people agreed with each neighbourhood plan policy. 29 people made online comments in addition to the 39 that attended the Fete and the public meeting in July and August.
- 3.4 The full comments can be seen on the Neighbourhood Plan website. (Whilst the comments have been transcribed with care it is not claimed that they are 100% accurate. They have been transcribed as written).
- 3.5 Point of clarification – a map and photos entitled 'parking problems and proposed solutions' was an appendix to the Pre Submission Plan. It was intended to form the basis of future consultation and investigative work involving the local community, Notts County and NSDC. It was not intended to be the focus for the neighbourhood plan.
- 3.6 However, this project and the associated map attracted the most comments. Whilst many of the comments agreed that parking was a problem most people objected to the proposed solutions. Even though this was only intended to be the starting point for much more discussion (and this was explained in public meetings and door step conversations), it was felt that the map was a distraction from the main focus of the Plan and has been removed although the project to seek solutions to the acknowledged parking problems in Fernwood central is still listed as a community project.
- 3.7 The written comments fell into 3 main categories:
- a) Those which were planning issues and relevant to the Plan;
 - b) Those which were planning issues which were about strategic district policy and outside the scope of the Plan;
 - c) Those which were non-planning issues and, therefore, not relevant to the Plan.

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- 3.8 Some of the issues raised under a) and b) above have been followed-up by the Parish Council separately from the Plan.

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Table 2: Resident's support for the Neighbourhood Plan policies

Support for Policies	% support
NP1	90
NP2	87
NP3	83
NP4	100
NP5	97
NP6	97
NP7	94
NP8	94

Table 3: Summary of Residents Comments

Key Issues Raised	Comments	Amendments Proposed Y/N
Car parking	<p>11 comments 9 included specific comments on the map that was in the appendix of the pre-submission version that identified areas where there were parking problems and suggested some possible solutions. This appendix was removed (see para 3.5) based on the response.</p> <p>The mixed response this received showed the diversity of opinion on what was the cause of the problem – some people thought people should not be lazy and should use parking courts even if not near their house.</p> <p>Mixed views on whether more parking was needed around the village shops etc. Indicates significant consultation work required by the parish council before solutions can be found.</p> <p>Several comments reflected concern about on street parking and problem this created for wheelchair users and</p>	Y map showing parking problem areas and possible solutions that was in the appendix has been removed – more consultation with community required separate from NP process.

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	pushchairs; supported idea that new design needed to look at parking issues to reduce need for people to park on the road;	
Scale of house building proposed	Considered too much and too damaging of environment	N - The FNP cannot affect the scale of development proposed as this is a NSDC strategic policy
Safer more direct wat to shops needed	Recognised that the route to the shops was not direct or safe	
General	Several expressed support for the plan and said they were impressed with it	N
House design	Do not want to see uniform design or 3 storey houses	N – design policy supports varied approach w
Improving facilities	Would like to see support for more facilities i.e. doctor's surgery, retail park, secondary school to support planned growth	N – NP does not allocate sites beyond those already proposed as part of district policy
Access	New development will require new access from Great North Road	N – this relates to the district growth policy although it is understood that there will be a separate access for the development to the south

Table 4: Summary of Regulation 14 Consultation Responses

Respondent	Section of the Plan	Comments	Amendments Proposed Y/N	Amendments Made
Newark and Sherwood DC				
1	Section 3 How does the Plan work with the Planning system?	Need to refer to the Allocations and Management DPD and the on-going review of the Plan	Y	Refer made to DPD and review

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Respondent	Section of the Plan	Comments	Amendments Proposed Y/N	Amendments Made
2	Section 5 Fernwood in Context	Meadows LWS not SINC	Y	As advised
3	Section 14 Car Parking.	Need to reference NPPF ; development needs to balance viability, parking should not be starting point for design	Y	Parking led design was not the intention; NP3 amended to include ref to NPPF criteria land need for proposals to demonstrate how parking solutions are integral to a well-designed scheme ,
NCC Highways				
1	Appendix C	Appendix C was a map showing suggested parking solutions to be further discussed by PC, NSDC and NCC. Caused confusion as intended as starting point for work not end point	Y	Appendix C and all ref removed, general ref to need to seek solutions to parking problems remain
2	Instead of ref to Space to Park use ref to NCC research	Space to park based on more recent case studies NCC research based on 2001 census data but principle of considering location, car ownership etc in calculation parking standards established	Y	Ref to NCC research added
3	BFL12 assessment suggests on street parking should be considered – this is contrary to highway policy	Not all on street parking is a problem as demonstrated in the BFL12 guidance. The evidence of parking problems in Fernwood has shown that where it is detrimental to safe movement of cars and pedestrians it is a consequence of previous parking standards, street	N	BFL12 only indicates that on street parking should be considered; its suitability will depend on the street hierarchy and an assessment of its impact on pedestrian and vehicular movement and in accordance with other BFL12 requirements.

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Respondent	Section of the Plan	Comments	Amendments Proposed Y/N	Amendments Made
		layouts and the location of residential parking areas.		
4	Section 17 movement and connections	Ref to existing cycle network	Y	Text amended to reflect cycle route does existing but is not well used as it is a shared pedestrian cycle route and there are limited destination points outside the immediate built up area. Project on extending cycle route added in appendix B
5	Section 17 movement and connections	Use of shared surfaces contentious – NCC consider it expensive and unsafe	Y	Reference made to shared surfaces only consider on streets that are very quiet where speeds are particularly low by design. Cost of any proposals would need to be tested for viability. Para 158 added
6	Section 17 movement and connections	Use of seating and trees on highway not supported due to maintenance cost	Y	Text includes ref to need to ensure ownership and maintenance plan in place para 158 added
NCC Minerals				
	General	Need ref to Bantymock Quarry and Policy MP7 and DM13	Y	Para 37 and 38 added to include ref to Bantymock Quarry and NCC policy on gypsum extraction in this location.
NCC Public Health				
	General	Need to emphasise NPPF requirement to promote healthy communities and link to NCC documents that make reinforce the link between planning and health.	Y	Paras 157-159 added - to ref NCC's initiatives and the growing acceptance of the role spatial planning plays in improving health outcomes.

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Respondent	Section of the Plan	Comments	Amendments Proposed Y/N	Amendments Made
NCC policy				
	Objective 1	Consider addition wording to strengthen policy	Y	No amendment made to community objective but additional wording added see paragraph 12.
	Section 5 Landscape Character references in also section 15 text supporting NP5	Make ref to actions for landscape character policy zones	Y	Amended - paras 141 and 142 added
Historic England				
	General	Liaise with NSDC Conservation officer	N	Liaison already undertaken no amendment required
Natural England				
	General	Supportive of approach in the NP particularly policies 5 and 7 that promote a non-vehicular network the policy to improve green infrastructure. No specific points to make	N	
National Grid				
	General	Advised on location of Gas Distribution pipeline 1196 Eagle to Balderton and contact point for proposals that would affect national grid assets (none proposed outside	N	

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Respondent	Section of the Plan	Comments	Amendments Proposed Y/N	Amendments Made
		of the development in district policies)		
Severn Trent Water				
	General	No specific comments to make	N	
Environment Agency				
	General and NP 5	It is noted that the Plan works in conformity with the strategic site allocation for the Land around Fernwood which the EA would have reviewed as part of the consultation process for the adopted core strategy and associated SA.	N	
Parish Councils				
Westborough and Dry Doddington	General	No specific comments to make		
Balderton	General	No specific comments to make		

