

# **REARSBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

## CONSULTATION STATEMENT (December 2020)

### **Introduction**

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, Section 15(2).

It has been understood from the start of this process that Part 5 of the Regulations requires a Consultation Statement to:

### **Commencement of the Neighbourhood Plan:**

The key stimulus behind the creation of this Plan was community concern over speculative planning proposals for the parish, without a coherent local framework in place for how any future development could support community priorities.

Village residents approached the Parish Council with a proposal and an indicative timetable for how the village community could develop a Neighbourhood Plan to provide that framework.

On the understanding that such a Plan would require significant consultation with, and support from local people, the Parish Council agreed to endorse the proposal on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 application to declare the Parish a designated area was submitted to Charnwood Borough Council (CBC).

The Parish Council initially established a NP Sub-Group (NPSG) to oversee the commencement of work on the Plan, with the view that all formal decisions should be brought to the meetings of the Parish Council for formal agreements.

### **The aims of the Consultation**

The aims throughout the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan consultation process have been: To involve as much of the local community as possible throughout all stages of the Plan's development so that the content of the Plan has been informed by the views of local people and other stakeholders throughout the entire process;

- To ensure that sufficient consultation events took place at points in the process where critical decisions have needed to be informed by local views.
- To engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of approaches and communication techniques.
- To ensure results of consultation were relayed back to local people after the consultation events and made available to read in hard copy and/or via local media such as the local Rearsby Scene magazine and the village website.

## **The Consultation process & methods**

There have been a number of consultations undertaken throughout the process to date by and through Rearsby Parish Council, subsequently supported initially by the NP subgroup and by a consultant.

The initial consultation looked to engage with local people and other stakeholders through a variety of engagements and methods of contact. In order to build confidence in how the process has embraced local concerns, it was acknowledged that the process must consistently update the local community on its development.

All of the following methods for sharing ideas and feedback with local people were put into use:

- Open discussion at the monthly meetings of the Parish Council
- Small discussion groups around the village
- Presentations at public meetings on progress with the Plan
- Surveying household priorities
- Interactive public meetings
- Focused meetings with key landowners and agents of employment areas
- Updates via the monthly village magazine (Rearsby Scene), website and PN notice board.
- Leaflets distributed to resident households and businesses
- Information put on the Plan websites [www.rearsbyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://www.rearsbyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) and more recently on the [www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk](http://www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk)

## **Stages of the Consultation**

### **The initial Consultation:**

Following The initial proposal to create the NP on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and the submission to CBC on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the six-week period to consult on the proposed boundary to the Neighbourhood Plan area lasted from 12 June – 17 July 2015.

The first public information was issued to the local community in the Rearsby Scene for 1 July 2015 and an initial public consultation meeting was held by the NPSG on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to inform the community of the next stages of work to develop the overall Plan.

Contact was made from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 with statutory and neighbouring bodies

identified under the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations as essential consultees in the formation of any plan, informing them of the parish's 'Designated area' status.

The intention of this phase was to bring out initial statements of the local community's key concerns about the parish, and about the kinds of priorities people would wish the future to uphold.

Following NPSG meetings in October & November 2015, short meetings were held with local groups and societies at their meetings from November 2015 through to early March 2016 using an initial questionnaire to capture immediate concerns about the village and its potential future.

The NPSG reviewed the feedback from the first questionnaire at meetings in January & February 2016 and shared the details at a second public consultation meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to discuss the issues and concerns raised by initial small group discussions around the village.

It was agreed by NPSG at a meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to use the summary of the first questionnaire responses as the basis for a more extensive village survey across all households' views on local priorities. This was distributed to all village addresses from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and collected by 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016, and sought to elicit more suggestions of potential actions on the key issues likely to affect change and development around the parish area (see Annex B).

The NPSG met in June to review the responses, collate responses and published the information on the website and in the Rearsby Scene.

The overall information obtained from questionnaire responses from 17 local groups and 138 household responses to the household survey (see Annex C) became the basis for beginning to shape how the Plan document could be compiled, and how to frame gathering any further ideas on its final content.

Following NPSG meetings in July, October & November 2016 a 'Drop In' event was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to gather ideas on options for different elements for potential village development. Large-scale maps were used to prompt specific ideas and proposals for how the key themes already evidenced from the preceding surveys might be focused to impact on parts of the parish area. Topics included green spaces, housing development sites, employment opportunities & local services and transport and ideas for specific proposals were captured in writing and in pictures and have informed the Proposal Maps presented in the final Plan document (see Annex's D, D1, D2 & D3).

The NPSG submitted first draft of ideas for the plan 29<sup>th</sup> December 2016 for review and contact and meetings were subsequently held with key local business concerns and landowners on 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and specific ideas on land use for housing and employment purposes were discussed for land that could identified on the Plan's Proposal Maps for these purposes.

Following update meetings with the NSPG on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 the Parish Council met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 to consider the first draft proposed maps and again 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 to consider draft documents and approve to consult under regulation 14 with the village.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 the NPSG organised for a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan document to be distributed to all households and businesses in the parish, to commence the statutory six-week consultation stage in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations.

A questionnaire was attached to the draft document to encourage comment and feedback on its shape and content (see Annex E).

The draft Neighbourhood Plan document was also distributed to each of the required statutory consultees during this 22<sup>nd</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 period and the responses received worked into final amendments for the Plan document to be completed for intended submission.

A final public consultation meeting was held during this consultation period on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to elicit any final ideas for amendments to the draft Plan.

Parish Council met 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to review feedback from public meeting and all responses received during the Regulation 14 six-week consultation period were recorded, responded to and where relevant resulted in amendments to the Plan document. (See Annex F).

### **List of consultees**

The people and bodies (see Annex A) consulted throughout the process of compiling the submitted Neighbourhood Plan have included:

- All households in the parish of Rearsby
- Local groups and organisations organised in Rearsby
- Local businesses based in the parish
- Other bodies with local commercial and land-owning interests
- Statutory consultation bodies
- Other individuals

### **The main issues and concerns raised during the initial consultation process**

Information set out in Annex C provides detailed summaries of the main issues and concerns raised during the initial consultation process.

The tables below provide short summaries of the main issues that were identified and subsequently addressed at each of the main stages of the Plan's construction.

### **Stage : Setting the extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area**

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Summary of key concerns</b>	<b>How the issues have been addressed</b>
Extent of the proposed Plan area	To encompass all sets of interests in the local area, not solely in the residential 'core' of the village.	Decision by Parish Council that the Plan area should be the whole parish. No areas external to the parish need be included.

**Stage : Developing the community's vision and priorities**

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Summary of key concerns</b>	<b>How the issues have been addressed</b>
Area of local separation	To safeguard the village separation from the East Goscote area	The Area of Local Separation depicted on the proposal map has been supported by extensive feedback to the circulated draft Plan.
New housing development(s)	That Rearsby will be prone to speculative housing development out of keeping with the size of the parish	The Housing policies R3 and R4 in the Plan denote the small-scale housing and the affordable housing infill development that would be supported in future.
Open and natural green space(s)	That natural open and green spaces will be built upon.	The Open space and natural Environment policies R6 and R7 in the Plan and the proposal map have denoted the core open spaces that people have wished to have safeguarded.

**Stage : Consultation on key issues and options**

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Summary of key concerns</b>	<b>How the issues have been addressed</b>
Confirmation of overall priorities	Area of Local Separation; preservation of open space and local amenities; housing development to be in scale with village character.	The final Plan has formal policies on each of these issues.
Allocation of land for Plan priorities	That the plan can highlight precise areas for distinct kinds of use, development and limits	Land has been highlighted in the Proposal maps and the formal policies for the Area of Local Separation; for new and existing open space and local amenities; and for potential housing development
Prioritisation of village amenities	That existing village amenities will be lost and other amenities will not materialise.	A clear list of amenities valued by the village community is included in the Plan. The Conker Field is allocated as Open space

**Stage : Pre-submission considerations**

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Summary of key concerns</b>	<b>How the issues have been addressed</b>
Use of assessment criteria and evidence to support local policies	That the identification of land use and proposed policies can be evidenced by suitable assessment.	The detail of the assessment procedures used has been include in the Plan text and in its Appendix labelled "Supplementary information in Support of Plan Policies"
Terminology of proposed policies	That the draft policies might be either ambiguous or hard to use for practical determination of future planning applications.	Comments and feedback received during the Regulation 14 Pre-submission Consultation, especially from statutory stakeholders, have been incorporated into redrafting the Policies.

Extent of the Proposal Maps	That the detail depicted on the Proposal Maps is logical and accords with the community aspirations for the final policies.	Comments and feedback received during the Regulation 14 Pre-submission Consultation have been used to amend the pictorial detail in the maps.
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### Initial Examination Submission

Parish Council approved the NP document for submission to CBC for consultation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 and on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Parish Council submit the NP to CBC for consultation.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 regulation 16 consultation closes and CBC submitted the NP for examination and for examiners questions and draft report but after further consideration on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 the Parish Council agree to withdraw the NP from examination on the grounds it being considered to be not sufficiently supportive of development.

### Review and Refocus.

Parish Council meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to review status and agree to meet with CBC & NPSG on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to review the examiner's report and on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 agree to review, amend and redraw the NP, renaming it "Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2036 Pre-submission version.

### The New Consultation Process

It was agreed that work would continue on the NP but, nothing would be issued until after the Jelson public appeal had been held.

NPSG meet 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 to agree way forward, timings and to agree how to call for development sites from residents, with a public meeting held prior to Parish Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to discuss development sites and Limits to Development proposed changes by CBC.

Parish Council meet 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to review map work proposed by NPSG and approve proposed policy alterations and review Rearsby Housing Needs survey commissioned by CBC.

April / June 2018 redrafting NP and new consultation on Local Plan by CBC to review.

May 2018 NPSG issue questionnaire for potential development sites (Annex G) also issue housing details (Annex G1) and hold public meeting May 2018 (Annex G2)

NPSG meet 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to review progress and Parish Council meet 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 review feedback on suggested sites to residents (Annex H), review of SHLAAR sites

and agree on proposing ribbon development off Gaddesby Lane.

Parish Council attend and present 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at Jelson Public Enquiry re Land off Melton Road. Then meet again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 to update on Jelson Appeal and confirm with CBC that following the completion of the rewrite of the NP they would undertake Reg 14 consultation again.

NPSG meet 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 to circulate first draft of re written NP to group.

Parish Council meet 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to review circulated NP draft with comments on Housing Needs survey and CBC housing delivery numbers and HEDNA and meet again 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 for update on NPSG revising current draft with all comments received.

NPSG meet 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to review progress agree to give CBC early site of draft for their comments and on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 initial comments received.

NPSG agree on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to circulate consultation ready document and Parish Council approve on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to wording of the NP and it was decided to go out to Reg 14 consultation on this revised version of the NP.

Parish Council agree on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 to NP being printed for distribution to all residents with page included (Annex J) and Statutory Consultees would be contacted from 6<sup>th</sup> January onwards under regulation 14 consultation for 6 weeks. (Annex A)

Parish Council meet 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019, regulation 14 consultation responses circulated and discussed particularly those from CBC and met with them on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019, discussed all difficult areas of concern and several significant changes were agreed as necessary to make the plan ready for examination. (Annex K)

Parish Council and NPSG agree 22<sup>nd</sup> September & 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 to appoint a new consultant to complete missing documentation Basic Conditions Statement and to assist in completing the NP.

Parish Council meet 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 with consultant to do response to regulation 14 comments and suggest alterations to draft NP, Parish Council meet again 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for update.

Parish Council note at meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 that consultant continues to work on the documents, but, then Covid19 lockdown halts work March through to July 2020.

Parish Council met 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 and Chair noted the lack of progress, meeting agreed to check status with CBC and explore further with consultants how to complete the NP. It was also noted that the March documents had not yet been circulated to PC. It was also notes that the NPSG had not met for several months and due to the extended process some members had become frustrated and had lost the

desire to be part of the group. The Parish Council Chair proposed that people be invited to form a new working group for the NP via, website, Rearsby Scene and notice board, unfortunately there was no response.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 the Parish Council received confirmation from CBC that the NP could be picked up from where it had stalled but, changes to Local Plan etc have to be taken into account.

Parish Council meet 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and again people were invited to join the new working group for the NP via, Rearsby Scene, Website and notice board and again no responses.

Parish Council meet via zoom on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 with consultant to discuss costings and scope of work to undertake to complete and agree 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 for works to be completed. Again, people are invited to join a new working group for the NP via, Rearsby Scene, Website and notice board but, again no response.

Parish Council representatives meet on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with consultant and agreed work to be done to redraft the NP, supporting documents required and what additional evidence is needed. Specific action points and work allocation was agreed. Then on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 via, Rearsby Scene (Nov edition), Website and notice board to advise community as no responses had been received from the community to join the working party the Parish Council would undertake the project supported by consultant.

Parish Council met on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and in attendance were representatives from the consultant and Martin Field who had been a leading team member of the original NPSG.

The meeting agreed the following:

- To extend the Limits to Development to include the ribbon development on Gaddesby Lane as originally proposed 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and to exclude PSH100. Document to be finalised by consultant.
- The local green spaces and open spaces inventory were agreed, and it was noted that the field on Melton Road would be excluded as it did not meet the criteria.
- Agreed to include the overflow field in the church yard. Document to be finalised by consultant.
- The updated Area of Local Separation was approved. Document to be finalised by consultant.
- Chair would update the NP Forward and the consultation statement.
- It was noted that approximately 80% of the village employers appeared to be within the village rather than on the industrial estate. This would be reviewed and reflected in the employment section.
- The heritage assets and conservation area were agreed, and the ridge and furrow fields would be included. Document to be finalised by consultant and nominated Councillor.

- A target date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 was set for an updated version to be available for submission to CBC. It was hoped that the draft could then be submitted to CBC in January.
- Parish Council met 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 and approved the latest draft subject to some minor changes, some additional material and concluding text. Draft to be submitted to CBC for initial comment and then for formal submission early 2021.

### Concluding Remarks

The production of a Neighbourhood Plan has been a standing item on the Rearsby Parish Council agenda since May 2015, regular updates on progress have been discussed, noted and approved, a summary of Parish Council minutes are displayed in the monthly Rearsby Scene and a full set of minutes are displayed on the village website [www.rearsbyvillagenews.com](http://www.rearsbyvillagenews.com).

The NPSG had placed regular updates in each monthly edition of the Rearsby Scene and used the Parish Council website and the Neighbourhood Plan website <http://www.rearsbyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk> to inform local residents of overall progress up to the latter part of 2019 after which time the updates and information were published by the Parish Council and/or the Chair in a monthly message to parishioners.

In addition, several key public meetings have been held in the Parish in the last 24 months using Powerpoint presentations and other techniques that have provided updates on progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and have engaged residents in the next steps taken to achieve a Plan ready for submission.

The completed Neighbourhood Plan is a product of many local minds and a significant range of contributions across all aspects of the local community.

## Annexes

- Annex A. A list of the bodies, local groups and organisations, and other individuals with whom this process of consultation has been engaged
- Annex B Blank copy of the questionnaires and survey forms used 10 November 2015 - 7 March 2016 and from 30 May - 18 June 2016 to engage with the groups and stakeholders from the local community.
- Annex C A summary of the comments received through the questionnaires provided in Annex B and the responses made within the Plan process.
- Annex D Consultation details on Local Services & Transport November 2016
- Annex D1 A summary of contributions from Options 'Drop In' Event, held on 19 November 2016.
- Annex D2 Consultation details on housing November 2016
- Annex D3 Consultation details on employment November 2016
- Annex E Blank copy of the Regulation 14 consultation questionnaire used during 22 March – 3 May 2017 for responses to the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- Annex F Summary of comments received against Annex E and how these points have been addressed in the plan.
- Annex G Blank survey document on housing ideas May 2018.
- Annex H Summary of feedback from Annex G.
- Annex J Blank copy of the Revised Pre-Submission draft 2018 comments submission pages section 1 & 2 to be submitted by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Annex K Summary of responses from Annex J and how points have been addressed.

Other documents / information:

Charnwood Housing Report 2017

Minutes from Rearsby Parish Council meetings at which the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan consultation process and the responses received were discussed and amendments agreed upon can be viewed on [www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk](http://www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk)