



Findings from

Presentation of Draft Policies, Vision and Community Projects

At Horncastle's Annual Parish Meeting 1st April 2014

The Horncastle Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group presented draft policies, vision and a list of possible community projects to attendees of the Horncastle's Annual Parish Meeting on 1st April 2014.

Less than 20 residents attended the event and while the majority viewed the presentation, only 6 completed the questionnaire.

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Breakdown of Respondents

All respondents lived in Horncastle

50% (3 Respondents) were in the age group 46-65

50% (3 Respondents) were in the age group >65

1. Do you agree with draft policies? YES / NO **100% YES (6 ANSWERS)**

If NO, please list the policy numbers and give reasons: **NON GIVEN**

2. Do you agree with the draft vision? YES / NO **100% YES (6 ANSWERS)**

If NO, please give reasons: **NON GIVEN**

3. Do you agree with the Community Projects? YES / NO **100% YES (6 ANSWERS)**

If NO, please list and give reasons: **NON GIVEN**

4. Other projects you would like funding? **16% (1 ANSWER)**

Please list: **PROVISION OF CYCLE ROUTES PARTICULARLY IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

5. Do you agree all developments should be excluded from all sites overlooking the Town?

YES / NO **67% YES**

If yes to Q9, please list excluded area **LANGTON HILL (33% -2 ANSWERS)**

ALL AREAS (33% -2 ANSWERS)

(NOTE: The respondents referencing Langton Hill did not live in that area)

6. Mode of travel around Horncastle? (4 ANSWERS)

MAIN MODE: WALKING (67% - 4 ANSWERS)

SECONDARY MODE: CAR/MOTORBIKE (33% - 2 ANSWERS)

Draft Policies Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting

Policy 1: Sustainable Development Principles

- A. Planning permission will be granted for development at a scale and in locations that accord with policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan where it can be shown that the development would support the continued viability of Horncastle by providing:
1. new homes, including affordable housing to meet the objectively assessed local housing needs of the parish
 2. tourism related development in the town centre
 3. infrastructure associated with leisure, recreational pursuits and social community and educational activities in and adjoining the town
 4. new and expanded business premises within and on the edge of the town
 5. an enhanced town centre that can meet the needs of the town's growing population
- B. All development shall be designed and located having regard to the principles and advice set out in this Neighbourhood Plan and shall be located to ensure that it does not significantly and adversely affect the
1. Amenity of nearby residents
 2. Character and appearance of the settlement or area in which it is located
 3. Social, built, historic cultural and natural heritage assets of the parish.

Development that significantly and adversely affects the landscape character, setting and important views into and out of the town will not be permitted.

Policy 4: Affordable Housing

To meet identified needs within the community, where viable, developers will be required to provide a 30% contribution towards affordable housing provision on schemes of 5 or more dwellings as required by Strategic Policy SP3 in Core Strategy Draft Submission December 2013.

If you had enough evidence you could have a policy reducing this threshold to 1 (with commuted sum)

Development will be expected to contribute to the provision of affordable homes that are suitable to meet the needs ofolder people, younger people, families what does the consultation evidence say?

Affordable housing should, wherever possible, be provided on site and must be fully integrated with the market housing throughout the development.

Affordable housing must be visually indistinguishable from the market housing.

Affordable housing must be of a type, size and tenure that meets local needs.¹ Where local housing need data is available reference should be made in the application to how the proposed scheme meets that need.

Policy 5: Provision of a mix of housing types

On schemes of more than 5 dwellings, a mix of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of current and future households in Horncastle will be sought. Large areas of uniform type and size will not be acceptable.

Policy 2: Design Principles for New Development

New development will only be supported where it demonstrates:

- A layout that maximises opportunities to integrate into the town through creating new connections and improving existing ones and which allows for easy, direct movement to and from the town centre;
- A thorough consideration of local character in terms of street types, building detailing, colours, shapes and materials, landscaping and relationships between public and private spaces and how these might be used;
- A design that draws upon this consideration of local character to ensure new development enhances the distinctiveness and quality of the town as a whole;
- The use of Building for Life 12 in both developing design concepts and in testing the final design proposal for quality.

Policy 3: Development Brief

Development proposals for 10 or more dwellings on sites larger than 0.4 hectares must submit a Development Brief as set out in Appendix D (GH - also set out process for working with community in this). They must actively engage in consultation with the Town Council and the community as part of the design process at the pre application stage.

Planning applications that require a development brief must be accompanied by a Community Consultation Statement as defined at Appendix E.

Policy 6: Improve and extend parks, open spaces and green corridors

Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate that they protect and enhance green infrastructure assets affected by development and take opportunities to improve linkages between green corridors.

Arrangements for the provision or improvement of parks and open spaces required by the proposed development and/or to mitigate the impact of that development will, in line with national guidance and legislation, be secured by planning obligation or, where appropriate, via conditions attached to a planning permission. Green infrastructure enhancements may include:

open space (e.g. play areas, sports fields/youth and adult areas, amenity open space)

natural heritage (e.g. mitigation measures, habitat restoration, habitat protection, habitat creation, landscaping, site management, site interpretation)

routes and connections (see also policy 7)

Policy 7: Create a network of pedestrian and cycle connections

Where appropriate to its scale and location, development must include proposals which enhance the attractiveness of walking and cycling in and around the town.

Policy 8:

Visual connections with the countryside

Development on the edge of Horncastle should maintain and where possible make allowances for the visual openness and connections with and to the surrounding countryside. The visual impact on views from the countryside must be minimised. Development must show how it takes into account & minimises the loss of views as listed at Appendix F.

Policy 9:

Key Land Considerations

Permission will be granted for schemes which show they have addressed the key land considerations outlined in table 3 subject to them also being in accordance with other policies in this Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy 10:

Strengthening the Retail Core

Within the primary shopping frontages changes of use from A1 will be refused unless the proposal would not create a significant break in the shopping frontage i.e. would not exceed 10% non-A1 uses in a frontage comprising the application site & 5 units either side of the proposal site.

In the secondary shopping areas 50% of frontages must be of retail use. Changes of use from A1 which would result in a reduction in this amount of retail use will be refused.

Proposals for retail development outside the town centre boundary will be subject to the sequential test. A business case must be provided with the application to show that the scheme will not diminish the vitality and viability of the retail core.

A scheme to pedestrianize St Lawrence Street will be supported.

Policy 11:

Supporting Local Business Growth

Existing employment sites must remain in employment use (B1, B2, B8). Proposals for the redevelopment or change of use of redundant land or buildings in employment use to non-employment uses will only be permitted if the existing use is no longer commercially viable and the site has been marketed at a reasonable price for at least one year for that and any other suitable employment use.

Planning permission for major employment development will be granted only where the requirements of Policies 2,3 and 9 have been met.

All new development should demonstrate how it will contribute to and be compatible with current digital connectivity. New developments must ensure that broadband connections that are at least fast can be provided to assist the economic development of the town, except to the extent (if any) that this would render needed development unviable. New development must also ensure that future proof upgrades are available.

Draft List of Potential Projects in Horncastle

Leisure Facilities

- Multiplay Areas
- Fitness Trails
- Outdoor Gyms
- New AstroTurf Pitch at the playing fields
- BMX Track
- Linear Parks along the Bain, Waring, Thunker Drain and Ings Drain
- Network of footpaths/cycle paths around and through the Town

Tourism

- More floral displays to improve image
- Improvements to the waterways eg Coronation Walk
- More Toilets
- Improved presentation/preservation of Roman Remains/History of Horncastle
- New Heritage Centre

Capital Projects

- Renovation of the Water Mill to provide craft centre and accommodation
- Additional bridges over the waterways to link different areas of the Town