

Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following an independent examination Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet has confirmed that the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Godmanchester neighbourhood area was designated on 11 March 2015 under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). The Plan covers the town of Godmanchester which is contiguous with the Town Council's administrative boundary.
- 2.2. Godmanchester Town Council, as the qualifying body, initially submitted the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting evidence to Huntingdonshire District Council. The statutory six week submission consultation was held from 8 May to 19 June 2017.
- 2.3. Huntingdonshire District Council, in discussion with Godmanchester Town Council, appointed an independent examiner, Jill Kingaby MRTPI, to review whether the submitted Neighbourhood Plan met the Basic Conditions as required by legislation. Ms Kingaby issued her report on 30 August 2017 which recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the modifications proposed in her report, met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum.
- 2.4. The Basic Conditions are:
 - Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, European Union (EU) obligations and
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended) set out two basic conditions in addition to those set out in primary legislation and referred to above. These are:

- The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects
- Having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the neighbourhood development order is made where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development (this is not applicable to this examination).

3. Decision

3.1. Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet considered the recommendations on 12 October 2017 and agreed to accept the Examiner's proposed modifications and approve the Godmanchetser Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to referendum.

3.2. The modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan, as needed to ensure it meets the Basic Conditions and in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations are listed in the following table.

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification	Discussed and Agreed with Godmanchester Town Council
PM1	Front cover and Page 5	<p>Front cover should add</p> <p>Submission Version May 2017</p> <p>(or the date of the final version of the Plan)</p> <p>Paragraph 1.1</p> <p>This document represents the Neighbourhood Plan for Godmanchester parish from 20162017 to 2036</p>	Yes
PM2	Page 22	<p>Policy GMC1: The importance of the countryside setting</p> <p>Development in the Godmanchester Neighbourhood Plan Area shall be focused within or adjoining the settlement boundary....</p>	Yes
PM3	Page 23	<p>Preserving the Semi-Rural Village ‘Feel’ within the Town</p> <p>4.14 There are ... connection for wildlife but also is crucial</p> <p>4.15 Delete the first sentence and insert:</p> <p><i>The Local Green Spaces within or adjoining the settlement boundary are listed in Appendix 1, and are demonstrably special to the local community of Godmanchester. Also in Appendix 1, are sites in the Parish designated for their national and international significance for wildlife and as registered Common Land. Thirdly, Appendix 1 lists other non-designated green spaces, many of which were allocated as public amenity spaces under planning permissions for development on neighbouring land. These are all sites of community value ie. they provide a valuable space for the informal-recreational activities of the community such as walking, dog walking, informal play, sports or allotment gardening. They are</i></p>	Yes

		<p>Policy GMC3: Preserving ...Town Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>Godmanchester's designated Local Green Spaces and other Ggreen spaces are set out in Appendix 1. Proposals for development on the Local Green Spaces and Other Green Spaces will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated Local Green Space or Other Green Space.</p> <p><i>Proposals for development on other green spaces should demonstrate that alternative informal recreational space is available within walking distance for neighbouring and future residents, and the semi-rural 'village' feel within the Town will not be seriously compromised.</i></p>	
PM4	Page 30	<p>Paragraph 4.26 – add a second sentence as follows: <i>The provision of public amenity space that would enable off-the-leash dog walking space will be supported.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC7: Providing designated spaces where dogs can be walked off the leash and i Improving access to the countryside</p> <p>Development proposals that take account of the need to provide green open public amenity space that is designated for off the leash dog walking will be supported, as will those that provide walking routes and enable ongoing access to the wider countryside.</p>	Yes
PM5	Page 38	<p><u>Residential Infill and Backland Development</u></p> <p>6.3 New opening sentence:</p> <p><i>New housing development of a moderate or minor scale is defined in Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy as developments of 10-59 dwellings and up to 9 dwellings respectively.</i> Back land development is defined</p> <p>6.6 The combined, cumulative effect of <i>new development including</i> back land and infill development is that This would not be appropriate in Godmanchester, <i>where care and attention to the scale, design and layout of new housing and its site context must be given.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC13: Residential infill and back land development.</p> <p>All Residential infill and back land development within <i>or adjoining</i> the settlement boundary of</p>	<u>Yes</u>

		<p>Godmanchester should Sites within reasonable walking distance of the Town's historic centre will be favourably considered. Development should be of minor or moderate scale, or represent infilling or back land development. Infilling or back land development It should reinforce the uniformity of the character of the existing streetscene by reflecting the scale, mass, semi-rural nature of the Town, with its historic core.</p>	
PM6	Pages 39 to 41	<p>Improving Parking in the Town</p> <p>6.17 – delete the existing text and insert:</p> <p><i>New residential development in Godmanchester should include parking provision which is based on a careful assessment of the site's location and the character of the surrounding area, as well as the nature and form of the proposed development, and the size of the dwellings (number of bedrooms). Regard should be had for guidance on parking in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2017, when residential or other development proposals are put forward.</i></p> <p>Policy GMC14: For new residential development, plans should <i>not exacerbate</i> seek to reduce the any pressure on 'on street' parking and seek to improve parking issues through the greater provision of <i>should provide numbers of off-street parking spaces appropriate to the site's location and the character of the proposal. The number of spaces should reflect the mix, size and type of housing.</i></p> <p>For new residential developments (Use Class 3)4 off street car parking spaces.</p> <p>Parking spaces can take the form Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>(Modify footnote 44 to refer to Huntingdonshire District Council Design Guide 2017)</p>	Yes
PM7	Page 42	<p>Policy GMC15: Improving and Enhancing the Town</p> <p>Second line:</p> <p>...and to enhance its historic character. Where new provision is made, it should be in keeping</p>	Yes

		with the setting <i>its surroundings</i>	
PM8	Page 51	<p>Policy GMC21: Growing new capacity for small scale businesses in the Town</p> <p>Modify the second bullet of the second sentence to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of new buildings or conversion of existing buildings within <i>or adjoining</i> the Settlement Boundary of the Town 	Yes
PM9	Pages 52 and 53	<p>8 Getting Around</p> <p>8.1 Godmanchester is a growing community.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve<i>manage</i> parking <i>better</i> in the Town. <p>8.2 With the <i>anticipated improvements to the A14 road in Huntingdonshire and the</i> levels of growth planned across<i>for</i> Godmanchester it will be important that developments each contributes..... a coherent and cohesive network <i>transport system incorporating more sustainable transport measures and enabling</i> which allows people to get around more easily and safely, we are thereby protecting <i>should also be able to protect</i> the historic and natural environment.</p> <p><i>8.2 a Cambridge County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2015 and the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy seek to widen the choices available for environmentally sustainable transport, and manage the demand for transport, particularly private car use. All planning applications for development which would generate significant amounts of movement should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment, identifying the specific impacts of their proposals on the local transport network, and the measures needed to mitigate any adverse impacts. Measures should maximise opportunities for more sustainable transport eg. promoting pedestrian and cycling, and improving public transport services. Travel Plans should be provided for all developments which would generate significant new movements.</i></p> <p>.....</p>	Yes

		<p>8.4 Modify second sentence: The lack of public transport services are not comparable to larger towns and cities in terms of frequency and coverage, so that many people are primarily cars users against 5% are by bus or train).on the road network. ... putting, potentially, a significant strain on the road network. The transport assessment and travel plan accompanying the planning permission (ref: 1200685OUT) are required to address this matter.</p> <p>Policy GMC22: Reducing traffic and congestion on Godmanchester's roads</p> <p>Development proposals accompany any planning application and traffic calming, improvements to public transport, cycling and walking routes, vehicle and cycle parking and other measures delivered which mitigate the impact of development, particularly through the 'historic core'. Where appropriate, a Travel Plan will be required, setting out how any adverse effects will be overcome, including through the promotion of use of more sustainable travel modes.</p>	
PM10	Page 54	<p>Make the Town Safer for Cyclists</p> <p>8.13, Add two new sentences to introduce this paragraph:</p> <p>Godmanchester is a small town within 3 miles of the centre of Huntingdon, and within the relatively flat countryside of Cambridgeshire. It represents a highly suitable environment for cycling for people living and working locally, and for tourists and visitors.</p>	Yes
PM11	Page 68	<p>Map 5 – Historic Core</p> <p>Modify the map so that it shows Post Street and Earning Street Conservation Area boundaries, and the boundary of the Scheduled Monument east of the parish church.</p>	Yes
PM12	Page 69	<p>Appendix 1 – Green Spaces</p> <p>Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Delete the following:</p> <p>4. The Godmanchester Nature Reserve at Cow Lane</p>	Yes

	<p>5. The Cow Lane gravel pits</p> <p>6. The Recreation Ground including the green spaces leading up to the lock</p> <p>7. Queen's Walk</p> <p>9. The green space adjacent to the Cricket Pitch</p> <p>10. The land between the school, the Church ...</p> <p>12. The green ...Jarwood Walk and up to Silver Street ...</p> <p>19. The proposed Neolithic Country Park</p> <p>Godmanchester's Other Green Spaces</p> <p>Modify the first sentence to read:</p> <p>These are not defined within the NPPF but those listed here are <i>mostly</i> small scale are within the settlement boundary <i>the Parish</i> and are important</p> <p>Add to the list of sites: Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 19.</p>	
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