

# **Bagworth, Thornton and Stanton-under-Bardon**

## **Joint Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Consultation Statement**

#### **Introduction**

This consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations which sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain, ie it should:

- a. Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan
- b. Explain how they were consulted
- c. Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted
- d. Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Aims of consulting on the Plan**

The aim of the Bagworth, Thornton and Stanton-under-Bardon Joint Neighbourhood Plan engagement process was to:

- Inform residents, local businesses, and other stakeholders about the neighbourhood planning process and to invite their participation so that local opinion informed the plan.
- Ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process.
- Engage in a variety of ways to make sure that as wide a range of people as possible were involved and that they could receive information and provide feedback in a way that suited them.
- Ensure that information was readily available and accessible to everyone.
- Make sure that consultation feedback was available as soon as possible after events.

#### **Background to the consultation – Deciding to make a Neighbourhood Plan**

During 2016, Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council (B&TPC) became increasingly concerned and aware that Bagworth and Thornton were likely to be targeted by developers to build on open farmland outside the existing current settlement boundaries. Specifically, Thornton had been subjected to an application of 48 dwellings on land off Beech Drive. This particular site was visually and environmentally sensitive and was wholly unsuitable and unsustainable. Furthermore, there were considerable concerns with regard to the highway's infrastructure. Initially Officers of the LPA are seemingly in favour of supporting the proposal despite it being contrary to the Core Strategy. This strengthened the case for a Neighbourhood Plan and at the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Parish Council passed a resolution to form a Neighbourhood Plan Group. Meanwhile, the neighbouring Parish Council of Stanton-under-Bardon (SuBPC), having been subjected to a significant increase in new housing developments, were themselves assessing the need for a Neighbourhood Plan.

SuBPC approached B&TPC and after a number of discussions, meetings and a presentation by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (H&BBC), both Parish Councils unanimously passed resolutions to form a collaboration, and a joint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (JSG) was formed, in May 2017.

### **Defining the Neighbourhood**

H&BBC Planning Policy Officers attended a public meeting held at Stanton-under-Bardon Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017, at which it was agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan should be produced and went to both Council's in May 2017 for ratification. The resultant JSG applied to the Local Planning Authority in June 2017 for the whole of both areas of the two Parish Councils to be included in the Designated Area. H&BBC formally made the Area Designation in October 2017.

The Joint Neighbourhood Plan seeks to demonstrate specific and local planning policies for the development and use of land within the Designated Area. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a vision for future development in the villages of Bagworth, Thornton, Stanton-under-Bardon, and the hamlet of Merry Lees, based on the views of the local community and supported by socio-economic and demographic data.

### **Bagworth, Thornton and Stanton-under-Bardon Joint Neighbourhood Designated Area**



## Setting up the Advisory Committee

Both Parish Councils set-up the Bagworth, Thornton and Stanton-under-Bardon Neighbourhood Plan Joint Steering Group (JSG) to undertake development of the plan. Members of the JSG were appointed by the Parish Councils and comprised Parish Councillors and members of the public who had volunteered in response to the PC's questionnaire. The Parish Councils agreed the Terms of Reference in April 2017 (Appendix 1).

The Steering Group's mandate was to drive the process, consult with the local community, gather evidence to support emerging policies and deliver the Plan.

The JSG initially met monthly and in accordance with Parish Council regulations, these meetings were open meetings, with the agenda available approximately one week in advance, and the minutes available one week after the meeting. These were available on both the Parish Councils websites and the Neighbourhood Plan web site.

Following a formal procurement process in October 2018, the Parish Councils commissioned an external consultancy, YourLocale, to provide professional support to the JSG, to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan.

Funding was provided by grants from Locality, supported by a budget allocation from both Parish Councils. This enabled the Parish Councils to recruit YourLocale to support the JSG. As well as funding professional support, these monies provided funds for community consultation and engagement, for example, printing of posters and leaflets.

The JSG held a launch event for Theme Groups in the Spring of 2019. These groups were each led by a member of the JSG and supported by a YourLocale facilitator with expertise in the relevant field. Other members of the community volunteered to participate in the Theme Groups. The aim of these groups was to explore in detail the issues that had been raised by villagers at the first consultation event and to collate evidence and identify emerging priorities. Their expertise, local knowledge and commitment was invaluable in making sure that the Plan reflects the particular characteristics of Bagworth, Thornton and Stanton-under-Bardon. The three Theme Groups were:

- Housing
- Environment and Heritage
- Community, Economy, and Transport

The groups met regularly and collated a significant amount of evidence.

## Consultation Methodology

The JSG aimed to make clear the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and previous questionnaires and reports, relating to local design. It was recognised that Bagworth and Thornton residents had already been involved in the development of a Parish Plan and had responded to a Parish Council questionnaire in 2008. Therefore, it was important to make sure people were aware that the establishment of the Neighbourhood Plan was a direct response to a new questionnaire and that the Neighbourhood Plan is more comprehensive and would have greater statutory weight than the previous Parish Plan.

The JSG identified the need for regular communication in different formats. Communication methods were as follows:

*Note: examples of the leaflets, notices and letters are attached as appendices.*

- Neighbourhood Plan logo designed so all communications identifiable as relating to the neighbourhood Plan.
- Publications in the Herald Magazine
- Notices (notice boards, village shops, pubs, and sports clubs)
- Electronically – village email, list, Twitter, Parish, and Neighbourhood Plan website (including electronic feedback forms)
- Letters (email or hard copy as appropriate to recipient)
- Open days
- Participation in other village events (Bagworth Show)
- Informal face to face meetings and door to door visits
- Monthly JSG meetings
- Monthly update from JSG to the Parish Council meetings as appropriate

## Timeline

Date	Activity	Appendix
November 2016	Bagworth & Thornton Parish Council resolved to create a Neighbourhood Plan.	14
2016	SuBPC approached B&TPC to create a Joint Neighbourhood Plan.	
April 2017	H&BBC Planning Policy Officers held a public meeting in Stanton-under-Bardon.	15
Apr 2017	Stanton-under-Bardon Parish Council resolved to create a Neighbourhood Plan	15
May 2017	The Bagworth, Thornton & Stanton-under-Bardon Joint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was formed.	16
June 2017	The first Joint Steering Group meeting was held and Terms of Reference agreed.	1
June 2017	JSG applied to H&BBC for the whole of both parish's to be included in the Designated Area.	17
September 2017	BT&SuB Neighbourhood Plan logo created.	18
October 2017	H&BBC formally made the area Designated.	19
2017/2018	First Stakeholder Meeting held.	13
August 2019	Information stand at Bagworth Show.	12
October 2018	YourLocale appointed.	

February 2019	Launch event for Theme Groups held.	
October 2019	Letter for Call for Sites sent to all consultees, published on web sites and the Leicester Mercury.	10
March 2020	Plan sent to H&BBC for SEA Screening	20
March 2020	Drop in event organised to view and comment on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan prior to Regulation 14 submission. Event cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.	
March 2021	Second Stakeholder letter regarding Regulation 14 was published.	
March – May 2021	The Regulation 14, pre-submission consultation took place over a six-week period.	
March 2021	Executive Housing Statement Issued.	21

H&BBC has supported the development of the Neighbourhood Plan throughout the process, through the provision of maps, general guidance, comment on policy development and residential housing site suitability.

#### Consultation – list of people and bodies consulted

The following stakeholders were contacted at the start of the process and again prior to the Regulation 14 Pre-submission Consultation.

- British Gas properties
- British Telecommunications plc
- BT Open Reach
- The Coal Authority
- Health Centres
- English Heritage
- Historic England
- Midland Housing Association
- Western Power
- Leicestershire Police
- Leicestershire Fire & Rescue
- Environment Agency
- CPRE
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire
- Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living
- Leicestershire Ethnic Minority partnership
- National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire
- Leicestershire County Council, Communities and Places

Adjoining Parishes:

- Bardon
- Barlestone

- Desford
- Ellistown and Battleflat
- Ibstock
- Markfield
- Nailstone
- Newbold Verdon
- North West Leicestershire DC
- Ratby

#### MP / Councillors

- Member of Parliament: David Treddinick / Dr Luke Evans
- County Councillor: David Sprason / Peter Bedford
- Borough Councillors: Ozzy O'Shea, Chris Boothby, Matthew Lay, Andrew Furlong, Paul Bessant

Businesses: It is notable that other businesses identified are owned by village residents or landowners and would therefore receive notification as a resident or landowner:

- Bagworth Community Centre
- Thornton Community Centre
- Stanton-under-Bardon Village Hall
- Ashby Motors
- Pic-a-chick
- Markfield Plastics

#### Statutory / Voluntary Organisations:

- St Peters Church, Thornton
- St Marys Church, Stanton-under-Bardon
- Women's Institute
- Bagworth Bowling Club
- Bagworth Gun Club

Landowners: Members of the JSG worked with other members of the community, to identify on a map, all the local landowners. Letters were sent to 33 local landowners in October 2019, informing them about the Neighbourhood Plan and inviting them to discuss their intentions for their land (appendix 10). They were also sent a further letter (the same as for the Statutory Stakeholders) prior to the Regulation Pre-Submission Consultation (appendix 9). For further information please see the Housing Site Assessment statement produced by the JSG.

### Summary of findings from the events and questionnaires

By involving residents, business owners and other stakeholders at key stages in the development of Neighbourhood Plan, the plan is both evidence-based and has been shaped by local opinion, with policies being tested as they have been developed. There has been detailed analysis after each consultation event or questionnaire which has informed the next step in drafting the plan.

- Parish Council questionnaire – Appendix 3
- Open Event 1 – Appendix 4
- Questionnaire – Appendix 5
- Open Event 2 – Appendix 6

## **Regulation 14, Pre-Submission Consultation**

This consultation would have taken place over a six-week period (15<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> May) but could not be held face to face due to the covid pandemic, but plans were available on line and hard copies were forwarded if requested. The comments received were collated and after an initial review by YourLocale, there was a JSG meeting to consider the comments and amend the plan as agreed. The Parish Councillors were invited to participate in this meeting to jointly discuss and agree on amendments. Three Parish Councillors joined this meeting. The comments and responses are detailed in appendix 11.

## **Conclusion**

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be submitted to H&BBC, who will publicise it for a further six weeks and then forward it, with accompanying documents and all representations made during the publicity period, to an Independent Examiner who will review it and check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions'. If the Plan successfully passes this stage, following any modifications, it will be put forward for referendum.

The referendum question will be a straight "yes" or "no" on the entire plan, as set out by Neighbourhood Plannings Regulations. People will not be able to vote for or against individual policies. If 50% or more of respondents vote for the plan, it will be brought into force 'Made', and become part of the Borough wide planning policy.

This Consultation Statement and the supporting appendices are provided to comply with Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

## List of Appendices

1. Joint Steering Group Terms of Reference
2. Joint Steering Group Communications Statement
3. Landowners' consultation and call for sites letter
4. Open Event 1 analysis – RCC matrix
5. Stakeholders' consultation meeting
6. Open Event 2 – Creation of Theme Groups Bacon Butty event
7. Executive Summary
8. RCC Stakeholder letter (14/03/2018)
9. Stakeholder letter (13/03/2021)
10. Landowner Letter
11. Pre-submission consultation comments and responses
12. Flyers, posters and website Screenshots
13. Joint Steering Group Committee Minutes  
(<http://www.spanglefish.com/bagworththorntonandstantonunderbardonnp/>)

## TimeLine Appendices

14. Bagworth & Thornton Parish Council resolved to create a Neighbourhood Plan
15. H&BBC Planning Policy Officers held a public meeting in SuB & SuB Parish Council resolved to create a Neighbourhood plan.
16. The Bagworth, Thornton & Stanton-under-Bardon Joint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was formed.
17. JSG applied to H&BBC for the whole of both parish's to be included in the Designated Area.
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20. Plan sent to H&BBC for SEA screening.
21. Executive Housing Statement issued.