

## Braunston Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Report 2019

The Neighbourhood Plan is monitored by the Parish Council. Points raised in the report form the evidence that is used to decide whether to undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Plan. Daventry District Council (DDC) will be consulted using this report.

The report is organised around the questions listed in Section 8, paragraph 8.2 of the plan. The following table indicates the methodology used for addressing each question:

<b>Questions from paragraph 8.2</b>	<b>Methodology</b>
<b>a)</b> The effectiveness of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan when assessing and determining planning applications.	Councillors are asked how useful each policy has been in responding to planning applications.
<b>b)</b> Any changes in national planning policy that could supersede the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.	A member of the council will investigate whether there have been changes to national policies such as the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance and whether there have been additional relevant policies.
<b>c)</b> The latest statistical information such as meeting the rural housing requirement across the District or the need for affordable homes within the village.	A member of the council will consult relevant sources including the DDC Housing Strategy and the DDC Housing Register.
<b>d)</b> The implications of any emerging local plans, most notably the Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan.	A member of the council will consult documents relating to the Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan and will consider any relevant information issued regarding the creation of West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority.
<b>e)</b> Any changing circumstances within the village.	Councillors will consider five questions about Braunston: 1. For each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, has anything changed since the plan was made that requires the policy to be amended? 2. Are there any changes that require the Description of the Neighbourhood Area in Section 3 of the plan to be amended? 3. Have there been any changes to the issues listed in Section 5 of the plan and have any additional issues arisen since the public consultations for the plan which would require amendments to Section 5? 4. Are there any changes that have occurred which have moved Braunston closer to achieving the vision and objectives listed in Section 6 of the plan? 5. Have any changes come about as a result of, or are relevant to, the Supplementary Proposals listed in Section 9? Have issues been raised by the local community that merit the addition of further Supplementary Proposals?

## **Monitoring Report**

### **a) The effectiveness of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan when assessing and determining planning applications.**

The Neighbourhood Plan has been effective as the first policy document that councillors refer to when considering a planning application. The lack of a policy relating to holiday accommodation proved to be a limitation when considering one planning application.

Policy A states that proposals for residential development will be supported providing they are within the village confines. Policy G refers to the three smaller settlements of Little Braunston, Braunston Canal Wharf and the Wayside Business Park that are beyond the village confines but does not map the boundaries of these. It is assumed that developments in the smaller settlements are dealt with in Policies G, H and I.

### **b) Any changes in national planning policy that could supersede the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.**

The latest National Planning Policy Framework was released in February 2019. Paragraph 213 states

...existing policies should not be considered out-of-date simply because they were adopted or made prior to the publication of this Framework. Due weight should be given to them, according to their degree of consistency with this Framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).

The NPPF includes a requirement to provide adequate housing based on local need adjacent to existing settlements.

Policy A of the Neighbourhood Plan supports residential developments that include homes for first time buyers and the elderly. Paragraph 63 of the revised NPPF suggests a threshold of 5 or fewer units could be set above which there is a requirement for affordable housing to be included.

Braunston Neighbourhood Plan Policy B supports affordable housing providing it is in accordance with Policy H3 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. This states that affordable housing can be delivered on exception sites. One criterion is 'the site is within or immediately adjoins the main built-up area of a rural settlement'.

### **c) The latest statistical information such as meeting the rural housing requirement across the District or the need for affordable homes within the village.**

Since the Neighbourhood Plan was made, Daventry District Council has consulted on and adopted its Housing Supplementary Planning Document. This adds detail to the Saved Policies and West Northants Joint Core Strategy Policies.

In rural areas and for exception sites DDC requires housing needs surveys to be no more than three years old. The information may be complemented by data from the Council's Housing Register or other reliable sources of evidence. The Housing Register contains data about the number of applicants wishing to live in an area, the type of accommodation and the number of bedrooms they require. This information can also be used to help inform development sites where there may be no housing survey present.

The latest Housing Needs Survey for Braunston was completed in 2013. This was followed by a Housing survey carried out by the Parish Council in July 2016. The last application for housing on a rural exception site was for the construction of phase three of Maple Close. This was carried out and the housing completed during the years when the Neighbourhood Plan was being written. There has not therefore been a requirement for a more recent survey.

Daventry District Council have supplied the numbers of applicants as at 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 on the Housing Register wishing to live in Braunston and who have a direct connection to the village:

Household type	Number
1 child	6
2 children	3
3 children	0
4 children	0
5+ children	1
Single (including those with access)	6
Couple	0
Pregnant couple	0
Single pregnant	0
Couple 60+	5
Single 60+	2
Single ground floor only	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

**d) The implications of any emerging local plans, most notably the Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan.**

The emerging Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan has copied the village confines line and the areas of Local Green Space from the made Braunston Neighbourhood Plan.

Chapter 5 of the Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan deals with rural areas. Paragraph 5.1.03 reports a land supply in excess of 5 years. Paragraph 5.1.05 states that it is not considered necessary to make any allocations for development in the rural areas or to identify specific targets for individual settlements.

The emerging plan provides policy guidance for each settlement according to its classification. Braunston is classified as a Secondary Service Village. Such settlements 'have a more limited range of services, but still provide scope to meet some local needs for housing, employment and service provision'.

The specific policies for Secondary Service Villages are set out in paragraphs 5.2.21 – 5.2.24. These have a high level of conformity to the policies of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan and do not require any changes to be made to this plan.

One example is Policy RA2 C iv in the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan which states that development shall 'protect the integrity of ... open land that makes an important contribution to the form, character and setting of the settlement.' This policy supports Policy G of the Neighbourhood Plan – Preventing Coalescence. One purpose of this is to retain the open land on the slopes between the canal and the village which forms a distinctive landscape character feature from all aspects.

Following government approval, measures are being taken to create the West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority which will cover the same area as the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan takes full account of the policies of the Joint Core Strategy. The Prospectus for Change document states that there will be a new housing allocation policy for the Unitary Authority.

**e) Any changing circumstances within the village.**

1. For each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, has anything changed since the plan was made that requires the policy to be amended?

The following changes are noted but do not require amendment of the policies.

Policy C – Traffic Management. There has been a request to change the traffic priorities at the entrances of the village. The current layouts were adopted as traffic management measures to reduce traffic speed. Based on professional advice, the request has not been adopted.

Policy D – Link to Daventry. Measures to create the link are being taken by Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council. DDC has allocated funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy to finance the project.

Policy E – Local Services and Community Facilities. As a result of the withdrawal of funding by Northamptonshire County Council, County Connect, the demand response bus service has been withdrawn. The Parish Council has offered to assist with the management of a pilot Demand Response Transport service to be run by Uno Bus, which if finalised, will operate for a trial period of two years. Changes by Stagecoach to the commercial bus route led to 2 of the 5 pairs of bus stops no longer being served. The Parish Council has funded and installed a shelter at the revised Village Green bus stop.

Policy G – Preventing Coalescence. There has been a planning application to build a further warehouse on the edge of Daventry. Details of the application suggest that it will have less visual effect than adjacent developments.

2. Are there any changes that require the Description of the Neighbourhood Area in Section 3 of the plan to be amended?

The descriptions are still valid.

3. Have there been any changes to the issues listed in Section 5 of the plan and have any additional issues arisen since the public consultations for the plan which would require amendments to Section 5?

No formal consultations have taken place. No further issues have been brought to the attention of the council.

4. Are there any changes that have occurred which have moved Braunston closer to achieving the vision and objectives listed in Section 6 of the plan?

In a time of closures of Post Offices and pubs (The Campaign for Real Ale said there were 476 closures during 6 months of 2018), the number of shops and pubs in Braunston remains constant contributing to economic and social sustainability.

Daventry District Council carried out a consultation on proposed revisions to the Braunston Conservation Area. This has led to the publication of a revised document that seeks to safeguard and enhance the built environment of the High Street and The Green.

Use of the Braunston Community Car has grown significantly. The scheme is on a sustainable financial footing and there are several volunteer drivers. The service provided is particularly useful for those who have no other transport options.

The withdrawal of County Connect demand response bus service led to a reduction in transport choices. Following the merging of routes in the Daventry area, the fixed route bus service through Braunston has a greater number of destinations, notably Northampton, however, this has increased the journey time to Daventry town centre. A further change in July 2019 led to the route terminating in Rugby Town Centre, severing the direct link to Rugby Rail Station.

Provision for healthy activity has improved. The Parish Council has successfully applied for grants that have funded the building of a wheelpark. The Playing Fields Committee have done a great deal of work to have this successful facility built which has broadened and increased the use of the area. The Parish Council has carried out significant improvements to the play equipment at Welton Road Play Area and at the Playing Field.

5. Have any changes come about as a result of, or are relevant to, the Supplementary Proposals listed in Section 9? Have issues been raised by the local community that merit the addition of further Supplementary Proposals?

These comments refer to items a-f in Section 9.

- a. Significant improvements have been made to play equipment at Welton Road Play Area and at the Playing Field.
- b. A wheelpark has been built. Improvements are regularly being made to the various environments in the Jetty Field pocket park. Following consultation with the Wildlife Trust, changes are being made to the way that the Nature Reserve at Jetty Field is managed in order to improve wildlife habitats.
- c. The Parish Council has funded and installed a bus shelter at the main bus stop and continues to press for a stop at Maple Close. Northamptonshire Highways have been asked for permission to improve provision at other bus stops.
- d. No further links have been made with local businesses.
- e. A project to convert all streetlights to LEDs will reduce carbon emissions.
- f. Following public consultation, a proposed design has come forward for an installation at The Green.