



Great Bowden Neighbourhood Plan – Visioning exercise. February 2016

The purpose of this exercise is to begin to identify the key issues that will feature within the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Bowden. It links the discussion to national and local policy to show what the Neighbourhood Plan can do to influence these issues as the plan evolves.

At the meeting there will be an opportunity for the group to look at what it wants to achieve from preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Bowden.

Issue	National Policy NPPF	HDC Core Strategy	Neighbourhood Plan	Great Bowden questions
Planning Policy Context	Presumption in favour of sustainable development.	Local people are invited to take a lead in creating thriving and sustainable local communities.	The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be in general conformity with the Core Strategy and to have regard for the NPPF. It can add local detail (type; size; location of housing) within these broad strategies but cannot provide less than the minimum amount of housing required.	In the draft Local Plan, Great Bowden is categorised as a 'Selected Rural Village' along with other settlements with at least two facilities. It is required to take 'primarily small-scale in-fill development' to meet economic, social or community objectives. There are 9 options described in the draft Local Plan for the distribution of housing across the District. Great Bowden is earmarked for between 54-83 new homes up to 2031. From the final total needs to be deducted any commitments and completions since April 2015. What is the appetite for new housing?

Economy	Support for sustainable economic growth (18-21). Sites should be released from employment use if not viable (22). Promote customer choice in Town Centres (23). Sequential test (24).	Economic development to be supported in urban areas – and in the countryside only where it supports the viability of rural services.	The Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity to influence the nature and type of future development to meet the needs of the local community. Existing sites can be protected from a change in use and the type and location of new employment determined.	What employment activities take place in the Parish? Pubs, shops, farms – how many businesses? Home working at 10% is above the district average. A lower proportion of the Parish is economically active than across the district Does the Parish want to support business activity and encourage more?
Community Facilities	Planning system to deliver social, recreational and cultural facilities Need for high quality open spaces, protecting existing open space (73/74). Protection and enhancement of public open spaces (75).	CS12 – infrastructure to keep pace with new development.	The Neighbourhood Plan can consider if new facilities are needed and whether existing facilities should be safeguarded. It can prevent change of use to protect important local facilities such as pubs. Are shops required? What sort? Where should they be located?	Pubs, a Church, Primary School, allotments, a Village Hall, cricket and tennis clubs, shops including a post office, a tea room, a play area.... what other facilities exist locally? Does Great Bowden need more or different facilities? What local facilities does the community wish to protect?
Transport and access	Encouragement to reduce carbon emissions and congestion (30). Significant development to be located where movement is limited (34). Sustainable transport modes encouraged – cycling etc. (35). Local authorities should seek to improve quality of parking to be	Development to minimise transport requirements; secure transport improvements; provide safe pedestrian and cycling facilities; reduce unnecessary signage.	The Neighbourhood Plan can seek to address transport and access issues such as public transport, walking and cycling and the high dependency on the car. It can consider issues such as car parking and congestion and look at where existing road networks are under pressure. The impact on road systems can help determine where any new development takes place. Improvements can be made to existing	Is the issue of transport/highways important in Great Bowden? Speeding, parking, congestion – are these of concern? What about public transport – busses and train (station within 1 mile). Are local facilities well connected? Do you wish to protect/enhance/extend footpaths/cycle ways/bridle paths etc.? Are there any locations for housing that would be

	convenient, safe and secure (40).		networks which can be funded by developer contributions arising from new developments and the Plan can set standards for new developments.	unsuitable because of highways issues? Reliance on the car is lower in Great Bowden than across Harborough.
Housing and the Built Environment	Windfall sites accounted for if evidenced (48). Housing mix based on local need/demand (50). Development of gardens not favoured (53). Good design important to sustainable development (56). Heritage assets to be protected (126-141).	CS11 – high standards of design. 40% affordable housing provision required.	The Neighbourhood Plan can help determine the housing mix locally for any new housing; can specify details relating to affordable housing to ensure local need is met; can specify design criteria and can seek to protect and enhance the design and setting of the historic environment, protecting important local buildings. Preferred sites to accommodate new development can be selected.	Does the community wish to identify sites for development – and to protect from development? What housing mix is required – starter homes? Homes for older people? Affordable housing? GB has an ageing population What buildings are listed as heritage assets locally? Do you want to afford protection to other buildings by preparing a ‘local list’? Is design an issue? Incorporate Design statement?
Natural Environment	Planning system should contribute to/enhance the natural environment (109) Brownfield land to be prioritised (111). Biodiversity to be conserved/enhanced (118) Identification of Local Green Space (76-77).	CS8 - Access to open space, sport and recreation is a key element. Linkages between green spaces are important. Conserving bio-diversity is important. CS9 – development should militate against impacts on the environment.	The Neighbourhood Plan will consider how it can protect and enhance the character and bio-diversity of the countryside. What open spaces should be protected? What features should be required in new developments? How can development and actions contribute to sustainability issues such as air pollution, climate change and water quality?	What Local Green Space does the community wish to protect from development? Needs to be special, and have other characteristics such as its beauty; tranquillity; proximity to village; size; access arrangements; historical significance etc. Do you wish to build environmental features into new development (bio-diversity etc.?) How important are cycle ways and footpaths? Are views and separation still important?