

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Submission version, South Newnham
Neighbourhood Plan Submission version

200063

Object

Respondent: Mrs Judith Gardom
Date received: 07/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

Although I support many aspects of the plan I object to the lack of clarity about parking near Skaters' Meadow in the area referred to in the plan as the 'Skaters' Meadow footpath'. This area is a de facto car park which is valued by dog walkers, swimmers, people with disabilities, and many others who are not lucky enough to live in Newnham. The plan for South Newnham should include details about how space for car parking is to be provided alongside the plans to enhance biodiversity around the car park..

Full text:

Although I support many aspects of the plan I object to the lack of clarity about parking near Skaters' Meadow in the area referred to in the plan as the 'Skaters' Meadow footpath'. This area is a de facto car park which is valued by dog walkers, swimmers, people with disabilities, and many others who are not lucky enough to live in Newnham. The plan for South Newnham should include details about how space for car parking is to be provided alongside the plans to enhance biodiversity around the car park..

Attachments: None

200064

Object

Respondent: Mr Bertram Duering
Date received: 07/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

While many overall aims in the neighbourhood plan are generally positive, there are a number of items in the plan which do not balance the preferences of the local community with the needs of the wider Cambridge community, especially regarding access to Grantchester Meadows and the provision of improved cycle and pedestrian paths.

Full text:

While many overall aims in the neighbourhood plan are generally positive, there are a number of items in the plan which do not balance the preferences of the local community with the needs of the wider Cambridge community.

Some examples:

1. Designating Skaters' Meadow Footpath as a local green space LGS2 is a not very well veiled attempt to limit access for cars and possibly bicycles to this area. It is merely a path with very small green verges and no real vegetation of special interest. If the informal car park at the end of the path is to be closed, this needs to happen via proper consultation with wider Cambridge and not through the back door of designating a path as a green space.
2. Blank refusal of widening of paths as per SNCA2 – Pedestrian & Cycle Paths is contrary to attempts to improve active travel provision in the Cambridge area.
3. SNNP5 – Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network: opposing changes to Barton Road Cycle Path if they "harm existing landscape features" could make any meaningful improvement to the cycle path virtually impossible.

Attachments: None

200065

Support

Respondent: Dr Olwen Williams
Date received: 08/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

A truly wonderful achievement - so much dedicated hard work - congratulations to all concerned. I trust it will act to inspire all residents to appreciate what we have in S Newnham and to conserve and enhance its beauty.

Full text:

A truly wonderful achievement - so much dedicated hard work - congratulations to all concerned. I trust it will act to inspire all residents to appreciate what we have in S Newnham and to conserve and enhance its beauty.

Attachments: None

200066

Object

Respondent: Mr Thomas Foets
Date received: 08/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

A plan written by NIMBYs that will be whistled back by any reasonable planning inspector considering the unreasonable demands for a growing town like Cambridge.

Full text:

1. Protection of excessive development/construction legalises more NIMBY behaviour. e.g. (7.7.12)
2. Lacks allocated sites for development for housing and employment despite this being a key element of such plans. Strong recommendation to make the plan easier for housing developers and builders, e.g. 'checklists'. More positive approach to development needed given housing demand. Current plan would nearly block ANY development or would make it unsustainable financially. Lots of 'no this no that, but yes bird boxes'. How about you make it clear where and how new large developments will be approved?
3. Biodiversity plans and street view plans are excessive. Reduce to far more reasonable level, or face being continuously whistled back by inspectorate.
4. Old people provisions are very extensive. Perhaps include younger people as authors to include these too?
5. Plan lacks conciseness and could be cut in length by 20-30% without affecting content.
6. Support for environmental green targets + overall goal of conservation targets, the latter should not block development however.
7. Make 7.7.9 far more concise. Seriously, chimney regulations?! Get a grip.
8. 7.4.2. - resisting the change of shops? Who do you all think you are? The shop owner decides on this, nobody else.

Attachments: None

200067

Support

Respondent: Dr Roger Sewell
Date received: 08/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

This is a great plan which should help to ensure that development preserves the beauty, greenery, and character of South Newnham.

Full text:

This is a great plan which should help to ensure that development preserves the beauty, greenery, and character of South Newnham.

Attachments: None

200069

Support

Respondent: Ms Miranda Robbins

Date received: 09/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

This is a great document displaying the cultural and historical importance of the neighbourhood as well as being a green corridor and nature reserve. I strongly support this plan, it is clearly well researched and completely agrees with the tone and ethos of Newnham and its residents.

Full text:

This is a great document displaying the cultural and historical importance of the neighbourhood as well as being a green corridor and nature reserve. I strongly support this plan, it is clearly well researched and completely agrees with the tone and ethos of Newnham and its residents.

Attachments: None

200070

Support

Respondent: Lynn Hieatt
Date received: 09/05/2024 via Email

Summary:

I write in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

From the very first gathering of local people to discuss what they liked about living here, there has been enthusiasm to support our environment and protect it for the future. The process has been comprehensive and all residents and business and property-owners were invited and welcomed to the various well-publicised events.

The process has been a lengthy one, inevitable perhaps for something so complex, and the pandemic put a large dent in the progress that had been being made.

It is a very impressive document and as I read it I feel that it does reflect the views that people expressed very early on and throughout the process, at a detailed level and I think it is coherent and will be useful. Some residents may be unfamiliar with it since it had its start some years ago now, but if they read it I hope that they can enthusiastically support it, as I do.

Full text:

I write in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

From the very first gathering of local people to discuss what they liked about living here, there has been enthusiasm to support our environment and protect it for the future. The process has been comprehensive and all residents and business and property-owners were invited and welcomed to the various well-publicised events.

The process has been a lengthy one, inevitable perhaps for something so complex, and the pandemic put a large dent in the progress that had been being made.

It is a very impressive document and as I read it I feel that it does reflect the views that people expressed very early on and throughout the process, at a detailed level and I think it is coherent and will be useful. Some residents may be unfamiliar with it since it had its start some years ago now, but if they read it I hope that they can enthusiastically support it, as I do.

Attachments: None

200071

Object

Respondent: Dr Christopher Cox
Date received: 25/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

I object to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. Some of the Plan's most likely authors have an undeclared conflict of interest, between their roles in South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum, and their roles within the Green Party. As a result, it is not clear whether the Plan has been created to serve the interests of local residents, or to promote the interests of the Green Party.

Full text:

I object to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. Some of the Plan's most likely authors have an undeclared conflict of interest, between their roles in South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum, and their roles within the Green Party. As a result, it is not clear whether the Plan has been created to serve the interests of local residents, or to promote the interests of the Green Party.

In more detail, the Plan has been produced by the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum (www.newnhamforum.co.uk). The Forum is run by a Management Committee, which currently has two officers in named roles, and until recently had three. All three have close links with the Green Party:

- Hugh Clough (Treasurer) was elected as a Green Party councillor in May 2024.
- Jean Bevan (Chair) gave public support to Mr Clough in a Green Party election leaflet in April 2024.
- Jean Glasberg (listed until recently as Vice-Chair) was elected as a Green Party councillor in May 2023.

Those individuals should have declared their interests in the Green Party as part of the submission, and should have declared their contributions to the research and production of the Plan. Their failure to do so is an undeclared conflict of interest, which compromises the entire credibility of the Plan.

Attachments: None

200072

Support

Respondent: Mr Roger Smith
Date received: 28/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

Comprehensive submission and fully support the policies. Consultation Statement Page 39 – Comment 13 - C City C comment to use the word “Shall” rather than “Should” in policies and text. Applied in Policy 1 but should it have also been used in SNNP2, SNNP3, SNNP9 & SNNP11? LGS6 indicted on Map 2 but not referenced in key, Map 4 - LC and R13 missing. Map 5, BL13 on map should be BL12. See Consultation comments R2 and 54 - agreed to include the paddling pool on Lammas Land but has not been included in Map 4 of the NP.

Full text:

Comprehensive submission and fully support the policies. Consultation Statement Page 39 – Comment 13 - C City C comment to use the word “Shall” rather than “Should” in policies and text. Applied in Policy 1 but should it have also been used in SNNP2, SNNP3, SNNP9 & SNNP11? LGS6 indicted on Map 2 but not referenced in key, Map 4 - LC and R13 missing. Map 5, BL13 on map should be BL12. See Consultation comments R2 and 54 - agreed to include the paddling pool on Lammas Land but has not been included in Map 4 of the NP.

Attachments: None

200073

Support

Respondent: Mr Stuart Evans
Date received: 28/05/2024 via Web

Summary:

We have lived in Newnham for > 40 years and have been involved in the preparation of this plan at various stages. It provides a very sensible perspective on how Newnham should develop in the coming decades and we strongly support it

Full text:

We have lived in Newnham for > 40 years and have been involved in the preparation of this plan at various stages. It provides a very sensible perspective on how Newnham should develop in the coming decades and we strongly support it

Attachments: None

200074

Support

Respondent: Dr Roger Sewell
Date received: 04/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

There are many great policies in this neighbourhood plan, and I support almost all of them. Most importantly the plan aims to protect the green spaces and the green corridor from Grantchester Meadows into Cambridge. The various neighbourhood assets could without this plan easily be lost by conversion into residences and the like.

Please see the longer version for the specific comments on each relevant policy.

Full text:

I would like to add to my previous comments.

The green spaces in Newnham, particularly the green corridor along the Cam but also the various college playing fields, are particularly important to this area. The Evidence Base is particularly good in describing these assets, which are important not just for Newnham but for the whole of Cambridge. Similarly the various water areas, such as the Cam and Bolton's Pit (the lake between Fulbrooke Road and Barton Road) are really important.

The green verges and trees along Barton Road in particular need special protection, as they are continually under threat, in particular from the GCP - and again this is well described in the Evidence Base.

While I was not one of the 35 or so people who prepared the Evidence Base, I do think that it is a spectacularly thorough and accurate description of the area covered by the proposed neighbourhood plan.

In view of the above I particularly support SNNP 1-4.

On policy SNNP6 on community assets:

I particularly value assets R2, R3, R5, R7, and R10, which lie at the heart of the community here - and I know are also valued by countless others. I therefore fully support both parts of SNNP6.

On SNNP 7 re facilities for older people:

My own mother-in-law was very well accommodated in Lammas Court, and as we have many ageing residents in Newnham I think it is particularly important that its present use is retained.

On SNNP 9 on energy and water efficiency:

I fully agree with the proposals for energy efficiency of new buildings, and that measures that reduce heat wastage in winter or excessive solar gain in summer are very important. I also believe (having ourselves installed a heat pump some years ago) that the energy savings they achieve need to become more widespread. However, while I support measures to reduce water wastage, I do not support arbitrary caps on water consumption, and believe that instead water shortages in our area should be handled by *not* building more homes in Cambridge or expanding businesses here.

On SNNP 10 about climate change and associated flood risk:

This is definitely needed; there are several properties in Newnham, particularly those in the vicinity of Bin Brook, which are already being flooded more than once per decade and have associated high insurance costs and imposed mitigation measures. It would be awful if more paving and reduced greenspace led to this problem being exacerbated.

On SNNP 11 and 12:

Newnham is an expensive area, and people who buy property here often feel that they ought to have been able to buy more with their money than they have actually got - and then want to massively extend their property in a way that totally alters the street scene or overwhelms or overshadows their neighbours. It is great that these two policies will act against this.

Attachments: None

200075

Object

Respondent: mr paul murray john
Date received: 06/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

The plan puts excessive focus on preserving the existing built environment. It discourages any development, which (if carefully managed) can help increase the population density of South Newnham and improve the environmental sustainability of the area. We face the luxury here of the challenges of managing growth, one of these is a lack of housing in the area for our children, another is pressure on the natural environment. We should encourage responsible development to increase population density, the quality and carbon footprint of the houses, and an infrastructure which better manages our interaction with the natural environment.

Full text:

The plan puts excessive focus on preserving the existing built environment. It discourages any development, which (if carefully managed) can help increase the population density of South Newnham and improve the environmental sustainability of the area. We face the luxury here of the challenges of managing growth, one of these is a lack of housing in the area for our children, another is pressure on the natural environment. We should encourage responsible development to increase population density, the quality and carbon footprint of the houses, and an infrastructure which better manages our interaction with the natural environment.

Attachments: None

200076

Support

Respondent: Dr Olwen Williams
Date received: 10/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

This plan marks a huge investment in time and effort and there is nothing that I disagree with. I particularly like the plans to protect and enhance biodiversity and open spaces. Any development which would intrude on the boundaries of the area or restrict the views from the periphery. should be prevented. Skaters' Meadows Footpath comes into this category. It should be a green transition to open fields, not a rutted car park hosting camper vans from across Europe but rather an area where cycles, disability vehicles and buggies are safe and biodiversity enhanced by trees and wildflowers.

Full text:

This plan marks a huge investment in time and effort and there is nothing that I disagree with. I particularly like the plans to protect and enhance biodiversity and open spaces. Any development which would intrude on the boundaries of the area or restrict the views from the periphery. should be prevented. Skaters' Meadows Footpath comes into this category. It should be a green transition to open fields, not a rutted car park hosting camper vans from across Europe but rather an area where cycles, disability vehicles and buggies are safe and biodiversity enhanced by trees and wildflowers.

Attachments:



CLEAN IT UP!
No dogs allowed

12

181

1338





200077

Support

Respondent: Mr Peter Storey
Date received: 15/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

I have lived in Newnham for many years and am concerned at the impact that University Colleges are having on the South Newnham area.
I think the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan is a well-prepared and excellent plan and I support it fully.

Full text:

I have lived in Newnham for many years and am concerned at the impact that University Colleges are having on the South Newnham area.
I think the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan is a well-prepared and excellent plan and I support it fully.

Attachments: None

200078

Comment

Respondent: Tanya Sheridan**Date received:** 17/06/2024 via Web**Summary:**

In summary, this is not an objection, but a request to change parts of the plan to improve it on equality, diversity and inclusion grounds; to improve its scope for environmental improvements to buildings and give property owners more confidence to do so; and to improve its treatment of cyclists and cycling infrastructure.

Full text:

As a Newnham resident, I feel a neighbourhood plan might be beneficial to our area, but that this one could do significantly more for equality, diversity and inclusion and to give homeowners the confidence that they will be able to make the improvements needed to their properties to achieve net zero, water efficiency and other environmental sustainability goals. I didn't want to object, but the binary choice in your system doesn't allow for the nuance of wanting to change the plan, yet also respecting the hard work of many local residents, including my neighbour.

This submission sets out how I think the plan should be reviewed and/or changed to better achieve the South Neighbourhood Forum's vision of '...supporting the transition to a low, and ultimately zero carbon society and making South Newnham a great place to live both now and for future generations' and achieving environmental and social sustainability.

I would recommend that the Shared Planning Service conducts an Equality Impact Assessment on the draft neighbourhood plan. The draft supports older people very well, but could perform netter on disability, gender, meeting the needs of middle aged and younger people as well as future generations and social inclusion (noting the latter is not a protected characteristic).

The rest of this note sets out my views on specific parts of the plan.

SNNP3- light pollution. Lighting policy should balance the conservation considerations in the draft neighbourhood plan with other considerations, in particular the use of lighting to ensure people, particularly women, feel safe returning home after dark. As a local resident, I can find it quite frightening cycling across Lammas Land in the dark, yet this is a vital traffic free route for pedestrians and cyclists in our area. It is important that these human needs are also acknowledged in the planning policy. If silence on them means they are not fully considered, it could be sex discrimination and possibly discrimination against younger people.

I suggest the policy wording of the first sentence in 7.1.8 be changed to:

'To protect wildlife and especially bats, proposals for additional lighting both within and adjacent to the Green Infrastructure Network will be supported only if it is necessary, for example to ensure safety after dark and capable of minimising harm to the natural environment' (my suggested changes in bold). There may be situations where harm to aspects of the natural environment cannot be avoided without compromising human, particularly women's, safety. Policy on solar studs should allow the possibility that some foot and cycle paths may require better lighting to ensure pedestrian and cycle safety, for example next to open water courses or in dark areas.

I disagree with SNCA 2 and SNCA 3 under point 7.1.10 'Community Actions' on page 36. SNCA 2 should instead balance the considerations involved in questions of whether to widen foot and cycle paths. These should include:

- Accessibility (for example for mobility scooters, buggies, cargo bikes, trailers and adapted cycles).
- Safety and ability to travel and a reasonable pace through minimising conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians (and where possible this should be achieved without cyclists needing to slow down to a pedestrian speed of 2-5km per hour to avoid accidents).
- Sustainable urban drainage (as grass/ planting areas can play a role here)
- Biodiversity, noting that this can be thought of using a broader area.

SNCA 3 should add that signage should help pedestrians, cyclists and motorists to navigate effectively, particularly those who do not know the area. They should also be consistent with Newnham's role as a thriving part of a thriving city – 'semi rural' feels like a 1950s throwback.

SNNP4 – I strongly agree with other local residents, who have argued for the removal of SNCA 2, the car parking area next to Skaters' Meadow from the list of local green spaces. Designating this area as a local green space risks removing access to Grantchester Meadows for older people, disabled people and those with young families who do not live locally and may need to travel by car. Grantchester Meadows is a very significant recreational area, enjoyed by people around Cambridge and well beyond. Like other significant sites listed in the Neighbourhood Plan (eg. Paradise Nature reserve), we Newnham residents should not be greedy, but ensure our fellow Cambridge residents can make use of these amenities.

SNNP5 on cycling and walking could be more ambitious, particularly for cycling. It should add that proposals impacting the cycle network should maintain or improve cycle connectivity, including for non-standard cycles such as box bikes, trailers, cargo bikes, tricycles and adapted cycles such as hand cycles. The policy on the Barton Rd cycle path (bottom of p.39) should be modified, by replacing verges with hedges as protected landscape features. Trees and hedges are slow growing aspects of our green infrastructure, whilst verges and plantings can easily be regrown in other locations, so trees and hedges should have a higher bar for removal with infrastructure projects. It also needs to add a consideration that would enable planners to meet the needs of cyclists in the broader network, for example coming from Barton using a range of different kinds of cycles. This policy should also do more to enable improvement of bus services, given that younger and older people tend to need and use them more.

SNNP7: whilst retention of sheltered housing for older people is important and welcome, this policy needs the addition of social housing. Lack of social and affordable housing is a city-wide problem.

SNNP9 this policy on energy efficiency is welcome, particularly in the light of the climate emergency and Cambridge City Council's net zero goals. However, it needs to be more ambitious and to cover water efficiency as well as energy efficiency, given the documented impact of water scarcity on local chalk streams. It also needs to reference the importance of energy efficiency improvements being affordable for home owners, as well as maintaining street scene and building appearance, so that planners can take all these things into consideration, particularly giving the cost of living crisis. It is important to give homeowners confidence that they can make improvements to their homes to increase energy efficiency that are affordable, rather than worrying that only the most expensive windows will be acceptable under planning policies.

SNNP11: Whilst maintaining the street scene is important to many residents, so are improving properties and their energy and water efficiency. This policy needs amending to ensure that environmental performance and affordability are important criteria as well as aesthetic considerations, and that where there is a conflict between SNNP 11 and SNNP 9, SNNP 9 would normally take precedence, unless there are very material reasons otherwise. Again, this is to give home owners the confidence they can make affordable improvements to their properties' energy and water efficiency.

SNNP12: This policy is somewhat unclear in its intention and risks making home improvements and other construction projects unaffordable, if not impossible. It needs to clarify that it is to ensure that the disruption and noise from construction should not be unreasonable relative to what would be expected from that particular construction project, rather than unreasonable compared to the state when there is no construction project.

SNNP14: Residents should be able to use their front gardens for car parking to enable electric vehicle charging, provided any flooding risk can be mitigated. This will enable take up of electric vehicles, which can reduce carbon emissions from motoring, more cheaply. Charging from a home power supply is likely to be cheaper than relying on commercial providers on street.

SNNP 15 – whilst this should enable residents wishing to build facilities to store bins and bikes to do so, residents should not be required to do so by the policy.

Attachments: None

200079

Support

Respondent: Mr Jason Palmer
Date received: 17/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

This Neighbourhood Plan is excellent and it has my full support. One (very small) omission is the mention of bats on Barton Road Lake. There are six or more bat species, including the very rare and light-sensitive Barbastrelle bats. There are also very rare invertebrates, which I don't think are listed.

Another (again minor) omission is any photograph of views of this lake. I would be happy to provide (a) photograph(s).

Full text:

This Neighbourhood Plan is excellent and it has my full support. One (very small) omission is the mention of bats on Barton Road Lake. There are six or more bat species, including the very rare and light-sensitive Barbastrelle bats. There are also very rare invertebrates, which I don't think are listed.

Another (again minor) omission is any photograph of views of this lake. I would be happy to provide (a) photograph(s).

Note I am responding as an individual, not CAR.

Attachments: None

200080

Support

Respondent: Newnham Croft Primary School**Date received:** 18/06/2024 via Web**Summary:**

Newnham Croft Primary School is grateful that we are recognised as an important community asset and that the school's hedgerows, playing field and wilderness area are similarly acknowledged as contributing to the Green River Corridor and warranting protection. The school also has a large allotment and wild flower area that contribute significantly to the school's rich wildlife.

We support proposals to reduce car use in areas that impact on children travelling to school on foot or by bicycle, for example at the Chedworth street junction, and likewise proposals that prioritise cyclist (and particularly young cyclist) safety.

Full text:

Newnham Croft Primary School is grateful that we are recognised as an important community asset and that the school's hedgerows, playing field and wilderness area are similarly acknowledged as contributing to the Green River Corridor and warranting protection. The school also has a large allotment and wild flower area that contribute significantly to the school's rich wildlife.

We support proposals to reduce car use in areas that impact on children travelling to school on foot or by bicycle, for example at the Chedworth street junction, and likewise proposals that prioritise cyclist (and particularly young cyclist) safety.

Attachments: None

200081

Object

Respondent: Barbara Sahakian
Date received: 09/05/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ I strongly object to giving Queen's College planning permission and to the Barton Road Plans.

Full text:

■ I strongly object to giving Queen's College planning permission and to the Barton Road Plans.

Attachments: None

200082

Object

Respondent: Cambridge Past, Present and Future**Date received:** 18/06/2024 via Web**Summary:**

CPPF object to the inclusion of LGS2 Skater's Meadow Footpath in Policy SNNP4. It does not meet the criteria for Local Green Spaces (NPPF paragraph 106(b)) for the following reasons:

- It is described as a public footpath not a green area.
- It is not a green area but used as public footpath and informal car park. It is not demonstrably special nor hold a particular local significance. (see photos)

We are advised that the de facto landowners of the site are Cambridge Past, Present & Future and St Catherine's College. We request that LGS2 is removed from policy SNNP4.

Full text:

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is Cambridge's largest civic society. We are a charity run by local people who are passionate about where they live. We operate in the greater Cambridge area and working with our members, supporters and volunteers we:

- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the Cambridge area.
- Own and care for green spaces and historic buildings in and around the city for people and nature, including Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel & Barnwell Meadows, Bourn Windmill and Hinxton Watermill.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future object to Policy SNNP4: Creating Local Green Spaces due to the inclusion of site LGS2 Skater's Meadow Footpath. This does not meet the criteria for Local Green Spaces as set out in the NPPF – mainly point 106(b) below:

105. The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

106. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

We disagree with the 'Evidence Base for Development Policies' document (see paragraph 2.3 page 20) and believe that site LGS2 does not meet the criteria for the following reasons:

- It is described as a public footpath not a green area.
- It is used as public footpath and an informal car park (i.e. it is not a green area). We attach two photos which clearly show this to be the case. It is not demonstrably special nor hold a particular local significance. It is not beautiful, of historical significance or recreational value. As a car park it is not tranquil or have abundant wildlife.

The Consultation Statement states that there is no ownership recorded for Skaters' Meadow Footpath (page 14). We have been advised that the de facto landowners of the site are Cambridge Past, Present & Future and St Catherine's College.

We request that Skater's Meadow Footpath is removed from Policy SNNP4.

We share the community's concerns regarding this space, namely that it is unsafe, unmanaged and sometimes used for anti-social behaviour. We also share the community's desire to resolve these issues and for this space to be changed for the better. We understand their fears about the future of this space and why they have attempted to use the Neighbourhood Plan as a tool for a solution but that does not make it a green space and it should not be designated as such in the Plan.

There are many potential solutions for this space and there are conflicting views within the community about how to solve them. There are also other communities who use this space who are not local to the area and who will have no say on this neighbourhood plan, they also ought to have a say on its future. Designating the space as a Local Green Space would limit some of the options for improving the space, or make it harder to achieve them, and in our view, this is not in the best interests of achieving a solution and therefore not in the best interests of the wider community.

We have submitted evidence at the consultation stage, and we met with representatives of the Neighbourhood Forum to explain our position to them and so it is disappointing that they have not acted upon our evidence. We understand the difficulties of getting a neighbourhood plan adopted and we believe that achieving this has taken precedent over openly discussing the future of this space with all relevant communities and stakeholders, which would likely have resulted in

further delay to the plan and possibly the risk that it might have permanently stalled.

We are very supportive of the plan overall and those involved deserve great credit in steering it to this stage.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Attachments:



AK05 BZS

WP60 XGW



200083

Object

Respondent: Mr Graham West
Date received: 18/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

I oppose this Plan. There is no need for further planning restrictions in Newnham. We already have extensive planning rules in place from Council SPD and conservation area status and this duplicates most of it. It will further restrict our freedoms and increase our costs. This Plan does not address the real issues of housing need and transport or even accept the need for difficult trade-offs. It seeks to preserve Newnham 'in aspic' just when we need to embrace change to get things done. This Plan read likes a 'nimbys' charter to preserve the status quo.

Full text:

I oppose this Plan. There is no need for further planning restrictions in Newnham. We already have extensive planning rules in place from Council SPD and conservation area status and this duplicates most of it. It will further restrict our freedoms and increase our costs. This Plan does not address the real issues of housing need and transport or even accept the need for difficult trade-offs. It seeks to preserve Newnham 'in aspic' just when we need to embrace change to get things done. This Plan read likes a 'nimbys' charter to preserve the status quo.

Attachments: None

200084

Support

Respondent: Claire Johnson
Date received: 18/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

I would like to add my support to the aims and the content of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. It would add much needed protection and enhancement to an area that has enviable green spaces and biodiversity in the heart of Cambridge. Barton Road Lake is at particular threat from developments around it and I would suggest that additional measures to protect the wildlife and its green boundaries are explored.

Full text:

I would like to add my support to the aims and the content of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. It would add much needed protection and enhancement to an area that has enviable green spaces and biodiversity in the heart of Cambridge. Barton Road Lake is at particular threat from developments around it and I would suggest that additional measures to protect the wildlife and its green boundaries are explored.

Attachments: None

200085

Support

Respondent: Dr Dani Turner
Date received: 18/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

Sheep's Green Learner Pool could do with specific mention in the plan to protect this area for children. Item 4.14 the Friends of Sheep's Green Learner Pool involved the Forum in work they did to support the green network including the ecological bug-hotel sign by the pool.

The Miniature Trains (<https://cdmes.uk/>) is an area worth including in the SNNP as it is an important asset for children and wildlife.

Policy 7.3.2 for Barton Cycle Path must include accessibility needs of children of all ages, who are important users of this route and have different needs to those with disabilities.

Full text:

Sheep's Green Learner Pool could do with specific mention in the plan to protect this area for children. Item 4.14 the Friends of Sheep's Green Learner Pool involved the Forum in work they did to support the green network including the ecological bug-hotel sign by the pool.

The Miniature Trains (<https://cdmes.uk/>) is an area worth including in the SNNP as it is an important asset for children and wildlife.

Policy 7.3.2 for Barton Cycle Path must include accessibility needs of children of all ages, who are important users of this route and have different needs to those with disabilities.

Attachments: None

200086

Support

Respondent: Mr Mike Priaulx
Date received: 18/06/2024 via Web

Summary:

■ I support the plan.

Full text:

■ I support the plan.

Attachments: None

200087

Object

Respondent: Trevor Robbins**Date received:** 10/05/2024 via Email**Summary:**

I noted three items worth of comment.

- 1) Solar night lighting is quite poor along the paths of the Newnham Parkland area adjacent to Fens Causeway and Newnham Road.
- 2) I hope the bicycle expansion along Barton Road is not at the expense of grass verges and trees which would seriously damage the general ambience.
- 3) I noted that the young graduate population is generally high and reduces the average age of the community- a good thing. We have already accomodated substantial expansion of this via developments by Kings College (Barton Rd) and Darwin College (Derby Street)(adding to Owlstone Croift-Queens) which are ok, although the Kings development is not at all physically attractive and I am surprised this was not better regualted.

But I would strongly oppose any further building developments of this type- e.g., by Queens College- especially if they threaten biodiversity and green belt characteristics of the site, notably in Queens' developments at Paradise and 14 Grange Road.

Full text:

Dear Team, I spent today reading the plan which is quite richly detailed and well laid out. I noted three items worth of comment.

- 1) Solar night lighting is quite poor along the paths of the Newnham Parkland area adjacent to Fens Causeway and Newnham Road.
- 2) I hope the bicycle expansion along Barton Road is not at the expense of grass verges and trees which would seriously damage the general ambience.
- 3) I notes that the young graduate population is generally high and reduced the average age of the community- a good thing. We have already accomodated substantial expansion of this via developments by Kings College (Barton Rd) and Darwin College (Derby Street)(adding to Owlstone Croift-Queens) which are ok, although the Kings development is not at all physically attractive I am surprised this was not better regualted.

But I would strongly oppose any further building developments of this type- e.g., by Queens College- especially if they threaten biodiversity and green belt characteristics of the site, notably in Queens' developments at Paradise and 14 Grange Road.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Attachments: None

200088

Support

Respondent: Mrs Erika Pilgrim
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ I fully support the proposed South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

■ I fully support the proposed South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Attachments: None

200089

Support

Respondent: Fiona Crawford

Petition: 2 petitioners

Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I am writing to give our unequivocal support to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan in its entirety. It is a marvellous and thorough piece of work and covers all areas efficiently.

Full text:

I am writing to give our unequivocal support to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan in its entirety. It is a marvellous and thorough piece of work and covers all areas efficiently.

Attachments: None

200090

Comment

Respondent: Highways England
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

National Highways is a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN).

It has been noted that once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Where relevant, National Highways will be a statutory consultee on future planning applications within the area and will assess the impact on the SRN of a planning application accordingly.

Notwithstanding the above comments, we have reviewed the document and note the details of set out within the draft document are unlikely to have an severe impact on the operation of the trunk road and we offer No Comment.

Full text:

Thank you for consulting National Highways on the abovementioned Neighbourhood Plan.

National Highways is a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN).

It has been noted that once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Where relevant, National Highways will be a statutory consultee on future planning applications within the area and will assess the impact on the SRN of a planning application accordingly.

Notwithstanding the above comments, we have reviewed the document and note the details of set out within the draft document are unlikely to have an severe impact on the operation of the trunk road and we offer No Comment.

Attachments: None

200091

Comment

Respondent: Environment Agency
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Thank you for consulting us on the Submission Publication for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. Having previously commented on the plan we have no further detailed comments to make.

Full text:

Thank you for consulting us on the Submission Publication for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. Having previously commented on the plan we have no further detailed comments to make.

Attachments: None

200092

Comment

Respondent: Cambridgeshire County Council

Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

The LLFA have reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan submitted for review under Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 and have the following comments:

The inclusion of the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document, the National Planning Policy Framework, and Cambridge City Council Local Plan Policy 31 and Policy 32 is supported by the LLFA as it covers the importance of managing surface water runoff in new developments using sustainable drainage systems. Cambridge City Local Plan Policy 33 is particularly important for protecting groundwater bodies from pollution. It would be beneficial to include reference to this within the Neighbourhood Plan as South Newnham is located in a Source Protection Zone.

The LLFA is supportive of the promotion of permeable paving as in addition to controlling the rate of surface water leaving the site it also provides water quality treatment. It is also great to see the promotion of green/brown roofs. Other above-ground open SuDS features could be listed such as attenuation basins as these also provide water quality treatment, amenity, and biodiversity benefits.

Some areas of South Newnham are at high risk of surface water flooding. This is highlighted within the Neighbourhood Plan with reference to surface water flood risk maps which allow people to identify the specific locations that are most at risk.

It is acknowledged that Policy SNNP10 refers to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding. It is also recommended that the use of above ground SuDS is encouraged in Policy SNNP10 as these features can enhance landscape character in South Newnham.

The Cambridgeshire County Councils Surface Water Planning Guidance also provides technical guidance for developers.

The LLFA would recommend that Anglian Water, and the Environment Agency as well as any relevant Internal Drainage Board are consulted in relation to flood risk management, to ensure that their comments on this Neighbourhood Plan can be taken into account.

Full text:

Thank you for consulting the LLFA on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

The LLFA have reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan submitted for review under Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 and have the following comments:

The inclusion of the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document, the National Planning Policy Framework, and Cambridge City Council Local Plan Policy 31 and Policy 32 is supported by the LLFA as it covers the importance of managing surface water runoff in new developments using sustainable drainage systems. Cambridge City Local Plan Policy 33 is particularly important for protecting groundwater bodies from pollution. It would be beneficial to include reference to this within the Neighbourhood Plan as South Newnham is located in a Source Protection Zone.

The LLFA is supportive of the promotion of permeable paving as in addition to controlling the rate of surface water leaving the site it also provides water quality treatment. It is also great to see the promotion of green/brown roofs. Other above-ground open SuDS features could be listed such as attenuation basins as these also provide water quality treatment, amenity, and biodiversity benefits.

Some areas of South Newnham are at high risk of surface water flooding. This is highlighted within the Neighbourhood Plan with reference to surface water flood risk maps which allow people to identify the specific locations that are most at risk.

It is acknowledged that Policy SNNP10 refers to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding. It is also recommended that the use of above ground SuDS is encouraged in Policy SNNP10 as these features can enhance landscape character in South Newnham.

The Cambridgeshire County Councils Surface Water Planning Guidance also provides technical guidance for developers.

The LLFA would recommend that Anglian Water, and the Environment Agency as well as any relevant Internal Drainage Board are consulted in relation to flood risk management, to ensure that their comments on this Neighbourhood Plan can be taken into account.

Should you wish to further discuss any of the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Attachments: None

200093

Support

Respondent: Georgie Bevan

Petition: 2 petitioners

Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I would like to support the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

It is a very comprehensive document and encompasses a large range of important issues including the green policies and protecting the environment.

Full text:

I would like to support the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

It is a very comprehensive document and encompasses a large range of important issues including the green policies and protecting the environment.

Attachments: None

200094

Support

Respondent: Mr + Mrs A.F Jones

Petition: 2 petitioners

Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Having fully studied the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan & made one objection we are writing to express our very strong support overall for this detailed & well researched Plan which we believe covers the many aspects involved in future plans & changes in the South Newnham Neighbourhood.

We particularly reference Page71, 'Implementation & Monitoring', which describes how this Plan will be implemented within the City/County wide planning with the monitoring & any necessary updating planned(8.7), so keeping it effective & relevant.

Full text:

Having fully studied the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan & made one objection we are writing to express our very strong support overall for this detailed & well researched Plan which we believe covers the many aspects involved in future plans & changes in the S.Newnham Neighbourhood.

We particularly reference Page71, 'Implementation & Monitoring', which describes how this Plan will be implemented within the City/County wide planning with the monitoring & any necessary updating planned(8.7), so keeping it effective & relevant.

Attachments: None

200095

Support

Respondent: Mr Lewis Neil Petersen**Date received:** 20/06/2024 via Email**Summary:**

I acknowledge the very careful work that has gone into preparing this plan. I support its policies but make the following observations on 2 of them:

Policy 12:

Policy 12 (a) is particularly important because of the density of housing in the neighbourhood and the high number of extensions and modifications to existing properties which have happened and are likely to continue. Careful monitoring of applications is needed to protect against loss of amenity (due to massing and visual dominance) and loss of privacy (due to overlooking) as these negatively impact the character of the neighbourhood and the lives of those living here. Amenity needs as much protection as possible.

Policy 14:

Policy 14 aims at retaining vegetated property boundaries and front gardens. This is also the intention of Policy 11(g). Paragraph 7.7.17 which outlines the introduction/context to Policy 14 mentions the pressure on residents to pave over front gardens to create car parking. Such paving over has a negative impact on the character of a neighbourhood. As currently worded policy 14 states: "All existing vegetated boundaries (hedgerows, trees and front gardens) shall be retained or enhanced". That wording, together with the wording of Policy 11(g), aims to protect these boundaries against such proposals which would negatively impact the character of the neighbourhood but could be strengthened by adding the words "and front gardens shall not be paved over for car parking".

Full text:

These are my comments on the SNNP:

I acknowledge the very careful work that has gone into preparing this plan. I support its policies but make the following observations on 2 of them:

Policy 12:

Policy 12 (a) is particularly important because of the density of housing in the neighbourhood and the high number of extensions and modifications to existing properties which have happened and are likely to continue. Careful monitoring of applications is needed to protect against loss of amenity (due to massing and visual dominance) and loss of privacy (due to overlooking) as these negatively impact the character of the neighbourhood and the lives of those living here. Amenity needs as much protection as possible.

Policy 14

Policy 14 aims at retaining vegetated property boundaries and front gardens. This is also the intention of Policy 11(g). Paragraph 7.7.17 which outlines the introduction/context to Policy 14 mentions the pressure on residents to pave over front gardens to create car parking. Such paving over has a negative impact on the character of a neighbourhood. As currently worded policy 14 states: "All existing vegetated boundaries (hedgerows, trees and front gardens) shall be retained or enhanced". That wording, together with the wording of Policy 11(g), aims to protect these boundaries against such proposals which would negatively impact the character of the neighbourhood but could be strengthened by adding the words "and front gardens shall not be paved over for car parking".

Attachments: None

200096

Comment

Respondent: Anglian Water Services Ltd

Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Anglian Water has previously submitted comments on the pre-submission version (Reg 14) of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Overall, we are supportive of the policy ambitions within the neighbourhood plan. I can confirm, we have no further comments to make and wish the neighbourhood plan group every success in taking this forward.

Full text:

Dear Jonathan,

Anglian Water has previously submitted comments on the pre-submission version (Reg 14) of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Overall, we are supportive of the policy ambitions within the neighbourhood plan. I can confirm, we have no further comments to make and wish the neighbourhood plan group every success in taking this forward.

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this representation and keep me updated on further progress made on the neighbourhood plan.

Attachments: None

200097

Support

Respondent: Cllr Jean Glasberg
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I am writing as a Newnham ward councillor to give my full support to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

As Chair of the Newnham Croft Residents' Association I was involved from the start with setting up the Forum in 2016 and organising the early workshops to consult with the community about the aspects of South Newnham that were valued as well as those that people would like to see improved. They were well attended and residents were keen to participate and give their views, which were incorporated into the vision statement. This was circulated in a leaflet to every household, and once again the feedback was very positive.

Drop-in events were organised to keep people updated and give the opportunity to share progress and get feedback to make sure the Plan was on-track and reflecting the wishes of local people. I was also involved in visiting representatives of several of the local businesses to share details of the proposals, especially those that related to designation as Buildings of Local Interest to make clear what was involved.

Many residents were involved in gathering information for the Evidence Base, and I co-ordinated the efforts of those who undertook to do the street appraisals. Over 20 people did the main part of this, mostly working in pairs with a template to help guide them and ensure we could standardise the outcome to some extent. It was a huge undertaking and we were grateful to the volunteers who gave up so many hours of their time to walk the streets and record all the key features. While much information already existed for the parts in the West Cambridge and Newnham Croft Conservation area, this allowed it to be updated, and also provided similar information for the places that were outside the Conservation Areas, such as the Grantchester Road/Fulbrook Road area and Gough Way.

I see this as a key contribution that the Neighbourhood Plan can make to the policies in the Local Plan - where the Local Plan requires new developments to respond to context, the NP adds granularity and sets out in detail what the context is for each part of South Newnham. This should be a considerable help to people wanting to develop in the area and also to planners and councillors when making decisions on applications in South Newnham.

As described in the Plan, much of the character of the area comes from the urban/rural interface and as well as the detailed appraisals of the streetscape a very comprehensive piece of work by a local ecologist sets out the biodiversity of our green spaces. This reflects her in-depth knowledge of these places which are recognised by our whole community as so important, and should be used by planners to protect them for future generations to enjoy.

In conclusion, the policies now set out in the completed Neighbourhood Plan with the help of planning consultants and GCSP are well drafted to reflect the original vision of residents and I hope will be approved to sit alongside the Local Plan and NPPF to support future development in South Newnham.

Full text:

Dear Officers

I am writing as a Newnham ward councillor to give my full support to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

As Chair of the Newnham Croft Residents' Association I was involved from the start with setting up the Forum in 2016 and organising the early workshops to consult with the community about the aspects of South Newnham that were valued as well as those that people would like to see improved. They were well attended and residents were keen to participate and give their views, which were incorporated into the vision statement. This was circulated in a leaflet to every household, and once again the feedback was very positive.

Drop-in events were organised to keep people updated and give the opportunity to share progress and get feedback to make sure the Plan was on-track and reflecting the wishes of local people. I was also involved in visiting representatives of several of the local businesses to share details of the proposals, especially those that related to designation as Buildings of Local Interest to make clear what was involved.

Many residents were involved in gathering information for the Evidence Base, and I co-ordinated the efforts of those who undertook to do the street appraisals. Over 20 people did the main part of this, mostly working in pairs with a template to help guide them and ensure we could standardise the outcome to some extent. It was a huge undertaking and we were grateful to the volunteers who gave up so many hours of their time to walk the streets and record all the key features. While much information already existed for the parts in the West Cambridge and Newnham Croft Conservation area, this allowed it to be updated, and also provided similar information for the places that were outside the Conservation Areas, such as the Grantchester Road/Fulbrook Road area and Gough Way.

I see this as a key contribution that the Neighbourhood Plan can make to the policies in the Local Plan - where the Local Plan requires new developments to respond to context, the NP adds granularity and sets out in detail what the context is for each part of South Newnham. This should be a considerable help to people wanting to develop in the area and also to planners and councillors when making decisions on applications in South Newnham.

As described in the Plan, much of the character of the area comes from the urban/rural interface and as well as the detailed appraisals of the streetscape a very comprehensive piece of work by a local ecologist sets out the biodiversity of our green spaces. This reflects her in-depth knowledge of these places which are recognised by our whole community as so important, and should be used by planners to protect them for future generations to enjoy.

In conclusion, the policies now set out in the completed Neighbourhood Plan with the help of planning consultants and GCSP are well drafted to reflect the original vision of residents and I hope will be approved to sit alongside the Local Plan and NPPF to support future development in South Newnham.

Attachments: None

200098

Support

Respondent: Bruce Ragsdale**Date received:** 20/06/2024 via Email**Summary:**

I am writing in strong support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. We moved from the United States three years ago and purchased a house on Eltisley Avenue. We feel privileged to live in the very special and welcoming community of South Newnham, and find the plan reflects and supports so much of what we have come to value about the neighbourhood.

I had an opportunity to read the Neighbourhood Plan in the final stages of its development and found it to be an incredibly informative and accurate survey of the community, and I believe its approval will be an important support for preserving the character of the area as Cambridge continues to grow. The plan identifies the neighbourhood's variety of architectural styles, the assortment of shops, a thriving pub, a church, and a cherished school that all contribute to the vibrancy of a veritable village in close proximity to the centre of Cambridge. That sense of village cultivates a healthy attachment to place and community that helps to make Cambridge such a special place to live. I believe the plan will prove invaluable in promoting that sense of community and connectivity and in guiding decisions about growth.

The most impressive elements of the plan are its detail and its sensitivity, rooted in an open and inclusive consultation with residents, all balanced with an understanding of the regulations governing planning in Cambridge.

One of the unique and irreplaceable characteristics of South Newnham is the accessibility to green spaces that do far more than contribute to biodiversity; They are gathering places for many residents and perhaps the most important single component in community building. We value nothing more than our proximity to Lammas Land, Paradise Nature Reserve, and, especially, Grantchester Meadows, where we visit with our dog every day. I think the designation of the critical Skaters' Meadow Footpath as a Local Green Space will ensure that this community asset continues to enhance the lives of residents in South Newnham. This is a very fragile area that deserves protection.

Full text:

I am writing in strong support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. We moved from the United States three years ago and purchased a house on Eltisley Avenue. We feel privileged to live in the very special and welcoming community of South Newnham, and find the plan reflects and supports so much of what we have come to value about the neighbourhood.

I had an opportunity to read the Neighbourhood Plan in the final stages of its development and found it to be an incredibly informative and accurate survey of the community, and I believe its approval will be an important support for preserving the character of the area as Cambridge continues to grow. The plan identifies the neighbourhood's variety of architectural styles, the assortment of shops, a thriving pub, a church, and a cherished school that all contribute to the vibrancy of a veritable village in close proximity to the centre of Cambridge. That sense of village cultivates a healthy attachment to place and community that helps to make Cambridge such a special place to live. I believe the plan will prove invaluable in promoting that sense of community and connectivity and in guiding decisions about growth.

The most impressive elements of the plan are its detail and its sensitivity, rooted in an open and inclusive consultation with residents, all balanced with an understanding of the regulations governing planning in Cambridge.

One of the unique and irreplaceable characteristics of South Newnham is the accessibility to green spaces that do far more than contribute to biodiversity; They are gathering places for many residents and perhaps the most important single component in community building. We value nothing more than our proximity to Lammas Land, Paradise Nature Reserve, and, especially, Grantchester Meadows, where we visit with our dog every day. I think the designation of the critical Skaters' Meadow Footpath as a Local Green Space will ensure that this community asset continues to enhance the lives of residents in South Newnham. This is a very fragile area that deserves protection.

Thank you for considering this input on the South Newnham Neighbourhood plan.

Attachments: None

200099

Support

Respondent: Janet Whitaker
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I write to comment on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan which I strongly support. I moved to Cambridge in 2005 and have lived in Newnham since 2016. I know the area well and have walked through Newnham Croft and into Grantchester Meadows along Skaters' Meadow Footpath since 2005 through to the present day, and have regularly used all the shops and community facilities since 2016.

The description in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Evidence Base and Street Appraisals is accurate and characterises the area well, and creates a strong sense of what it is like both to live there and visit. As a resident, I have received leaflets advertising the Neighbourhood Plan and have regularly attended residents' meetings on the Plan, the first being a community workshop in early 2017. I have read and submitted comments on the Plan several times. I am surprised that the Plan has taken as long as it has to write and that it has been through a number of iterations. I think that each version has been an improvement on the previous one, and am pleased that the Plan now includes policies addressing climate change, which I strongly support. In particular, I and other residents that I have talked to admire the commitment and dedication of the team that has worked on the Plan. They have seen the project through to completion when they could so easily have given up on the project. Having observed the process for South Newnham, I am a convert to the value of Neighbourhood Planning and would like to see other communities develop plans for their neighbourhoods. The Vision that is expressed in the Plan is exactly what I would wish for somewhere where I live.

Policies 1 to 4 on the open spaces and the environment appear to have changed and become more specific since the first version of the Plan, and this is aligned with what residents want to see. The increased focus on our local environment and on Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain is important and valued, and it is good going forward that developments will be required to demonstrate a quantifiable Biodiversity Net Gain. Having walked through Newnham and along Skaters' Meadow Footpath since 2005, I am saddened that since Covid the footpath has been allowed to become a rutted track due to car, van and campervan parking that has destroyed the verges and the surface of the footpath and made the footpath much less safe for pedestrians. It is only since a big storm brought down a huge low hanging branch and Covid that cars have started parking under the old willow tree and are now putting it at danger. I totally support Policy 4 to establish Local Green Spaces and include Skaters' Meadow Footpath and Barton Road Verges among the Local Green Spaces. Both are important barometers of Cambridge's and Newnham's support for trees, verges and the environment, and in 2024, neither should be sacrificed to make more space for motor vehicles and make the climate emergency that the next generations face more severe than it needs to be.

The footpaths, cycleways, shops, Lammas Court old peoples' home, and South Newnham's historic buildings are all central to the community and serve not just the residents of South Newnham, but much further afield. Visitors by the thousand come on foot to visit Grantchester Meadows in the summer, people come for across Cambridge to shop at Newnham's baker and butcher, go to folk and jazz music nights at the Social and Sports Club, and attend St Mark's Church. I therefore wholeheartedly support policies 5 to 8 that protect the varying community facilities.

As with the policies on the open spaces, Policies 9 to 14 appear to have changed substantially since the first version of the Plan. I believe the final Plan's policies achieve a good balance in preserving and protecting today's housing stock and gardens (policies 11 and 14) so that South Newnham remains a nice place to live, whilst requiring future development to have better energy and water efficiency (Policy 9) and protect against flooding (Policy 10), so that new developments are environmentally responsible and fit comfortably with the existing housing styles. Speaking as a resident, Policies 12 and 13 are really important to me. When existing houses are extended, it is important that the comfort and happiness of neighbours is not destroyed by massive new extensions that do not fit the location and that overlook and dominate neighbouring houses, There have been a number of such cases and I welcome Policies 11 and 12 that will protect existing residents. Policy 13 is also important to residents in that it will allow larger family houses to be carefully sub-divided to allow for changing family needs whilst retaining family housing stock.

Assuming that Policies 1 to 14 work as expected and as I hope, South Newnham should be able to both face the challenges of climate change and remain a good place to live for residents of all ages in line with the Plan's Vision. Policy 15, Conserving and Enhancing Existing Views and Street Scenes provides me with a final assurance of the quality and effectiveness of the Plan, as it brings together all the environmental, community and housing elements of the Plan and provides a final check that all the policies contained within the Plan achieve what they set out to do.

As a consequence, I fully support the Plan and its policies and look forward to it being adopted.

Full text:

Dear Neighbourhood Planning Team,

I write to comment on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan which I strongly support. I moved to Cambridge in 2005 and have lived in Newnham since 2016. I know the area well and have walked through Newnham Croft and into Grantchester Meadows along Skaters' Meadow Footpath since 2005 through to the present day, and have regularly used all the shops and community facilities since 2016.

The description in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Evidence Base and Street Appraisals is accurate and characterises the area well, and creates a strong sense of what it is like both to live there and visit. As a resident, I have received leaflets advertising the Neighbourhood Plan and have regularly attended residents' meetings on the Plan, the first being a community workshop in early 2017. I have read and submitted comments on the Plan several times. I am surprised that the Plan has taken as long as it has to write and that it has been through a number of iterations. I think that each version has been an improvement on the previous one, and am pleased that the Plan now includes policies addressing climate change, which I strongly support. In particular, I and other residents that I have talked to admire the commitment and dedication of the team that has worked on the Plan. They have seen the project through to completion when they could so easily have given up on the project. Having observed the process for South Newnham, I am a convert to the value of Neighbourhood Planning and would like to see other communities develop plans for their neighbourhoods. The Vision that is expressed in the Plan is exactly what I would wish for somewhere where I live.

Policies 1 to 4 on the open spaces and the environment appear to have changed and become more specific since the first version of the Plan, and this is aligned with what residents want to see. The increased focus on our local environment and on Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain is important and valued, and it is good going forward that developments will be required to demonstrate a quantifiable Biodiversity Net Gain. Having walked through Newnham and along Skaters' Meadow Footpath since 2005, I am saddened that since Covid the footpath has been allowed to become a rutted track due to car, van and campervan parking that has destroyed the verges and the surface of the footpath and made the footpath much less safe for pedestrians. It is only since a big storm brought down a huge low hanging branch and Covid that cars have started parking under the old willow tree and are now putting it at danger. I totally support Policy 4 to establish Local Green Spaces and include Skaters' Meadow Footpath and Barton Road Verges among the Local Green Spaces. Both are important barometers of Cambridge's and Newnham's support for trees, verges and the environment, and in 2024, neither should be sacrificed to make more space for motor vehicles and make the climate emergency that the next generations face more severe than it needs to be.

The footpaths, cycleways, shops, Lammas Court old peoples' home, and South Newnham's historic buildings are all central to the community and serve not just the residents of South Newnham, but much further afield. Visitors by the thousand come on foot to visit Grantchester Meadows in the summer, people come for across Cambridge to shop at Newnham's baker and butcher, go to folk and jazz music nights at the Social and Sports Club, and attend St Mark's

Church. I therefore wholeheartedly support policies 5 to 8 that protect the varying community facilities.

As with the policies on the open spaces, Policies 9 to 14 appear to have changed substantially since the first version of the Plan. I believe the final Plan's policies achieve a good balance in preserving and protecting today's housing stock and gardens (policies 11 and 14) so that South Newnham remains a nice place to live, whilst requiring future development to have better energy and water efficiency (Policy 9) and protect against flooding (Policy 10), so that new developments are environmentally responsible and fit comfortably with the existing housing styles. Speaking as a resident, Policies 12 and 13 are really important to me. When existing houses are extended, it is important that the comfort and happiness of neighbours is not destroyed by massive new extensions that do not fit the location and that overlook and dominate neighbouring houses. There have been a number of such cases and I welcome Policies 11 and 12 that will protect existing residents. Policy 13 is also important to residents in that it will allow larger family houses to be carefully sub-divided to allow for changing family needs whilst retaining family housing stock.

Assuming that Policies 1 to 14 work as expected and as I hope, South Newnham should be able to both face the challenges of climate change and remain a good place to live for residents of all ages in line with the Plan's Vision. Policy 15, Conserving and Enhancing Existing Views and Street Scenes provides me with a final assurance of the quality and effectiveness of the Plan, as it brings together all the environmental, community and housing elements of the Plan and provides a final check that all the policies contained within the Plan achieve what they set out to do.

As a consequence, I fully support the Plan and its policies and look forward to it being adopted.

Attachments: None

200100

Comment

Respondent: Hertfordshire County Council

Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Many thanks for the opportunity to make a representation on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan, but Hertfordshire County Council have no comment to make.

Full text:

Many thanks for the opportunity to make a representation on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan, but Hertfordshire County Council have no comment to make.

Attachments: None

Respondent: Andrew Whitaker
Date received: 16/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I am writing in support of the Neighbourhood Plan as a Newnham resident and a member of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum Committee as I believe: (i) that the Plan process has successfully engaged with residents and stakeholders throughout, and (ii) that the policies in the submission version of the Plan strike a fair balance that reflects the views of a majority of residents and stakeholders.

I have outlined below evidence that underpins this thinking.

As part of the writing team, I helped prepare the Consultation Statement, and in doing this talked to leading Forum members from 2016-18 and reviewed Forum correspondence from the time. I learnt that the consultation was very extensive and thorough: leaflets to all properties, posters throughout the neighbourhood, letters/emails and face to face meetings with businesses, shops and institutional owners of land and property, which included the 8 Cambridge University Colleges with land and property in South Newnham Neighbourhood Area and 1 College in Old Newnham. 6 of the 8 Colleges in the neighbourhood area engaged with the Forum. The Forum invited participation from residents and stakeholders in a series of 3 workshops that were run May 2016 – Jan 2017 to kick off the neighbourhood planning process. Building on the previous workshops, the 3rd workshop generated the input used to draft the Plan's Vision for the neighbourhood area.

On the back of the workshops, the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum website was set up in April 2017, followed shortly by the first formal Forum meeting in May 2017, to which all previously invited residents and stakeholders were invited. The Forum website has since been the vehicle to provide readily accessible information on Forum activities and the status of Plan preparation to residents and stakeholders. In addition to posting routine information on the website, subsequent key meetings and events, such as the first presentation of the draft Plan in 2019, the redesignation process May-Jun 2022, and the Regulation 14 Consultation in Jun-Jul 2023 have been posted on the website, advertised on posters in the neighbourhood area, and for the Regulation 14 Consultation, 95 stakeholders were written to, including the 8 Cambridge University Colleges with land and property in South Newnham.

Over 130 people participated in the initial workshops, many attending more than one session, and this group has continued to participate in subsequent Forum meetings and drop-in events through to the consultation sessions associated with the Regulation 14 Consultation in Jun-Jul 2023. Today's Forum membership is 97. A team of 35 residents participated in collecting data for the Street Appraisals and the Evidence Base through 2017 and 2018, and given the time that it has taken to write the Plan, which was disrupted by Covid, residents have revised the Street Appraisals and Evidence Base to keep them up-to-date.

Pivotal to the Plan is the Vision for the neighbourhood that was developed from the 2016-2017 workshops, and whilst Plan policies have been revised and re-written multiple times between 2018 and 2024, they have consistently supported achieving the Vision that was penned in 2018. The specific wording of Policies has sought to balance the diverse and sometimes conflicting input received month by month and year by year, and has moved with the times to reflect society's growing concern with the environment and the increased understanding of the threat posed to Biodiversity. The guiding principles of the Vision seek to ensure that South Newnham remains a great place to live both now and for future generations by achieving a balance between our natural environment, our economic and social infrastructure, and our mix and style of housing stock as we transition to a low and ultimately zero carbon society.

The period of drafting the Plan, 2018-2024, has seen a big increase in local concern for the environment, a sense that is heightened as the Cam river corridor and flood plain is an important part of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Area. As a consequence, a number of policies have been extensively revised so that 6 of the 15 policies are now explicitly concerned with protecting the environment: protecting and enhancing biodiversity, delivering biodiversity net gain, reducing light pollution, creating local green spaces, improving the energy and water efficiency of buildings, and responding to climate change and the risk of local flooding. The influence of residents in pushing to redraft these policies has been material and there is strong support for these green policies, which is not surprising when Green Party candidates have won the 2023 and 2024 Local Council elections for Newnham Ward.

The challenge of drafting Policies to achieve a fair balance has been most obvious in Policies SNNP11 to SNNP14. In an expensive and desirable area, people and organisations buying and owning land and buildings frequently submit planning applications seeking to maximise their site's development potential. As a statutory consultee, the Forum frequently comments on planning applications and has engaged with house owners and property developers, both supporting and objecting to proposed developments. In all cases, the Forum's comments are based strictly on the policies in the 2018 Cambridge City Local Plan. The Forum is supportive of developments that seek to improve and update housing stock, be they owner occupier extensions or new College accommodation blocks, but does not support proposals for inappropriate development that are non-compliant with Local Plan policies and that adversely affect the local environment in the Cam River corridor and flood plain, adversely affect the amenity of neighbours, and/or adversely affect the street scene for both residents and visitors. In particular, the Forum seeks to support those older, less able and potentially infirm residents who do not have the facility to make their case and object through formal planning channels when they would be materially affected by a development that breaches Local Plan policies. Where owner occupiers and developers have

engaged with the Forum and shared their plans, there have been multiple cases where proposed plans have been adjusted to address residents' concerns and have then progressed to unopposed approvals. As a Statutory Consultee since March 2017, the Forum has reviewed and followed the progress of hundreds of planning applications in South Newnham and believes that there is a genuine need for South Newnham's Neighbourhood Plan policies to provide an additional level of local specificity to the 2018 Cambridge City Plan which will aid the planning process locally, benefit residents and stakeholders, and make possible the achievement of the Plan's Vision for South Newnham.

As a resident, I am acutely conscious of the differing views surrounding the use of the land known as Skater's Meadow Footpath, which is Cambridgeshire County Council Footpath 39/32 and runs through the land adjacent to Skaters' Meadow. The land has no known owner. As a footpath for at least the last 200 years and possibly since Tudor times, the footpath was historically a green entrance to Grantchester Meadows. There has been some limited car parking for the last 15-20 years, but this increased dramatically during the Covid pandemic and the land has now been rutted and the verges destroyed by car, van and campervan parking, which in theory shouldn't be possible due to the land's status as a footpath. The footpath provides the northern entrance to Grantchester Meadows, the water meadows that run besides the Cam between Newnham and Grantchester, and large numbers of Cambridge residents and visitors walk and cycle along the footpath to enter the meadows. A footpath survey done in July and August 2021 over a Saturday and Sunday revealed that 2,498 walkers and cyclists used the path over two eight hour days, during which time 76 cars arrived to park.

Some residents believe that motor vehicles should not be allowed to park on what is a footpath used by over a thousand people a day, destroying the verges and the footpath surface in the process. Other residents believe that motor vehicle drivers have parked there for a number of years and should be free to continue to do so as the land is unowned and uncontrolled. The Plan does not take sides, but seeks a middle ground by proposing to designate the land as a Local Green Space so that it would effectively have Green Belt Status. This would not seek to prevent the current parking, which could be improved and regularised, possibly by a third party, but it would prevent future development and building on the land so that it remains a safe pedestrian and cycle access into the Meadows. Additionally, a Local Green Space designation would give Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, whose Highways Dept is responsible for Footpaths, the time and space to find a balanced and fair solution to an ongoing problem.

Full text:

Dear Planning Policy Team,

I am writing in support of the Neighbourhood Plan as a Newnham resident and a member of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum Committee as I believe: (i) that the Plan process has successfully engaged with residents and stakeholders throughout, and (ii) that the policies in the submission version of the Plan strike a fair balance that reflects the views of a majority of residents and stakeholders.

I have outlined below evidence that underpins this thinking.

As part of the writing team, I helped prepare the Consultation Statement, and in doing this talked to leading Forum members from 2016-18 and reviewed Forum correspondence from the time. I learnt that the consultation was very extensive and thorough: leaflets to all properties, posters throughout the neighbourhood, letters/emails and face to face meetings with businesses, shops and institutional owners of land and property, which included the 8 Cambridge University Colleges with land and property in South Newnham Neighbourhood Area and 1 College in Old Newnham. 6 of the 8 Colleges in the neighbourhood area engaged with the Forum. The Forum invited participation from residents and stakeholders in a series of 3 workshops that were run May 2016 – Jan 2017 to kick off the neighbourhood planning process. Building on the previous workshops, the 3rd workshop generated the input used to draft the Plan's Vision for the neighbourhood area.

On the back of the workshops, the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum website was set up in April 2017, followed shortly by the first formal Forum meeting in May 2017, to which all previously invited residents and stakeholders were invited. The Forum website has since been the vehicle to provide readily accessible information on Forum activities and the status of Plan preparation to residents and stakeholders. In addition to posting routine information on the website, subsequent key meetings and events, such as the first presentation of the draft Plan in 2019, the redesignation process May-Jun 2022, and the Regulation 14 Consultation in Jun-Jul 2023 have been posted on the website, advertised on posters in the neighbourhood area, and for the Regulation 14 Consultation, 95 stakeholders were written to, including the 8 Cambridge University Colleges with land and property in South Newnham.

Over 130 people participated in the initial workshops, many attending more than one session, and this group has continued to participate in subsequent Forum meetings and drop-in events through to the consultation sessions associated with the Regulation 14 Consultation in Jun-Jul 2023. Today's Forum membership is 97. A team of 35 residents participated in collecting data for the Street Appraisals and the Evidence Base through 2017 and 2018, and given the time that it has taken to write the Plan, which was disrupted by Covid, residents have revised the Street Appraisals and Evidence Base to keep them up-to-date.

Pivotal to the Plan is the Vision for the neighbourhood that was developed from the 2016-2017 workshops, and whilst Plan policies have been revised and re-written multiple times between 2018 and 2024, they have consistently supported achieving the Vision that was penned in 2018. The specific wording of Policies has sought to balance the diverse and sometimes conflicting input received month by month and year by year, and has moved with the times to reflect society's

growing concern with the environment and the increased understanding of the threat posed to Biodiversity. The guiding principles of the Vision seek to ensure that South Newnham remains a great place to live both now and for future generations by achieving a balance between our natural environment, our economic and social infrastructure, and our mix and style of housing stock as we transition to a low and ultimately zero carbon society.

The period of drafting the Plan, 2018-2024, has seen a big increase in local concern for the environment, a sense that is heightened as the Cam river corridor and flood plain is an important part of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Area. As a consequence, a number of policies have been extensively revised so that 6 of the 15 policies are now explicitly concerned with protecting the environment: protecting and enhancing biodiversity, delivering biodiversity net gain, reducing light pollution, creating local green spaces, improving the energy and water efficiency of buildings, and responding to climate change and the risk of local flooding. The influence of residents in pushing to redraft these policies has been material and there is strong support for these green policies, which is not surprising when Green Party candidates have won the 2023 and 2024 Local Council elections for Newnham Ward.

The challenge of drafting Policies to achieve a fair balance has been most obvious in Policies SNNP11 to SNNP14. In an expensive and desirable area, people and organisations buying and owning land and buildings frequently submit planning applications seeking to maximise their site's development potential. As a statutory consultee, the Forum frequently comments on planning applications and has engaged with house owners and property developers, both supporting and objecting to proposed developments. In all cases, the Forum's comments are based strictly on the policies in the 2018 Cambridge City Local Plan. The Forum is supportive of developments that seek to improve and update housing stock, be they owner occupier extensions or new College accommodation blocks, but does not support proposals for inappropriate development that are non-compliant with Local Plan policies and that adversely affect the local environment in the Cam River corridor and flood plain, adversely affect the amenity of neighbours, and/or adversely affect the street scene for both residents and visitors. In particular, the Forum seeks to support those older, less able and potentially infirm residents who do not have the facility to make their case and object through formal planning channels when they would be materially affected by a development that breaches Local Plan policies. Where owner occupiers and developers have engaged with the Forum and shared their plans, there have been multiple cases where proposed plans have been adjusted to address residents' concerns and have then progressed to unopposed approvals. As a Statutory Consultee since March 2017, the Forum has reviewed and followed the progress of hundreds of planning applications in South Newnham and believes that there is a genuine need for South Newnham's Neighbourhood Plan policies to provide an additional level of local specificity to the 2018 Cambridge City Plan which will aid the planning process locally, benefit residents and stakeholders, and make possible the achievement of the Plan's Vision for South Newnham.

As a resident, I am acutely conscious of the differing views surrounding the use of the land known as Skater's Meadow Footpath, which is Cambridgeshire County Council Footpath 39/32 and runs through the land adjacent to Skaters' Meadow. The land has no known owner. As a footpath for at least the last 200 years and possibly since Tudor times, the footpath was historically a green entrance to Grantchester Meadows. There has been some limited car parking for the last 15-20 years, but this increased dramatically during the Covid pandemic and the land has now been rutted and the verges destroyed by car, van and campervan parking, which in theory shouldn't be possible due to the land's status as a footpath. The footpath provides the northern entrance to Grantchester Meadows, the water meadows that run besides the Cam between Newnham and Grantchester, and large numbers of Cambridge residents and visitors walk and cycle along the footpath to enter the meadows. A footpath survey done in July and August 2021 over a Saturday and Sunday revealed that 2,498 walkers and cyclists used the path over two eight hour days, during which time 76 cars arrived to park.

Some residents believe that motor vehicles should not be allowed to park on what is a footpath used by over a thousand people a day, destroying the verges and the footpath surface in the process. Other residents believe that motor vehicle drivers have parked there for a number of years and should be free to continue to do so as the land is unowned and uncontrolled. The Plan does not take sides, but seeks a middle ground by proposing to designate the land as a Local Green Space so that it would effectively have Green Belt Status. This would not seek to prevent the current parking, which could be improved and regularised, possibly by a third party, but it would prevent future development and building on the land so that it remains a safe pedestrian and cycle access into the Meadows. Additionally, a Local Green Space designation would give Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, whose Highways Dept is responsible for Footpaths, the time and space to find a balanced and fair solution to an ongoing problem.

Attachments: None

200102

Support

Respondent: Ruth Lambert
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

█ Please note my Family's total Support for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum. We all support it.

Full text:

█ Please note my Family's total Support for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum. We all support it.

Attachments: None

200103

Support

Respondent: Henrietta McBurney
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I want to add my endorsement for the Neighbourhood Plan. It is a very thorough and carefully researched report on environmental and related issues, and I commend all those who had worked on it.

In particular I'd like to support policy 6 (sustaining species rich and protected hedgerows) in order to ensure the habitat for species is retained and enhanced.

Policy 7 (artificial lighting presenting a threat to bats) is also of crucial importance in the face of development proposals. One of these is the Barton Road Lake County Wildlife site which over the last decade or two has been subject to harmful building projects and presents an example of where measures to protect and enhance biodiversity area badly needed.

Full text:

I want to add my endorsement for the Neighbourhood Plan. It is a very thorough and carefully researched report on environmental and related issues, and I commend all those who had worked on it.

In particular I'd like to support policy 6 (sustaining species rich and protected hedgerows) in order to ensure the habitat for species is retained and enhanced.

Policy 7 (artificial lighting presenting a threat to bats) is also of crucial importance in the face of development proposals. One of these is the Barton Road Lake County Wildlife site which over the last decade or two has been subject to harmful building projects and presents an example of where measures to protect and enhance biodiversity area badly needed.

Attachments: None

Respondent: Cllr Hugh Clough
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I am writing to express my support for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan which you have put out for consultation on the "Submission" version.

In doing this I need to make a declaration of interest as I have been a member of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum since it was originally formed in 2016 and served on the Forum's committee from the beginning until 20th May when I resigned from the committee after being elected as a Ward Councillor for Newnham in this year's Council elections. This was also to avoid any possible conflict of interest as the Forum is also a statutory consultee for planning applications in the South Newnham neighbourhood area. I remain a member of the Forum itself.

Having been involved with the Forum from the very beginning of its work, I have a good knowledge of the extensive consultation processes and engagement events that were carried out to make sure that all residents and local stakeholders had a very good number of opportunities to attend meetings and express their views about what they valued about the South Newnham area. Personally I remember attending a detailed briefing meeting with a college bursar, have kept the school informed being on the Governing Body and the Social Club has held a series of open consultation sessions booked by the Forum.

The initial consultation workshops used materials from the Princes' Foundation known as BIMBY (Beauty in My Back Yard) and these helped gather the base information which led to the foundations and understanding from which the Forum and the committee developed their ideas during the initial period.

For me, as someone totally unused to Planning processes, it was a "lightbulb" moment when I/we realized that a Neighbourhood Planning wasn't just about trying to stop poorly designed or excessive development in an area but about everything else that residents find important in their daily lives – such as community assets, public open spaces, local nature reserves and resources, cycling and walking routes, views across college playing fields and the urban/rural interface.

It is the desire to protect and enhance these valued Neighbourhood features and resources that has been behind much of the thinking as the draft Neighbourhood Plan has evolved through various iterations.

In particular when I was involved in one of the subgroups trying to list and describe Community Assets for the plan and the Evidence Base, what I thought would be a relatively short listing process wasn't the case. There were a lot of Community Assets to list and explain their importance – such as the School, the shops, the social club, the Church and its community centre etc. It's only when you start to undertake that exercise that you realise how important it is to do this work – and also to reflect on Community Assets which have already been lost due to not being protected and listed.

In preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Forum and committee have always worked hard at being open to contributions from residents and stakeholders. This is truly a plan prepared for all the Neighbourhood residents and stakeholders and I do hope it will proceed through to examination by an Inspector very soon.

Full text:

I am writing to express my support for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan which you have put out for consultation on the "Submission" version.

In doing this I need to make a declaration of interest as I have been a member of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum since it was originally formed in 2016 and served on the Forum's committee from the beginning until 20th May when I resigned from the committee after being elected as a Ward Councillor for Newnham in this year's Council elections. This was also to avoid any possible conflict of interest as the Forum is also a statutory consultee for planning applications in the South Newnham neighbourhood area. I remain a member of the Forum itself.

Having been involved with the Forum from the very beginning of its work, I have a good knowledge of the extensive consultation processes and engagement events that were carried out to make sure that all residents and local stakeholders had a very good number of opportunities to attend meetings and express their views about what they valued about the South Newnham area. Personally I remember attending a detailed briefing meeting with a college bursar, have kept the school informed being on the Governing Body and the Social Club has held a series of open consultation sessions booked by the Forum.

The initial consultation workshops used materials from the Princes' Foundation known as BIMBY (Beauty in My Back Yard) and these helped gather the base information which led to the foundations and understanding from which the Forum and the committee developed their ideas during the initial period.

For me, as someone totally unused to Planning processes, it was a "lightbulb" moment when I/we realized that a Neighbourhood Planning wasn't just about trying to stop poorly designed or excessive development in an area but about everything else that residents find important in their daily lives – such as community assets, public open spaces, local

nature reserves and resources, cycling and walking routes, views across college playing fields and the urban/rural interface.

It is the desire to protect and enhance these valued Neighbourhood features and resources that has been behind much of the thinking as the draft Neighbourhood Plan has evolved through various iterations.

In particular when I was involved in one of the subgroups trying to list and describe Community Assets for the plan and the Evidence Base, what I thought would be a relatively short listing process wasn't the case. There were a lot of Community Assets to list and explain their importance – such as the School, the shops, the social club, the Church and its community centre etc. It's only when you start to undertake that exercise that you realise how important it is to do this work – and also to reflect on Community Assets which have already been lost due to not being protected and listed.

In preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Forum and committee have always worked hard at being open to contributions from residents and stakeholders. This is truly a plan prepared for all the Neighbourhood residents and stakeholders and I do hope it will proceed through to examination by an Inspector very soon.

Attachments: None

200105

Support

Respondent: Ms Alexandra Mercer
Date received: 20/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I am writing in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan with particular reference to Section 3, Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network. I was a member of the team of residents who carried out the background research into the connectivity network that comprises pavements, footpaths, lanes and alleyways used by pedestrians, designated cycle routes and roads as used by cyclists, which is all described in detail in the Evidence Base. I am both a pedestrian who uses the network on a daily basis to walk my dog and I am also a cyclist.

Many residents of Newnham walk their dogs on Grantchester Meadows but the access to the Meadows is now very unsafe for pedestrians, especially those with disabilities. The surface is rutted and in wet weather it is particularly difficult to walk around the deep potholes filled with water which has been caused by cars, lorries and caravans parking there sometimes for several days. I therefore support the designation of Skaters Meadow Footpath as a local green space so that the existing landscape features so that mitigating steps can be taken to restore this footpath to one that is safe for pedestrians and protects the verges and the trees. If restrictions were put on parking at Skaters Meadow it would alleviate much of the problem.

I also support the designation of the Wide Green Verges along the north side of Barton Road as a local Green Space so that the existing landscape features such as trees and verges, which contribute to the street scene are not harmed. The recent changes to the intersection of Barton Road/Newnham Road and Grantchester Road by the County Council as part of the Greenway Project has not improved pedestrian connectivity at all. Rather, it has made it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road unless they are prepared to go down Barton Road to Hardwick Street where there is a pedestrian crossing. This is counter intuitive if you want to walk into the city. Pedestrians and cyclists share a crossing point with both given the "go" sign at the same time for the same bit of road.

Further plans to widen the cycleway along Barton Road would also affect pedestrians and if implemented would further impact on the safety of pedestrians.

Full text:

I am writing in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan with particular reference to Section 3, Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network. I was a member of the team of residents who carried out the background research into the connectivity network that comprises pavements, footpaths, lanes and alleyways used by pedestrians, designated cycle routes and roads as used by cyclists, which is all described in detail in the Evidence Base. I am both a pedestrian who uses the network on a daily basis to walk my dog and I am also a cyclist.

Many residents of Newnham walk their dogs on Grantchester Meadows but the access to the Meadows is now very unsafe for pedestrians, especially those with disabilities. The surface is rutted and in wet weather it is particularly difficult to walk around the deep potholes filled with water which has been caused by cars, lorries and caravans parking there sometimes for several days. I therefore support the designation of Skaters Meadow Footpath as a local green space so that the existing landscape features so that mitigating steps can be taken to restore this footpath to one that is safe for pedestrians and protects the verges and the trees. If restrictions were put on parking at Skaters Meadow it would alleviate much of the problem.

I also support the designation of the Wide Green Verges along the north side of Barton Road as a local Green Space so that the existing landscape features such as trees and verges, which contribute to the street scene are not harmed. The recent changes to the intersection of Barton Road/Newnham Road and Grantchester Road by the County Council as part of the Greenway Project has not improved pedestrian connectivity at all. Rather, it has made it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road unless they are prepared to go down Barton Road to Hardwick Street where there is a pedestrian crossing. This is counter intuitive if you want to walk into the city. Pedestrians and cyclists share a crossing point with both given the "go" sign at the same time for the same bit of road.

Further plans to widen the cycleway along Barton Road would also affect pedestrians and if implemented would further impact on the safety of pedestrians.

I hope you will take the above points into consideration

Attachments: None

200106

Comment

Respondent: Sport England
Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ Please find enclosed Sport England's consultation response to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

■ Please find enclosed Sport England's consultation response to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Attachments:

14th May 2024

**Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England)
Order 2015 / National Planning Practice Guidance**

Application Reference: SP/24/00006012

Proposal: South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the consultation of the 2024 – 2041 South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Having reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan it is noted that on page 31, in the section dedicated to playing fields, the concluding sentence reads,

'Accepting that their primary purpose is to provide sports facilities, there is much that could improve biodiversity, including more tree planting around the edges, allowing hedges to grow taller, providing pollinator borders and bird and bat boxes'.

Sport England advises that the wording in red below be included within the sentence to safeguard the primary purpose of playing fields from being compromised.

*'Accepting that their primary purpose is to provide sports facilities, there is much that could improve biodiversity, including more tree planting around the edges **only where it is appropriate and does not prejudice the use of the playing fields or sport facilities, including the drainage of the playing fields,** allowing hedges to grow taller, providing pollinator borders and bird and bat boxes'.*

In addition to the above comments, Sport England wish to advise more broadly on the Neighbourhood Plan to assist you further, and therefore have the following comments –

Government planning policy, within the **National Planning Policy Framework** (NPPF), identifies how the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this process. Providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This means that positive planning for sport, protection from the unnecessary loss of sports facilities, along with an integrated approach to providing new housing and employment land with community facilities is important.

Therefore, it is essential that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects and complies with national planning policy for sport as set out in the NPPF with particular reference to Paras 102 and 103. It is also important to be aware of Sport England's statutory consultee role in **protecting playing fields** and the presumption against the loss of playing field land. Sport England's playing fields policy is set out in our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document. https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Sport England provides guidance on **developing planning policy** for sport and further information can be found via the link below. Vital to the development and implementation of planning policy is the evidence base on which it is founded. https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#planning_applications

Sport England works with local authorities to ensure their Local Plan is underpinned by robust and up to date evidence. In line with Par 103 of the NPPF, this takes the form of **assessments of need and strategies for indoor and outdoor sports facilities**. A neighbourhood planning body should look to see if the relevant local authority has prepared a playing pitch strategy or other indoor/outdoor sports facility strategy. If it has then this could provide useful evidence for the neighbourhood plan and save the neighbourhood planning body time and resources gathering their own evidence. It is important that a neighbourhood plan reflects the recommendations and actions set out in any such strategies, including those which may specifically relate to the neighbourhood area, and that any local investment opportunities, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, are utilised to support their delivery.

Where such evidence does not already exist then relevant planning policies in a neighbourhood plan should be based on a proportionate assessment of the need for sporting provision in its area. Developed in consultation with the local sporting and wider community any assessment should be used to provide key recommendations and deliverable actions. These should set out what provision is required to ensure the current and future needs of the community for sport can be met and, in turn, be able to support the development and implementation of planning policies. Sport England's guidance on assessing needs may help with such work. <http://www.sportengland.org/planningtoolsandguidance>

Any **new housing** developments will generate additional demand for sport. If existing sports facilities do not have the capacity to absorb the additional demand, then planning policies should look to ensure that new sports facilities, or improvements to existing sports facilities, are secured and delivered. Proposed actions to meet the demand should accord with any approved local plan or neighbourhood plan policy for social infrastructure, along with priorities resulting

from any assessment of need, or set out in any playing pitch or other indoor and/or outdoor sports facility strategy that the local authority has in place.

In line with the Government's NPPF (including Section 8) and its Planning Practice Guidance (Health and wellbeing section), links below, consideration should also be given to how **any new development**, especially for new housing, will provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles and create healthy communities. Sport England's Active Design guidance can be used to help with this when developing planning policies and developing or assessing individual proposals.

Active Design, which includes a model planning policy, provides ten principles to help ensure the design and layout of development encourages and promotes participation in sport and physical activity. The guidance, and its accompanying checklist, could also be used at the evidence gathering stage of developing a neighbourhood plan to help undertake an assessment of how the design and layout of the area currently enables people to lead active lifestyles and what could be improved.

NPPF Section 8: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities>

PPG Health and wellbeing section: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

Sport England's Active Design Guidance:
<https://www.sportengland.org/activedesign>

(Please note: this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.)

If you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact Sport England using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely,



Clare Howe

Planning Manager MRTPI MSc BA(Hons)

E: 

T: 

200107

Comment

Respondent: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Date received: 18/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Please see attached the Council's formal response to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 submission consultation. Appendix A is also attached that is referred to within the response.

Full text:

Please see attached the Council's formal response to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 submission consultation. Appendix A is also attached that is referred to within the response.

Attachments:

Cambridge City Council response to South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Submission (Regulation 16) consultation

1. Having previously commented on the Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) draft South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan that was consulted on in July 2023, Cambridge City Council is taking the opportunity to comment further at the Submission (Regulation 16) consultation stage.
2. Cambridge City Council has worked with the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum (SNNF) during the preparation of the Plan. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into getting the Neighbourhood Plan this far along in the process.
3. We note that the Submission version has been revised after considering the representations received during the Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) consultation. Cambridge City Council submitted 120 comments in our Pre-Submission response, most of which have been taken into account and have resulted in revisions to the Plan. We very much welcome the changes that have been made and consider the Plan to be much improved.
4. There have also been meetings with the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan group to discuss the Plan as it has evolved and to support the Neighbourhood Forum in preparing the Submission version of the Plan.
5. The comments we now make now concentrate on matters that relate directly to whether, in our opinion, the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions.

Maps and Figures

6. We thank the SNNF for working with us in preparing revised maps for the Plan to respond to our previous comments. We are pleased to see that these have been added to the Submission Version of the Plan, and that they are legible, and consistent in stylistic approach. We have noticed that there are a few errors on some of the policy maps, and we have identified the necessary corrections in the relevant section of our response. We have also included amended maps at Appendix A of this response.

Policy SNNP1: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

7. Our Pre-Submission response suggested that the policy should be clear in defining which development proposals are required to protect or enhance biodiversity. It was suggested that wording was amended to include minor

developments upwards, and we continue to recommend that development proposals is defined.

8. Since the Pre-Submission consultation on the Plan, statutory requirements for BNG have been introduced. Given the requirements for development to deliver BNG, we are now uncertain as to how this policy adds to those statutory requirements, and therefore believe that the policy has been superseded.
9. Informal comments from November 2022, and our Pre-Submission response recommended that the policy clarified how 'increasing tree canopy coverage' could be achieved. We note that a reference to the Cambridge City Council Tree Strategy SPD has been added in the supporting text on page 31, but the policy would benefit from further explanation of how increased tree canopy coverage can be achieved. In meeting the statutory requirements of BNG, where off-site mitigation is necessary, contributions which lead to increased tree canopy and strengthened ecological corridor would be supported.
10. The policy wording has been amended to use the wording 'Species Rich and Protected Hedgerows', this is noted and positively reflects suggestions from our previous comments.

Policy SNNP2: Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain

11. It was recommended that the policy wording was amended to read 'All development proposals (except householder applications – see below)' to make it clear the development scale that the policy is applicable to.
12. We also recommended that the policy sets out when in the development process evidence and information is required from applicants. We note the SNNF's response in their Consultation Statement states that 'we do not think it is the role of the planning policy to specify at what stages specific evidence should be provided. We view this as part of the development management process which can be tailored for specific schemes and therefore made no change'. We continue to recommend that the policy sets out the requirement for applicants to provide robust evidence setting out how proposals will achieve BNG. The Council strongly encourages this evidence to be submitted alongside other planning application documents at the beginning of the development process. This also allows development management to implement the policy requirement, rather than having to tailor their guidance to developers on a case-by-case basis. The policy wording could also refer to exempt developments still being required to deliver ecological enhancements, such as the hedgehog holes and bird boxes. Such features are not included within statutory BNG and therefore rephrasing will help prevent any confusion.

Policy SNNP3: Reduce and Maintain Low Levels of Light Pollution

13. Our Pre-Submission response suggested that the policy refers to the use of unshielded white lights rather than the use of shielded yellow/orange lights that is being gradually phased out as the Guidance Note 8 referred to in paragraph 7.1.7 advises. We continue to encourage Policy SNNP3 to reflect the Guidance Note.
14. The Policy refers to the Green Infrastructure Network, but does not acknowledge that this is identified in Map 2. This should be rectified for clarity. We recommended that it should be considered whether there is a need to designate green areas for special protection within the Plan as the areas on Map 2 are already protected through the Green Belt policy in the Cambridge Local Plan.

Policy SNNP5: Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network

15. Our Pre-Submission response suggested that it would be beneficial for Policy SNNP5 to recognise the role that good walking and cycling networks have in supporting active travel options and improving health and wellbeing. We recommended making reference to the modular user hierarchy identified in the Manual for Streets 1 (Table 3.2). We continue to recommend adding reference to this Manual as it is an essential part of justifying the policy.
16. Our Pre-Submission response recommended that it was not appropriate to include the Barton Road Cycle Path within the Plan as it is managed by County Highways. We note that the SNNF highlight in their Consultation Statement that the cycle path was strongly supported in the plan-making process due to the importance of the grass verges being maintained. Where works are carried out within maintained highway, planning consent is not required and therefore the policy cannot be applied. It is noted that other policies in the Plan, such as Policy 12 use the phrase 'unacceptable harm'. This wording could also be used in this policy.

Policy SNNP7: Protecting and Supporting Homes and Facilities for Older People

17. Our Pre-Submission response recommended that the policy should consider the needs of disabled people. Whilst we recognise that the policy has been amended to reflect the intent of the policy to focus on housing for older people, we continue to recommend including reference to the document 'Protecting and Supporting Homes and Facilities for Older people' as this contains relevant information regarding the needs of both older and disabled people.

18. Our Pre-Submission response suggested that it should be clear that any development proposal should be based on clear evidence of need. We note that the SNNF highlight in their Consultation Statement that this amendment is unnecessary, but we continue to recommend that clarity is provided.
19. We welcome the amendments to Map 4, as it is more legible to the user. The key provides LC for Lammas Court, but this is not identified on the map. An amended map that includes a reference to LC is included in Appendix A. We also recommended to have a separate map identifying the location of the Lammas Court.

Policy SNNP9: Improving the Energy Efficiency of Existing and New Buildings

20. Our Pre-Submission response questioned whether a sustainability statement is required for extensions. It was recommended that the policy wording was amended to specify the scale of the development and we continue to recommend that clarity is provided. The Cambridge Local Plan requires sustainability statement from 10 dwellings or above, seeking to make the requirement proportionate and where it will add value.
21. With regards to water efficiency, the requirements set out in policy SNNP9 for non-residential development are not consistent with adopted policy and would lead to less water efficient schemes than currently required via policy 28 of the Cambridge Local Plan. In requiring non-residential development to achieve the BREEAM excellent requirements for water efficiency, policy SNNP9 actually only requires the achievement of 1 Wat01 credit, which represents a 12.5% reduction in water use, whereas policy 28 requires 5 Wat01 credits or a 55% reduction in water use. As such it is recommended that policy SNNP9 be amended to read “New non-residential major development proposals should achieve 5 BREEAM Wat01 credits for water consumption as well as achieving the Wat04 credit for process water loads where applicable.” We suspect a reduction in water efficiency was not an intentional approach change, but if it was not changed it would depart from an important strategic policy of the adopted Local Plan, so should be amended.
22. For residential development, the policy requires more ambitious levels of water efficiency than the adopted Local Plan, requiring developers to aim for water use of 85 litres/person/day. This level of ambition is to be welcomed and is of a similar level to the emerging policy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (the First Proposals Plan included a level of 80 litres/person/day). A Written Ministerial Statement in December 2023 announced that building regulations are to be reviewed in Spring 2024 and that in the meantime water efficiency standards tighter than 110 litres per day are to be encouraged in areas of serious water stress. If new levels are included within amended building regulations, this will be a requirement of all new housing and a policy

in the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan may not be necessary. In the meantime, we suggest that 'strongly encourage' may be better wording than 'aim for'.

Policy SNNP10: Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding

23. Informal comments from November 2022 and our Pre-Submission response highlighted that the content of this policy is already covered by the Local Plan Policy 32 on Flood risk, and it was not clear what policy SNNP10 adds. We note that the SNNF highlight in their Consultation Statement that it is considered that the policy adds value to local and national policy, and that the policy is focussed on addressing surface water flood risk as opposed to fluvial flood risk. We again recommend that the policy content is already reflected in Policy 32 of the Local Plan on Flood risk that refers to surface run-off, prevention of flooding of properties, and the use of management and maintenance plans for development. Policy 31 of the Local Plan also refers to integrated water management and the water cycle, particularly the use of SuDS that Policy SNNP10 also refers to.
24. Reference to considering the latest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is helpful. However, Flood maps are frequently updated, therefore the policy should also reference to looking at the last information published by the Environment Agency. Although the first paragraph of the policy has been amended to update the reference to the SFRA Report, our Pre-Submission response recommended that the policy needed to be clearer in the scale of development that requires a specific flood risk assessment, and whether other small scale developments or extensions are included. National planning policy also sets clear requirements for developers on when an FRA is required, including in consideration of all forms of flood risk including surface water, and it would appear necessary or appropriate for neighbourhood plans to depart from this. We note that the SNNF highlight in their Consultation Statement that the first paragraph is specific in that it applies to development proposals that involve new builds. The fourth line of the policy is missing a close bracket.
25. The policy states that all parking areas, drives and patios should be permeable paving. Private rear gardens usually fall outside the 'public impact' element that policy implements. In general, permeability is often achieved through either open graded tarmac which is prone to breaking apart over time, or small unit pavers which are placed over a sand base and may become uneven over time, particularly if weeds infiltrate the gaps. Ultimately, they require a higher level of maintenance and repair than a non-permeable surface and are therefore less preferred for small back garden patios than non-permeable solutions which can be positively drained in a planting bed lawn or soakaway.

Policy SNNP11: Protecting and Enhancing Local Character Through Design-led Development

26. Our Pre-Submission response recommended that part d) of the policy is already a requirement of Policy 31 of the Local Plan, therefore it does not need to be repeated. We continue to recommend that part d) is not required.

Policy SNNP12: Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham

27. Our Pre-Submission response highlighted that the majority of the policy is already covered in the adopted Local Plan so therefore does not need to be repeated. We note that reference has now been made to the Local Plan, and that the SNNF highlight in their Consultation Statement that it is important to the South Newnham area that the policy remains.

28. To align with Policy 58 of the Local Plan, our Pre-Submission response recommended that the reference to 'glass directly facing neighbours properties' is removed. Our recommendation still remains, as if there is planning harm either through visual impact or residential amenity then this may be reasonable, but if there is no planning harm it seems difficult to restrict and implement this part of the policy.

Policy SNNP13: Converting Existing Houses into More than One Separate Housing Unit

29. Our Pre-Submission response recommended that the wording 'to meet family needs' is removed as it is not clear how 'family' would be defined, and it would therefore be difficult to determine whether the subdivision was to support family needs. We note that the SNNF highlight in their Consultation Statement that the policy allows residents to understand that this policy is designed to facilitate the evolving family need, however, we still recommend that the policy is amended.

30. Where the policy states vegetated boundaries shall be retained or enhanced, the policy would be more flexible if it is amended to include 'whenever practicable'. Sometimes vegetation cannot be retained for unforeseen reasons without giving rise to unreasonable expenses. It is more practical to remove and replace with other high-quality treatments as mentioned within the policy or replanting.

Policy SNNP15: Conserving and Enhancing Existing Views and Street Scenes.

31. We recommend that the policy is amended to remove the sentence 'This means supporting development proposals subject to:' as the first sentence sets out the expectation of development proposals subject to points a) and b).

We therefore suggest that point a) is amended to reflect the change and read as ‘...and attractive gardens shall be retained’, and for point b) to read ‘...shall be protected or enhanced’.

32. It is further unclear what would demonstrate that “careful consideration” is in respect to the siting of bins and bike storage. The policy wording should be more positively worded as to where they should be located.

General comments on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

39. The comments below are advisory to help improve certain elements of the Neighbourhood Plan, but they are not related to whether the Plan passes the Basic Conditions test. It is therefore at the discretion of the Neighbourhood Forum to decide whether to implement them or not as part of the natural updating required in the referendum version of the Plan.

40. Some section headers, policies and supporting text titles have full-stops at end, and others do not. We recommend that the style and formatting of the policies is consistent throughout the document and can be reviewed as part of the natural updating required in the referendum version of the Plan.

Vision Statement

41. It is suggested that for the vision statement, amendments are made to the bullet point statements in order to improve clarity and ensure that all the action points are not in mix tense. It is recommended that it is amended to read:

- To protect and enhance the biodiversity of our neighbourhood's natural environment using sustainable methods.
- To create a network of safe, car-free routes exists for walking and cycling that are in harmony with our environment.
- To create an energetic and dynamic economic and social infrastructure characterised by thriving retail and community facilities grounded in local enterprise which meet the day-to-day needs of residents.
- To provide a balanced supply of housing stock in a variety of typologies and architectural styles based on our distinctive local character which enhances our existing heritage assets, and which meets the needs of neighbourhood's residents at all stages of life.

7.1.1 Introduction / Context to Policy SNNP 1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

42. Paragraph 7.1.1 references notable species, and provides general wildlife e.g., birds, fish, mammals. It is suggested that the policy introduction includes the specific species known to frequent the green corridor and that can be

influenced through land management. For example, the species could include: barbastelle bat, water voles, Barn Owl, Treecreeper, Butterwort, Swifts, Great crested newts, stag beetles.

43. Our Pre-Submission response recommended that the links to external webpages in paragraph 7.1.13 and throughout the plan are removed (whilst still referencing the source), as the documents may be superseded, and the links may be out of date.

7.2.3 Supporting text to assist with implementation of the policy

44. Paragraph 7.2.3 states that the policy designates six Local Green Spaces, but only five are listed in the policy. We previously had discussions with the SNNF about the potential designation of LGS6 at the Riverside Club, but the SNNF did not receive confirmation from the Cambridge University to include the green space in the Plan. We recommend that the supporting text is amended to remove reference to the sixth location. Map 2 also still has reference to LGS6. An amended map that removes LGS6 is included in Appendix A.

7.2.4 Community Action

45. We welcome the amendment to paragraph 7.2.4 that provides clarity as to the maintenance responsibility for the allocated Green Spaces. LGS6 and LGS9 have been re-designated as Local Community Spaces under Community Actions.

7.7.3 Supporting text to assist with implementation of this policy.

46. The supporting text to the policy includes further detail on the contents of sustainability statements, including a requirement for statements to include information on calculated space heating demand, energy use intensity and electricity generated by renewable energy. It is noted that the Neighbourhood Plan does not set a specific policy requirement related to this energy metric. Encouraging developments to consider these new energy metrics, which are in keeping with those used in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, is welcomed, although it may be helpful for the supporting text to reference possible methodologies that could be used to obtain these metrics, given they differ from the metrics used for Building Regulations compliance. For example, reference could be made to the CIBSE TM54 methodology or Passive House Planning Package (PHPP).

7.7.10 Supporting text to assist with implementation of this policy

47. On page 61, Character Area B, consider changing the sentence 'Barton Road has a preponderance of large architect-designed...' to 'Barton Road is

characterised by large two and three storey detached and semi-detached houses designed by (local?) architects. They feature on both side of the road and are set back...’.

7.7.17 Introduction/Context to Policy SNNP14 – Protecting the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries

48. The wording of the title in paragraph 7.7.17 is different to what is stated in the policy title in paragraph 7.7.18. It is recommended that paragraph 7.7.17 is amended to read: ‘Introduction/Context to Policy SNNP14 – Protecting and Enhancing the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries’.

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

41. It is recommended that a dash ‘ – ’ is added in the second column where an abbreviation is not present to support the use of screen readers accessibility requirements. Additionally, providing a header in the third column, such as ‘Definition’.

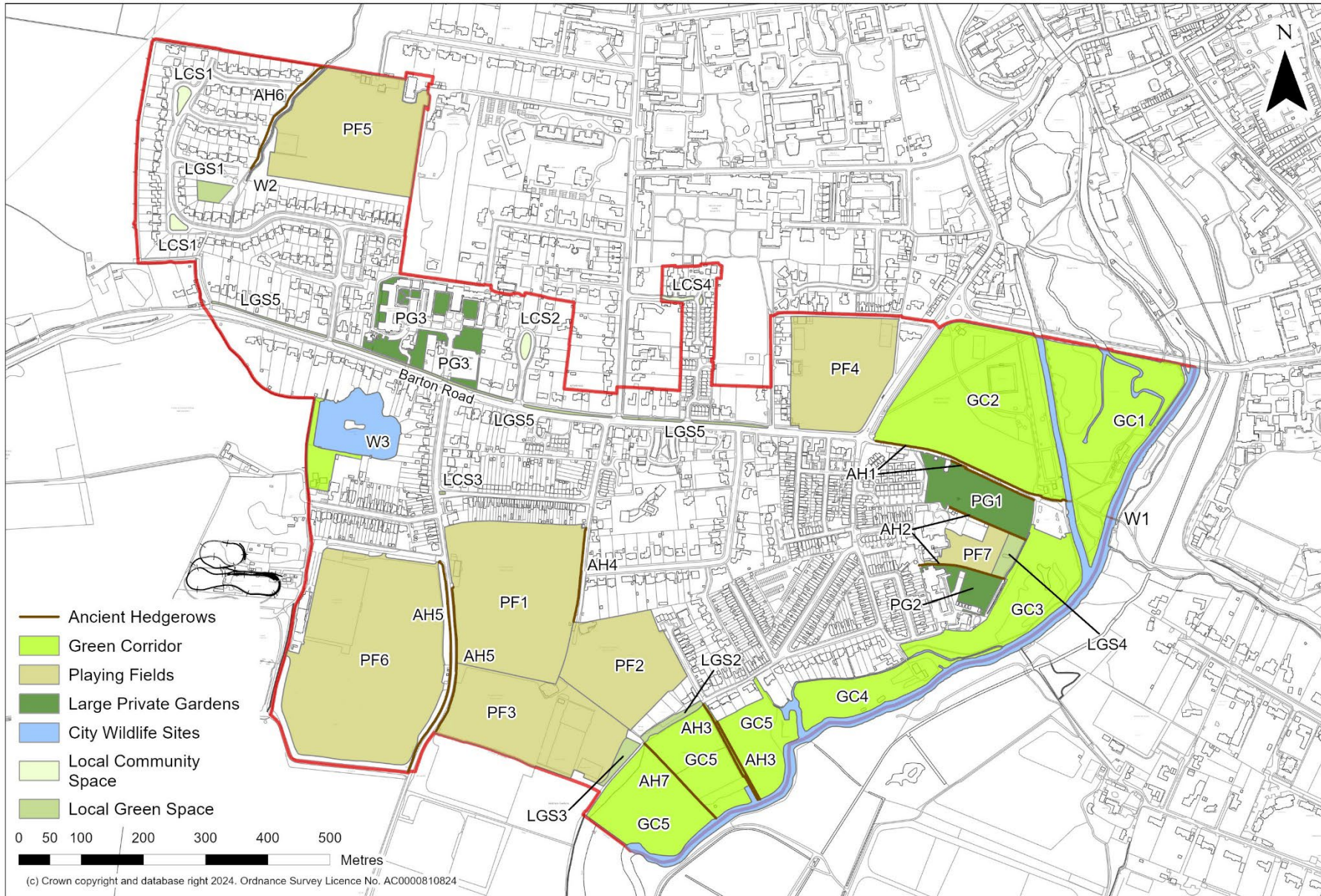
Appendix B: Heritage Assets in South Newnham Neighbourhood

42. It is recommended that for LGS 2 in the second column of the table on page 81, ‘the famous’ is removed from the sentence.
43. It is suggested that for LGS 3 in the first column, the title ‘LSG3’, is amended to read ‘LGS 3’. It is also recommended that column 4 of LGS 3 is amended to remove ‘wild’ from the sentence, so that the section reads ‘The space is a pocket of deciduous woodland with some Poplar trees.’
44. It is suggested that for LGS 4 in the first column, the title ‘LSG4’, is amended to read ‘LGS 4’.
45. The font text and sizes are different in the continuation of the table from page 81 to 82. It is recommended that this is amended to be the same font and size throughout.
46. For LGS5 in the table on page 82, it is suggested that the text also includes how the trees on the street contribute to the mitigation of heat island effect.

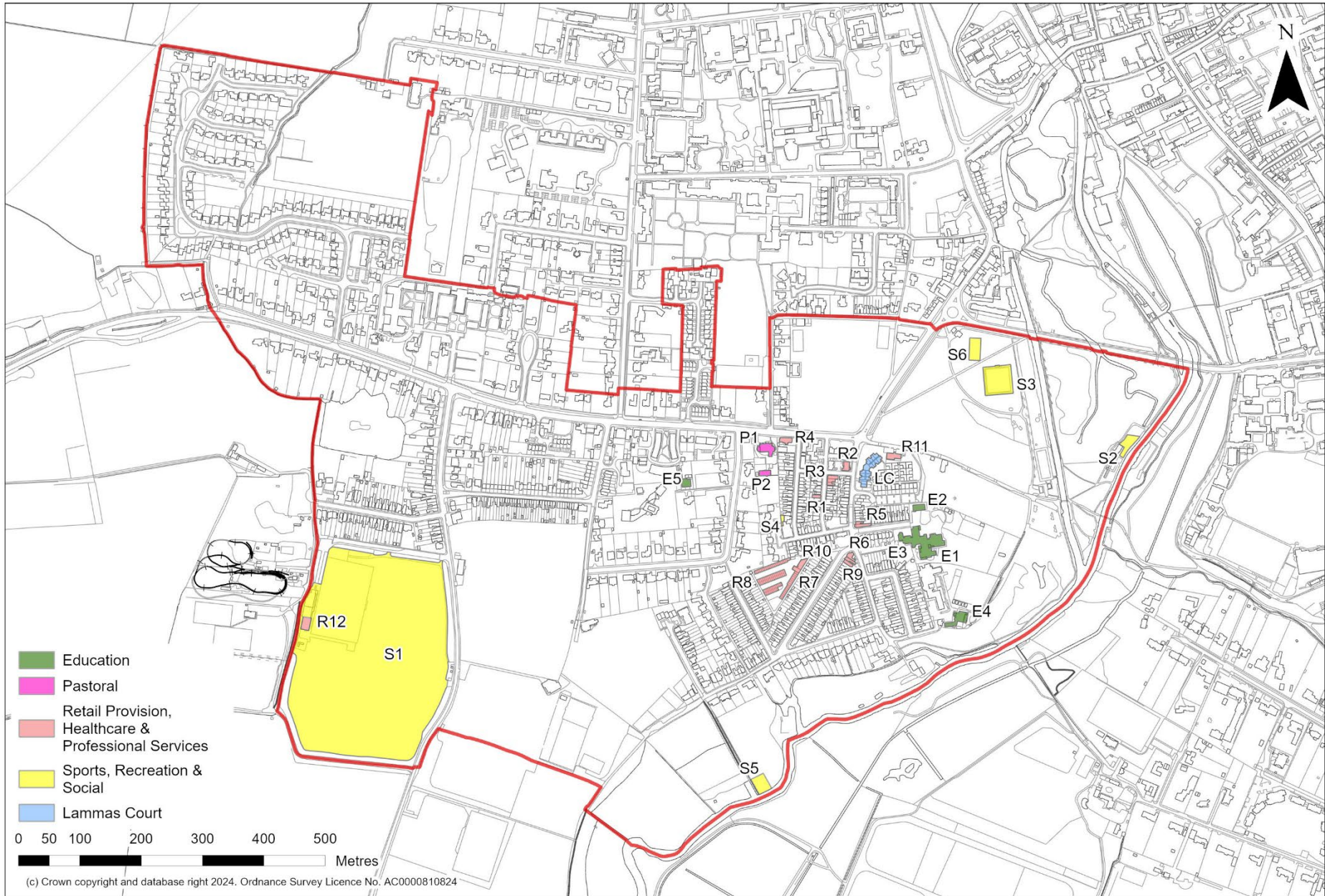
Appendix A: Amended Policy Maps

This appendix contains three amended policy maps for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan, as referred to in the Cambridge City Council response to the Submission (Regulation 16) consultation.

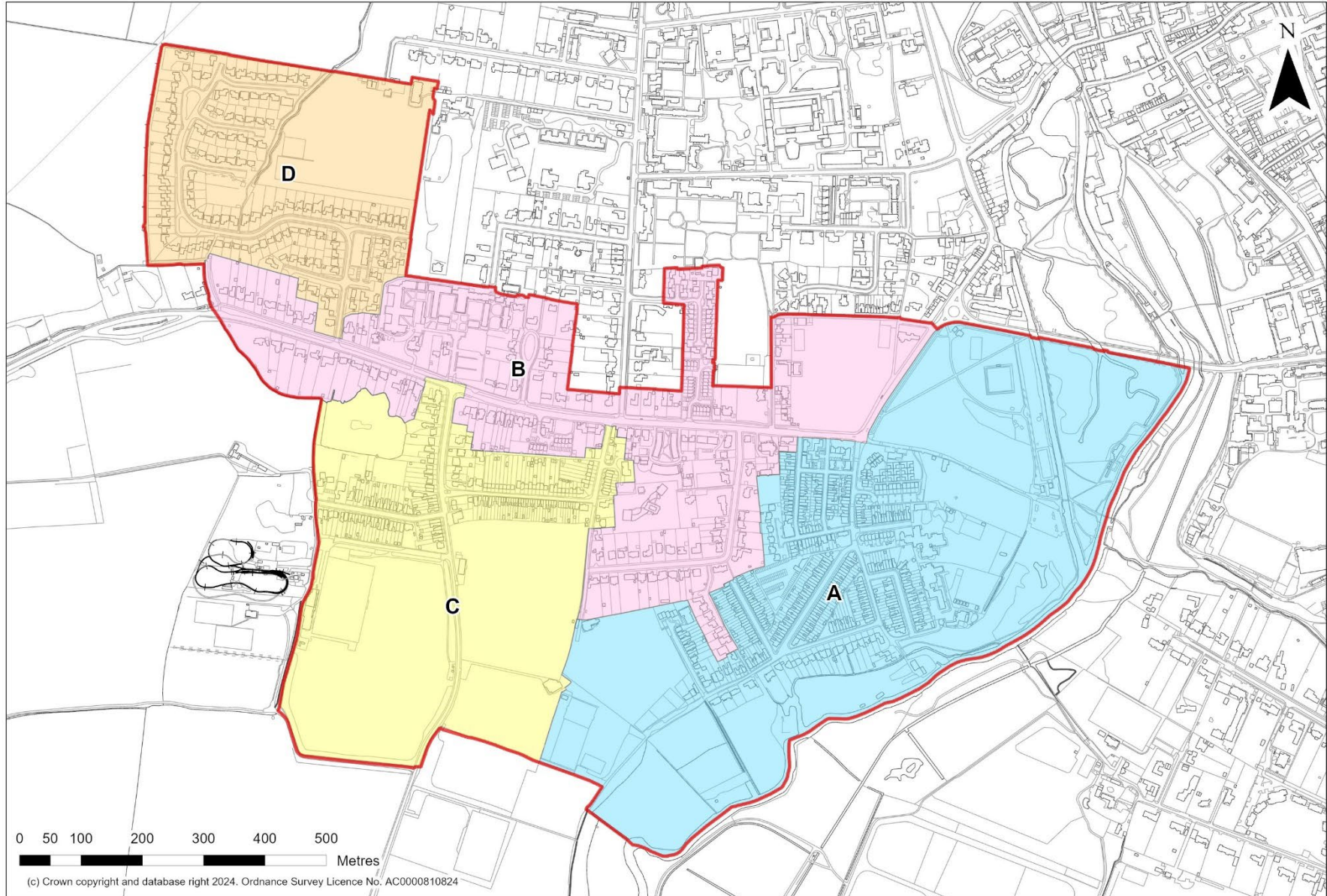
Map 2



Map 3



Map 6



200108

Object

Respondent: Mr + Mrs A.F Jones

Petition: 2 petitioners

Date received: 21/06/2024 via Paper

Summary:

■ Comment and Objection in Response to Consultation on South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

■ To The Planning Policy Team for the attention of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning. Comment and Objection in Response to Consultation on South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Attachments:

To The Planning Policy Team for the attention of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning .
Comment and Objection in Response to Consultation on South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.
17th May 2024
From Mr Alan and Mrs Eleanor Jones resident at [REDACTED] for 50
years.

Re Evidence Base, pages 20 and 21.LGS2.

This section is incomplete.

It does not describe the situation as it now is as a result of the huge changes which have affected the site and which are irreversible For example, the growth in the surrounding population able to reach the site,the need for low cost family recreation, the change in the small adjacent University bathing station to a Swimming Club with some 1,000members and the drive from Central and Local Government for fitness and access to the countryside for all.

It does not refer to the ongoing discussions about the transfer of the management of Grantchester Meadows from Kings College to another body, which may impact on the site.

This is the Reality which the Plan has to address.

The section is unbalanced in that it highlights the potential to return the site to its historic (car free) condition without mentioning the potential to manage the area to accommodate walkers, cyclists and vehicles without damaging the environment.

This is a matter for the County Council as the Highway Authority in consultation with Cambridge City Council to resolve urgently. The work done at the entrance to the Byron's Pool LNR is a good example..

Re South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Policy SNNP4. Creating local Green Spaces, page 37.
We object strongly to LGS2 The Skaters Meadow Footpath being Designated as a Local Green Space.

It is clearly not a Green Space at the moment. It is the only entrance to Grantchester Meadows from the City and further afield. It is a place of transition rather than a place visited in its own right for enjoyment.

The footpath, recently called The Skaters Meadow Footpath by enthusiasts, is simply the public footpath between Newnham and Grantchester.

The footpath at this point has long since been absorbed within the adjacent area of significant informal unsurfaced parking. 33 vehicles at the last count. It is dangerously potholed and almost impassable in heavy rain, which is predicted to increase with global warming..

As far as the National Criterion for Designation as a Green Space is concerned it does not meet Criterion b. It is Demonstrably Special, but as a huge problem not a beautiful space. The demand for vehicle access and short term parking is constant from service providers and the public. A compromise will have to be found between human and environmental needs. Designation as a Green Space will not help to achieve this.

Signed, [REDACTED]

Dated 17th May 2024



200109

Support

Respondent: Lynn Hieatt

Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Please find attached a note describing the early formation of the Forum, and the steps we took to ensure to the best of our ability that it was representative of the community.

Full text:

Please find attached a note describing the early formation of the Forum, and the steps we took to ensure to the best of our ability that it was representative of the community.

Attachments:

Background information on the consultation methodology of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

I initiated the activities that led in time to the formation of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum and ultimately the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan, and was the first Chair of the Forum. It all started early in 2016 when I attended a seminar given by the Prince's Foundation for Building Communities, which focussed on the Localism Act 2011, which gives communities the opportunity to create Neighbourhood Plans.

After speaking with several people active in the local Newnham area about this idea, we decided to gauge whether there was a desire and appetite in our community to engage in the project of a Neighbourhood Plan.

We started with a widely publicised event in the local Scout Hut, and invited residents (by posters, RA email lists and word of mouth); representatives of the local primary school, church and local Colleges (by email or personal visits). We did research to identify other Colleges and individuals and bodies owning property in the neighbourhood and contacted them by email letter. We had a very good turnout and the feeling of the event was very positive and encouraging.

From that early beginning, 35 people identified themselves as wishing to be part of a Neighbourhood Forum, which gave us a base working group to help with publicity and ideas to spread the word as effectively as possible. The Forum geographical area was discussed with the City Council and agreed through the usual procedures, a formal committee formed and officers elected.

The community-engagement process continued during 2016 and 2017, and included a two-day event run by the BIMBY team at Wolfson College; various drop-in and update meetings held at the local pub, the sports and social centre, and Wolfson College. All of these events were advertised by posters spread about the community, by email and by word of mouth.

In February 2018, a leaflet setting out seven headings summarising the feedback from the community workshops was dropped into every resident's letter box, sent by email to all the other contacts listed above, and advertised through RA newsletters and the local schools' e-newsletter to parents. Out of a total of 870+ leaflets distributed, 100 were returned with suggestions and comments; 97 of these answered "yes" to the question "Do the headings describe the aims you would support for your neighbourhood?" This excellent return-rate and the enthusiasm of the feedback encouraged the committee to go forward, and the material formed the basis of the 'vision' that informs the current South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

The task of writing the Neighbourhood Plan and keeping the community and other stakeholders updated began but was interrupted by Covid, when normal interaction was not possible. Once the Forum was able to operate normally again, work on the Neighbourhood Plan recommenced and the Forum arranged meetings and drop-in events so that residents and stakeholders were aware of what progress had been made and once again had the opportunity to give feedback.

New arrivals in the neighbourhood may not be aware of all of this history, though the NP currently is being widely advertised through the website, posters, Councillors' emails to the community, RA communications and word of mouth, as well as by the Council.

I support the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan as I genuinely feel that it reflects the vast majority of views of the residents, businesses, and other stakeholders who participated in the process or commented on drafts, and I look forward to its being adopted.

Lynn Hieatt
Former Chair of the Forum committee
29 May 2024

200110

Support

Respondent: Mrs Pam Gatrell
Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ As Chair of Friends of Paradise Nature Reserve, I am writing in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

■ As Chair of Friends of Paradise Nature Reserve, I am writing in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

Attachments:

As Chair of Friends of Paradise Nature Reserve, I am writing in support of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. We are a group of 170 members who support this unique Local Nature Reserve and help Cambridge City Council who manage the Reserve Nature assisting with their work parties.

With the help of a local ecologist, a team of residents including members of Paradise Nature Reserve, gathered evidence on our neighbourhood green infrastructure to provide the evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan. The range of natural habitats includes flood meadows and fen, wood and hedgerows, river and riverbank, streams, a lake, a local nature reserve, playing fields, allotments and private gardens, The “green corridor” described in the Evidence Base is the area along the River Cam from the City Centre through Coe Fen, and Sheep’s Green, Lammas Land, Paradise Nature Reserve, Skaters’ Meadow and into Grantchester Meadows. This is a very detailed and well researched document and if the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it will be an invaluable aid to planning officers when considering planning applications that affect the environment in South Newnham.

The Neighbourhood Plan Policies, SNNP Policy 1: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and SNNP 2: Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain are intended to protect and enhance biodiversity in the green river corridor and the other natural habits listed. Policy SNN3: Reduce and Maintain Low Levels of Light Pollution is intended to ensure the impact of light pollution on wildlife is fully considered when development proposals come forth.

The Cambridge Local Plan 2018 has policies aimed at protecting the biodiversity of the natural environment of the City of Cambridge and the Policies proposed by the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan mentioned above will add extra detail and granularity to the Local Plan.

Paradise Nature Reserve is rich in wildlife and a habitat of high suitability for bats. Eight species of bats have been recorded, include the rare Barbastelle bat. Cambridge Local Plan Policies 69 and 70 are intended to protect the natural environment but did not prevent a large development of four blocks of student housing being granted planning permission in a garden alongside Paradise Nature Reserve.

Friends of Paradise and many other organisations objected to this development as it would cause harm being so close to the Nature Reserve. Cambridge City Council refused the planning application, and it was therefore a great disappointment when the Government Inspector upheld the Appeal and allowed the development to go forward.

We believe the Policies proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, will give added protection to our green infrastructure and I give my full support to these policies and the Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy 4: Creating Local Green Spaces identifies five local green spaces including Skaters' Meadow Footpath, which is described in the Evidence Base as a Cambridgeshire County Council Public Right of Way, 39/32. It is legally a footpath but has become a rutted area due to parking by visitors, daily commuters, and recently by caravans and residential vehicles/motor homes.

This footpath is in the green river corridor and hundreds and hundreds of people walk along it every day to access Grantchester Meadows. It is also used by rambling groups who follow this route from the city. During lockdown, when so many green spaces were barred to the public, the volume of visitors including walkers and cyclists coming to Grantchester Meadows reached a peak. The volume of cars also increased, and this has led to the present state of the footpath.

I have lived in Newnham for 50 years and have watched the decline of the footpath from a green verged leafy entrance to Grantchester Meadows to its present pot holed state, with cars parked on the verges and trees under threat with the ground underneath and beside them compacted from the weight of parked cars.

Pedestrians are the main users of the footpath, but car parking has made it an unsafe place for walkers. I used to walk there regularly, including with my grandchildren, but it has become dangerous for pedestrians with cars manoeuvring in this narrow space, and I no longer walk there. The designation of Skaters' Meadow Footpath would meet the criteria of a special place of recreational value, for the many people who walk along it on a daily basis. I therefore support the proposal to designate this as a Local Green Space so that any future plans for the footpath will include the protection of the verges and trees and ensure that it is a safe place for walkers.

Pam Gatrell
Chair, Friends of Paradise Nature Reserve

200111

Comment

Respondent: Historic England
Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment upon the ongoing South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan (reg.16) consultation.

Full text:

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment upon the ongoing South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan (reg.16) consultation.

Please find attached our response for your records.

Attachments:



Historic England

Mr Jonathan Dixon
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00793346
7 June 2024

Dear Mr Dixon

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on the Regulation 16 Submission version of this Neighbourhood Plan.

Having reviewed the plan and relevant documentation we do not consider it necessary for Historic England to provide detailed comments at this time. We would refer you if appropriate to any previous comments submitted at Regulation 14 stage, and for any further information to our detailed advice on successfully incorporating historic environment considerations into a neighbourhood plan, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

We would be grateful if you would notify us on eastplanningpolicy@historicengland.org.uk [<mailto:eastplanningpolicy@historicengland.org.uk>](mailto:eastplanningpolicy@historicengland.org.uk) if and when the Neighbourhood Plan is made by the council. To avoid any doubt, this letter does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed plan, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.

Please do contact me, either via email or the number above, if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ross McGivern
Historic Places Advisor
[REDACTED]

cc:



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582749
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

200112

Object

Respondent: Ms Nasheed Faruqi

Petition: 9 petitioners

Date received: 08/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Please find attached, and inline below, a letter outlining a group response to the proposed South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

Please find attached, and inline below, a letter outlining a group response to the proposed South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Attachments:

8 June 2024

Planning Policy Team,
Cambridge City Council,
PO Box 700,
Cambridge CB1 0JH.

RE: South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan//Access & Parking at Grantchester Meadows

To Whom it May Concern

We are local residents who live in the vicinity of Grantchester Meadows, some of us in the last few houses before the entrance to the Meadows. We have read the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans> with interest and are grateful to the residents who have worked on it. Nonetheless we are writing to express our concerns regarding access to and parking near Grantchester Meadows.

We have two specific issues with the plan. Firstly, we feel access for those outside Newnham to the community and wildlife of South Newnham is an essential characteristic of the area. Secondly: important existing provisions such as parking and other access by those outside of the area are at risk in the proposed plan - specifically parking that grants access to Grantchester Meadows.

We note that the neighbourhood plan refers to the area currently used by cars to access the meadows, as ““Skaters’ Meadow footpath”” - F1 in some figures. We also note that the area immediately adjacent to the Pembroke and St Catherine’s playing fields, where significant numbers of cars park, is also designated as a “Local Green Space” in the plan (LGS2). The plan refers to this area in a way that doesn’t reflect its current use; it has been used as a car park for at least 40 years. The plan also attaches an aspiration for LGS2 to be a Local Green Space, and by implication ‘car free’. This is a much bigger change than the plan is supposed to present.

While we appreciate the environmental and landscaping motivations for this move, we feel that such a change would be unwise.

The benefits of “greening” this small strip of land are outweighed by the social and community costs of excluding Cambridge families or tourists with access needs (due to having small children, disability or because of old age) from accessing the Meadows freely. This access to the wider community is an essential characteristic of South Newnham. Far more in keeping would be, for example, a small and well regulated car park (e.g. 10 spaces, predominantly disabled bays) with space for cycle parking and with built in speed control measures to ensure safe access for pedestrians, cycles, and other vehicles.

The existence of residents’ parking in the local area and limited public transport mean that the parking area is in constant use. As local residents we see this, and are directly affected by it - but we believe the inconvenience to us is a small price to pay for ensuring equitable access to the

Meadows. In the context of a "Cost of Living Crisis", and after everything the Coronavirus taught us, limiting people's access to green spaces is unacceptable. We urge you to reconsider this aspect of the neighbourhood plan.

Access to the nature of Cambridge and Newnham must be a key part of any plan. Cambridge is a notoriously unequal city. Newnham is one of its most expensive neighbourhoods in real estate terms. Creating a leafy idyll that presents a barrier to accessing spaces of enormous cultural significance will only underscore the inequalities of our city and is against the place South Newnham traditionally has held in the wider community. We do not agree with the need to have "Car free routes" as relevant or needed for the plan's goal for Connectivity or zero emissions - cars can be green and are an essential access tool for many. We would welcome any change to this plan that included access for the wider community. For example the issue of private gardens encroaching on public footpaths for example has not been properly explored; nor has the question of providing safe crossings for school children. These moves would be of greater value to the local community, and access to it, without negatively impacting the visitors who come from greater Cambridge and the whole world to enjoy this beautiful neighbourhood.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Nasheed Qamar Faruqi, [REDACTED]

Professor Hugo Bronstein, [REDACTED]

Professor Mary Margaret McCabe [REDACTED]

Mr Matthew Cleevely, [REDACTED]

Dr Veronika Dobler, [REDACTED]

Adam Cleevely, [REDACTED]

Emily Cleevely, [REDACTED]

Dr. Holly Porter, [REDACTED]

Shannon D. Shafer, [REDACTED]

200113

Comment

Respondent: Turley

Date received: 11/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

Please find attached a representation prepared on behalf of Queens' College, Cambridge in response to the consultation on the submitted South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

Please find attached a representation prepared on behalf of Queens' College, Cambridge in response to the consultation on the submitted South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Attachments:

June 2024

Delivered by email to neighbourhood.planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Planning Policy Team
Cambridge City Council
PO Box 700
Cambridge
CB1 0JH

Dear Sir/Madam

SOUTH NEWNHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

This representation has been prepared on behalf of Queens' College, Cambridge ("the College") in response to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation.

Queens' College's interest within the Neighbourhood Plan area relates primarily to Owlstone Croft, having owned this site since 1988, though the College also owns other property in the area. The Owlstone Croft site currently houses 102 undergraduate and postgraduate students together with a separately run children's nursery. It has also been subject to a planning application and subsequent appeal for works including additional student accommodation which was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate in November 2023 (ref. 22/02066/FUL and APP/Q0505/W/23/3323130).

It is highlighted that this representation follows a previous representation submitted on behalf of the College in response to the Regulation 14 consultation in July 2023, which provided comments on specific policies within the document as well as the lack of consultation with the College. Furthermore, the thrust of the plan which was felt to restrict development rather than promote sustainable development thereby conflicting with the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to Neighbourhood Plans by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The College do not feel that this has significantly changed in the updated version.

In response to the previous representation submitted, the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum ("SNNF") have provided a letter, dated 3 May 2024. For ease, commentary is therefore provided subsequently on the points raised by the College to date, taking into consideration the SNNF letter and the submitted Neighbourhood Plan.

8 Quay Court
Colliers Lane
Stow-cum-Quay
Cambridge
CB25 9AU

T 01223 810 990 turley.co.uk

Failure to consult

In the previous representation reference was made to paragraph 47 of the National Planning Practice Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning (“the Guidance”) which sets out that *‘a qualifying body should be inclusive and open in the preparation of its neighbourhood plan or Order and ensure that the wider community:*

- *is kept fully informed of what is being proposed*
- *is able to make their views known throughout the process*
- *has opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging neighbourhood plan or Order*
- *is made aware of how their views have informed the draft neighbourhood plan or Order’.*

Paragraph 48 of the guidance was also quoted which provides further direction on consultation, including landowners, which ensures that qualifying bodies are better placed to produce plans for sustainable development. Queens’ College retain the view as set out to date that the SNNF have failed to engage with them. Furthermore, despite the offer and willingness from the College set out in the previous representation, no further contact has been received from the SNNF other than then the letter response, which is dated 3rd May 2024 and sent to the College on 4th May 2024. This was therefore issued following the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to the local planning authority (15th April 2024), with no opportunity or offer to participate further prior to submission, further emphasising the College position on this matter.

In the SNNF’s response letter, they have set out that the claim of lack of engagement is not correct. However, it is very clear that the direct approaches to the College were all made between 2016 and 2018. When the Regulation 14 consultation commenced five years later in June 2023, there was no direct contact with the College. This is despite the fact that the SNNF knew very well that Queens’ College own property in the area, as they were contacted regarding the Owlstone Croft Planning Inquiry and made representations to it.

The College found out about the consultation from one of its Fellows who lives in the area and did receive a leaflet through their letterbox.

Specific policy comments

SNNP1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

Within the previous representation, the College set out that there was no justification for including Owlstone Croft Gardens as a site of biodiversity value and that inclusion within the Green River Corridor is inappropriate as the habitats within the gardens do not add ecological significance to the corridor. The Neighbourhood Plan has not been amended to reflect this, with the SNNF response setting out that this is because the eastern boundary is alongside Paradise Nature Reserve and in a line of similar spaces along the River Cam. They also reference the Ecology Officer stating that *‘given the habitat and high bat activity recorded along the boundary of the site with the LNR, it would be considered of high suitability for foraging and commuting bats.’*

However, Map 2 on p.34 of the submission document shows the entirety of the current open space at Owlstone Croft as falling into this designation as PG2. Despite this, there is no commentary on PG2 within the Evidence Base for Development Policies document setting out why this area has been designated as such.

Whilst Queens’ College therefore maintain their comments that this is inappropriate given the current modified grassland of low ecological value which does not contribute to the corridor, it is also of significance that this site now has planning permission for development. As evidenced by the submission of conditions applications, this scheme is moving forward, and as such this policy and accompanying plan is inconsistent with the permission and therefore provides an incorrect account of the site. Therefore, the College suggest that the Neighbourhood Plan should be updated to recognise the future development of the Owlstone Croft site.

In previous comments, the College set out that the hedgerow along the northern boundary of Owlstone Croft Gardens/Newnham Croft Primary School (AH2) is not ancient or species rich and the understorey comprises laurel and privet planted relatively recently. In response to this the SNNF have advised that following discussion with the local planning authority, the description as '*species rich and protected*' has been revised on Map 1, but that the relevant hedgerow has been included again as '*it contains five or more native woody species as noted in section 7.1.3*'. Firstly, this is an incorrect reference as Map 2 shows the hedgerows, and this labels AH2 as '*ancient hedgerows*'. It is also noted on p.15 of the Evidence Base for Development Policies document that reference is falsely made to AH2 being ancient. The College therefore still maintain the position that this is an incorrect label to be given to the hedgerow.

Finally on this policy, the College previously commented that it was inappropriate and unjustified under the commentary for '*Owlstone Croft Gardens (PG2)*' to refer to the trees along the boundaries as being '*important habitat*' for bats as there are likely to be far more important habitats for bats within the plan area, for example the River Cam or Paradise Local Nature Reserve. In response to this the SNNF have referred to three Poplar and two Ash trees along the area of Protected Open Space as well as previous survey work as part of their justification. However, as part of the approved development of Owlstone Croft, the trees referenced will be felled, therefore once again the document has failed to take this into consideration.

SNNP2 – Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain

The College are pleased to see that revisions have been made to this policy following the previous representation, although would still query the need for this policy at all given that it is covered by legislation. The policy refers to householder applications and other proposals exempt from BNG still being expected to provide an element of biodiversity gain. It is suggested that to avoid confusion in terminology it would be more appropriate to refer to this as enhancement given the subsequent measures suggested are not counted under BNG. This would also be more consistent with the local planning authority approach.

SNNP3 – Reduce and maintain low levels of light pollution

Although it is noted that revisions have been made to this policy, the College remain of the view that the suggestions within the policy of certain measures for external lighting are not based on evidence and go further than any existing requirements in local or national policy without justification. The Evidence Base for Development Policies document does not provide any elaboration as to why the specific measures suggested are included and the Basic Conditions Statement does not set out in any detail why the SNNF feel that the specific measures accord with relevant policies. In their response the SNNF refer to the appeal case at Owlstone Croft, but this does not provide adequate justification for the whole plan area and the College are of the view that the policy remains too prescriptive.

The College also remain of the view that it is unclear how the '*harm*' referenced is measured and who deems whether lighting is '*necessary*', therefore the policy is unworkable, unduly restrictive and does not adequately address circumstances where lighting is necessary, but harm cannot be avoided. In line with the NPPF, in such circumstances, if harm cannot be avoided, it should be adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

SNNP6 – Improving and Enhancing Neighbourhood Community Assets

The College previously expressed concerns that there was inconsistency between this policy and Policies 72 and 73 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018). SNNP6 refers to proposals for the change of use of shops or commercial units being resisted unless their continued use is no longer viable in accordance with the methodology under Policy 72. However, Policy 72 relates specifically to development and change of use in district, local and neighbourhood centres of which there is only a small part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area subject to this designation on the Local Plan Policies Map. The tests for loss are also different to those set out under Policy 73 which could lead to uncertainty,

For example, Policy 73 allows loss where the facility will be reprovided or where it is no longer needed whilst SNNP6 requires a use to be unviable - a more significant test which is overly restrictive.

In their response the SNNF have set out that the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to develop policies that are specific to the neighbourhood whilst being aligned with national and local policies. Whilst the College do not dispute this, basic condition e. is clear that there should be *'general conformity'* with the development plan. It is considered in this case that the inconsistency would provide a confusing policy context for applicants, and indeed the local planning authority in determining applications. In the Basic Conditions Statement the SNNF set out that the policy intent is to improve and enhance community assets and therefore suggest this conforms to local and national policies, but in actual fact SNNP6 has an emphasis on protection, which may not always be sustainable.

There is also still a lack of justification provided as to why the SNNF feel that this variation from the development plan is appropriate. It is highlighted that the Evidence Base for Development Policies document only lists the facilities within the area and does not provide any commentary on the policy direction on loss.

Furthermore, the policy, its subtext and Map 4 do not have any regard for the approved development at Owlstone Croft, which would result in the relocation of the nursery to the new nursery approved at 26 Barton Road (ref. 22/04976/FUL). Therefore, the College reiterate the suggestion that the Neighbourhood Plan should recognise recent permissions to ensure the mapping and policies are up to date

SNNP10 – Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding

The policy intent continues to reference the fact that the policy is *'focused on addressing surface water flood risk in the plan area as opposed to fluvial flood'* on the basis that there are national policy requirements on fluvial flooding. It is reiterated by the College that national and local policy also address issues of surface water flood risk so it is unclear why there is a need for an additional policy on surface water management. In their response the SNNF refer to *'good local rationale for including a policy on local surface water flood risk'* although it is unclear what this rationale is.

The College are pleased to see that the SNNF have taken on board previous comments and have revised the wording related to hard surfaces using permeable paving *'where reasonably practicable'* and adding clarification that it is *'flat roofs'* that should explore opportunities for green, brown or biodiverse roofs. With regards to the College's previous comments on flood prevention barriers and loss of vegetation, changes have also been made to this wording which are supported, although allowing mitigation where appropriate could still be added as previously suggested to permit greater flexibility.

The supporting text to assist in implementation states *'in line with national policy, land which falls within the functional floodplain will be kept free from development, other than essential infrastructure and water compatible development'*. It goes on to state that *'for avoidance of doubt, the functional floodplain is defined as land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood'*. Whilst this is correct (and reference is made to the Greater Cambridge IWMS maps) the College remain of the view that further clarity should be provided in the policy text to specify that the functional floodplain is classified as the 1:20 year flood event. This may avoid any future misinterpretation relating it to more extreme events (flood zones 2 and 3[a]), for which other development types are appropriate.

SNNP11 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Character Through Design-led Development

As set out in the previous representation, the phrase *'design-led'* in this policy is considered to be meaningless as any proposal based on a drawing could be said to be *'design-led'*.

The College are pleased to see that under principle (a), the need to follow a building line will only be *'where there is a prevailing building line'* which now allows for flexibility and the need for this to be on the basis of character and context.

Part (d) relates to flat roofs stating that those *'beyond the original building line and above ground floor level will be opposed except in exceptional circumstances'* and the College continue to take the view that this makes little sense, as well as being unduly prescriptive.

Furthermore, under (e) and (f) requirements continue to be set out for materials but these are considered to be too limiting for the entire Neighbourhood Plan area which exhibits a range of materials.

The College would also like to reiterate that the wording of this policy is still very much focused on replicating existing design rather than allowing scope for respectful innovative design, which is inconsistent with national and local planning policies. This is evidenced by the comments in the Basic Conditions Statement which set out that the intention of the policy is to provide clarity on *'design expectations'*.

It is further highlighted that the Owlstone Croft site is situated within Street Appraisal Area A. On p.12 specific commentary is provided on Owlstone Croft, but again the document fails to acknowledge the planning permission on the site. It would be appropriate for it to make reference to this future development given that these appraisals are intended to assess context and guide development.

It is also suggested that it would be best to have consistency on the naming of these documents; the supporting text of SNNP11 it refers to the character areas and then the related street appraisals, but it would be clear to name them *'Character Appraisals'* given that each appraisal actually covers multiple streets.

SNNP12 – Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham

The College remain of the view that the multiple references to *'unacceptable'* within the policy wording are considered to be very subjective and unmeasurable. The SNNF have responded to state that this type of wording is consistent with the Cambridge Local Plan (2018). Whilst a couple of references are noted in relation to noise, the most consistent wording states *'significant adverse effects'* which is noted by the SNNF in their response. As such this is considered to be a more appropriate measure.

SNNP14 – Protecting the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries

The relevance and enforceability of this policy wording is queried given the works to boundary treatments that can be done under permitted development and without the need for planning permission. With specific reference to the text that *'all existing vegetated boundaries (hedgerows, trees and front gardens) shall be retained or enhanced'* this does not allow for any flexibility, for example where such boundaries are in a poor or unsafe condition, which is therefore overly and unnecessarily restrictive.

SNNP15 – Conserving and Enhancing Existing Views and Street Scenes

The SNNF have commented in their response that no changes have been made to this policy. The College therefore remain of the view that given the locations and number of *'communal views'* identified on Map 8, this policy is very restrictive of development within the area with an apparent blanket protection. Furthermore, there continues to be a lack of evidence as to why these views have been identified as important and therefore no justification for their inclusion, with no explanation provided in the supporting Evidence Base for Development Policies document other than to simply list views in each area. Indeed Map 8 is not referenced in the document. The supporting text of SNNP15 refers to the fact that the views have been selected due to *'uniqueness'* and value for *'leisure and recreation'* as well as *'ecological'* value but there is no evidence as to why each view exhibits these values.

Within the chapter on **Implementation and Monitoring** it states that in 8.4 that *'the policies are intended to assist in the delivery of appropriate development and seek to support planning applications for initiatives the local community want to see happen and discourage applications for developments that they do not want to happen. By doing so, the Neighbourhood Plan policies aim to protect the special character of South Newnham and encourage development proposals for the benefit of the local community.'* Having reviewed the document in detail it is the Colleges' view that the policies are not positively worded and instead appear to be worded to resist development within the area. The document is very much focused on protection, as noted in 8.4, with numerous references to this through the wording of policies, and little support suggested for new development in the area or shaping necessary change.

This section also sets out in paragraph 8.5 that *'the Neighbourhood Plan policies aim to avoid repeating existing national or local plan policies.'* As referenced above, there are still a number of examples of repetition with existing policies, and indeed instances remain where the policy wording would conflict.

Summary

The College therefore consider that there is still work to be done to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions, despite the commentary set out in the Basic Conditions Statement. Having reviewed the submitted documents, the College is of the view that the Neighbourhood Plan has not been prepared positively and that in many cases the proposed policies do not support existing local and national planning policy. Instead, the language and prescriptive requirements are worded to effectively resist development within the area and so are focused on protection against perceived threats of development (as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan foreword).

It is also the College's view that the Neighbourhood Plan has not been prepared with sufficient and proportionate evidence, and as a result does not seek to guide development to sustainable solutions. Paragraph 72 of the National Planning Practice Guidance is very clear that *'sufficient and proportionate evidence should be presented on how the draft neighbourhood plan or Order guides development to sustainable solutions.'*

I trust that the comments made will be taken into consideration and will prove helpful in the Council's consideration of the submitted South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. Should the Council like to discuss the content of this representation further, Queens' College would be very happy to do so.

Yours sincerely

Ella Murfet
Associate Director



200114

Comment

Respondent: Public Health Directorate (Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council)

Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ No further comments on our original submission of July 2023.

Full text:

■ No further comments on our original submission of July 2023.

Attachments:

To: Colum Fitzsimons (Development & Policy Manager)
From: Cecilia Murphy-Roads (Senior Public Health Manager)

Date: 7th July 2023

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Response from Public Health

RE: Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Thank you for consulting me on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. The Plan has been compared to the New Housing Developments and the Built Environment Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Cambridgeshire¹.

The JSNA contains an evidence review of the built environment's impact on health and has distilled the evidence into the following themes:

- Generic evidence supporting the built environment's impact on health.
- Green space.
- Developing sustainable communities.
- Community design (to prevent injuries, crime, and to accommodate people with disabilities).
- Connectivity and land use mix.
- Communities that support healthy ageing.
- House design and space.
- Access to unhealthy/"Fast Food".
- Health inequality and the built environment.

The Plan has therefore been reviewed against these themes to ensure it addresses relevant impacts on health and wellbeing.

Public Health specific comments on the Plan are as follows:

We welcome and support measures that protect green space, enhance a sense of local of community and improve health outcomes.

SNNP1: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

There is a significant Green Infrastructure Network within South Newnham. Provision of green space and infrastructure supports health through bringing with it co-benefits that occur when accessing it such as activity and social interaction. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is critical to maintaining the green infrastructure of South Newnham.

SNNP2: Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain – we welcome this policy for reasons as sited against policy 1.

¹ [Cambridgeshire Insight New Housing Development and the Built Environment JSNA 2015](#)

SNNP3: Reduce and maintain low levels of light pollution

Public Health finds this policy beneficial - it has sort to ensure environmental impacts of light pollution are mitigated, such as using solar stud lighting on Lammas Land. However its implementation must always be in the context of supporting human safety and wellbeing for example ensuring sufficient lighting year round for those using active travel after dark in green space and travel routes. And making sure that public spaces are safe for women and school age children. This policy does aim to ensure the plan vision of a 'network of safe, car-free routes exists for walking and cycling that are in harmony with our environment' is encouraged.

SNNP4: Creating Local Green Spaces

We know that where *There is a clear association between the built environment and physical activity (1)², where the physical characteristics of neighbourhoods are identified as having a positive impact on health, wellbeing, physical activity and walkability, these characteristics are: choice and diversity; well-kept environments; affordable and efficient public transport; safe and sociable play areas; the presence of greenspace; well-lit and pedestrian-friendly footpaths; and street patterns that provide opportunities for informal contact among residents³*

Therefore designating and protecting the local green spaces: Gough Way Children's Play Area, Skaters' Meadow Footpath, Secondary Woodland at Pembroke Allotments and Newnham Croft School wilderness area, is essential to positive health outcomes. As more than 75 % of the neighbourhood consists of green space this is an important component of South Newnham's Neighbourhood plan.

Providing adequate green space can promote physical activity with the subsequent benefits of reducing overweight and promoting mental health⁴

SNNP5: Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network - we welcome policy 5 as it encourages active travel which is a key priority for Public Health. Well connected and attractive public places and streets encourage more people to exercise and make active travel choices. This is particularly important to South Newnham due to number of cyclists and pedestrians. However the importance of sensitively supporting the connectivity network whilst respecting biodiversity and green corridors as well as making sure any associated risks from flooding remains mitigated.

Also ensuring the surfacing is appropriate to the active users group e.g hard surfacing for pedestrian/ cyclist, soft for equestrian etc.

SNNP6: Improving and Enhancing Neighbourhood Community Assets

The policy promotes improvement and enhancement as well as sustained use of local community assets and leisure facilities. These assets are beneficial for health from the perspective of physical activity, mental health, social cohesion and social capital. An

² Board, Cambridge Sub-Region Housing. Housing Market Bulletin 27. 2015. 27

³ [Cambridgeshire Insight New Housing Development and the Built Environment JSNA 2015](#)

⁴ [Cambridgeshire Insight New Housing Development and the Built Environment JSNA 2015](#)

important consideration is with regard to equitable access. Can all residents access and make use of all identified assets? Are suitable toilet facilities available close by?

SNNP7: Protecting and supporting Homes and Facilities for Older People

Public Health welcomes this policy which seeks to protect and support the continued provision of rented accommodation for older people and those with disabilities in South Newnham.

Affordable and accessible housing options are essential for those on lower incomes. Other considerations within South Newnham for older and disabled residents include street furniture that accounts for disability and is dementia friendly. Sufficient resting places are necessary too in terms of accessibility. Accessibility to green space for older people is beneficial as *walkable green spaces near residences of older people aged 75+ significantly and positively influences five-year survival.*⁵

SNNP8: Conserving Additionally Identified Local Heritage Assets

Local Heritage assets are an important element of the architectural and historical make up of South Newnham the inclusion of a further eight assets serves to support and enhance the public realm and visual landscape all of which bring positive mental health benefits. More shared assets at community level may help to encourage increased social cohesion and a greater sense of community.

SNNP9: Improving the Energy Efficiency of Existing and New Buildings

Energy efficiency is a key factor in developing sustainable communities. Public Health agree with this policy which seeks to ensure opportunities are taken at the development stage to improve the environmental performance of the neighbourhood's building stock. Where feasible making use of design principles such as passive cooling, rainwater harvesting, solar collectors, maximising natural daylight etc. Also housing that is a reasonable size and affordable to heat is associated with positive health outcomes. With increasing summer temperatures another consideration is how to manage overheating in summer. Possible solutions include external shading, louvres/ shutters and solar control glass to alleviate excess solar gain. These varying design approaches to mitigate excess heat are more readily considered with new development but ought to be reviewed in retro fitting and conversions too.

SNNP10: Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding

We welcome the use of SuDs and other mitigation approaches in new development to protect human health from flood risk. We support that the inclusion of the full details of surface water flood risks are incorporated into the plan. Residents who may be affected in flood prone areas, particularly vulnerable ones, could be encouraged to create/ join a flood group, they are typically lead by the Parish Council or by a nominated flood warden(s). Community action of this type supports community resilience and well-being thereby

⁵ [Cambridgeshire Insight New Housing Development and the Built Environment JSNA 2015](#)

reducing physical and mental health impacts from severe weather. Completing personal flood plans and community flood plans also form part of this resiliency.

SNNP11: Protecting and Enhancing Local Character through Design-led Development.

We welcome the use of design principles to facilitate balanced and sustainable development which meets the evolving needs for housing in the neighbourhood area. As per policy 8 protecting and enhancing the local character courtesy of design led development will maintain an agreeable public realm suitable for the residents and a positive visual landscape to support and maintain mental wellbeing.

SNNP12: Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham

As per policy 8 and 11, policy 12 from a public health perspective is about sustaining an agreeable visual landscape for mental health purposes. And in regard to residential amenity we support keeping all green planting, trees and hedgerows within the urban residential areas of South Newnham to maintain biodiversity.

SNNP13: Converting Existing Houses into more than one Separate Housing Unit.

Reasonably sized properties are more affordable to heat and or cool therefore associated with better health outcomes. Conversion of existing houses to alternate configurations of housing maybe appropriate to provide better life-time housing options. However conversions must be good quality; ensuring minimal noise transfer between dwellings and with adequate space provisions being adhered to. For example following minimal space standards similar to the London housing minimal space standards. Having sufficient storage space, access to privacy, space for working from home needs, improved day light and ventilation are all essential to positive health outcomes. As well as

Children especially, teenagers deprived of adequate space at home may be disruptive and aggressive. In addition, low space standards contribute to poor health and low educational attainment that can express itself in incidences of antisocial behaviour...

Qualitative studies have found that homes with improved thermal comfort reported: increase in usable indoor space; improvements in diet, privacy and household/family relationships. Although no clear evidence on health improvement, respondents made links to improvement in physical and mental health.⁶

SNNP14: Protecting the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries

Yes public health agree as per policy 12.

SNNP15: Conserving and Enhancing Existing Views and Street Scenes

We support this policy to maintain an agreeable street scene within the area for current and future generations as high lighted against policies, 8, 11 and 12 also.

⁶ [Cambridgeshire Insight New Housing Development and the Built Environment JSNA 2015](#)

Public Health welcomes the community actions in 7.7.23 of the plan as they are responsive to health and wellbeing needs as discussed against the policies above.

And finally there appears to be a couple of gaps:

- Have you considered the needs of Gypsy and Traveller as part of your neighbourhood plan?
- There is nothing relating to fast food / hot food outlets in the plan. Have you considered there is no current or future concerns regarding this type of development in South Newnham or potential health impacts on residents?

200115

Support

Respondent: Barbara Sahakian
Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ This email is to state that I strongly support the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan, which is attached to this email.

Full text:

■ This email is to state that I strongly support the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan, which is attached to this email.

Attachments:

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

2024 – 2041 South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan



South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum
Submission Plan 15 April 2024

200116

Comment

Respondent: Cambridgeshire County Council

Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

I refer to the recent consultation on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. Please find attached comments I have received from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team relating to heritage assets. These are made to ensure there is consistency and clarity in how different types of heritage assets are described and presented in the Neighbourhood Plan with the aim of avoiding any undue ambiguity.

Full text:

I refer to the recent consultation on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. Please find attached comments I have received from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team relating to heritage assets. These are made to ensure there is consistency and clarity in how different types of heritage assets are described and presented in the Neighbourhood Plan with the aim of avoiding any undue ambiguity.

I trust that this will be of assistance to the Neighbourhood Forum as it progresses the Neighbourhood Plan and we would of course be happy to discuss this with them in more detail.

Attachments:

My ref: South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

Your ref:

Date: 18 June 2024

Contact: Colum Fitzsimons

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E Mail: [REDACTED]

Frank Jordan,
Executive Director
**Place and Sustainability
Planning and Sustainable Growth**

New Shire Hall
Emery Crescent
Enterprise Campus
Alconbury Weald
PE28 4YE

Jonathan Dixon
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

By email - Neighbourhood.Planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Dear Jonathan

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Consultation

I refer to the consultation on the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan and thank you for affording the County Council the opportunity to comment.

Further to the representations made by the County Council in July 2023 in response to the Regulation 14 consultation I have received further comments from colleagues in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team relating to heritage assets. These are made to ensure there is consistency and clarity in how different types of heritage assets are described and presented in the Neighbourhood Plan with the aim of avoiding any undue ambiguity.

1. The positive identification of all the nationally listed buildings within the ward (previously only 2/2A Grantchester Road was mentioned) has been confirmed with the inclusion of a map and a list. Appendix B has been renamed from 'Non-designated Heritage Assets in South Newnham Neighbourhood' to 'Heritage Assets in South Newnham Neighbourhood' to reflect this addition. The County Council supports this change. However, the draft document now risks conflating nationally listed buildings, Cambridge City Council Buildings of Local Interest (BLIs) and other non-designated assets within the text, by referring to them all collectively throughout as 'Local Heritage Assets'. This may become problematic as the Policy SNNP8 is explicitly to support 'Policy 62 (Local Heritage Assets) of the Local Plan by identifying those "newly identified Local Heritage Assets" in South Newnham to which that policy will apply'.
2. Paragraph 7.6.1 states that there are '17 Grade II listed buildings' within South Newnham. This translates to LB1-LB6 within the table and Map 5. Some of these contractions are not clear. For example, 78 Barton Road (Wolfson college) and its gateway are listed separately on the national list as NHLE 1126245 and 1126246 but are amalgamated as LB2 in the Neighbourhood Plan. Similarly, the 10 gas lamps on

Millington Road and one on South Green Road are amalgamated as LB5, whereas the single gas lamp on Clare Road is LB6. Although they are all accounted for, for the avoidance of doubt we recommend they should be entered individually.

3. At paragraph 7.6.1 (page 50) a text correction is due where the number of 'Local Heritage Assets' proposed to be identified as such under the policy (as newly identified by the NDP, over and above nationally listed assets and the existing BLI list) has been increased within the text from 8 to 12, but the tabulated list immediately below now only has items H1-H7.
4. In addition to the tabulated list, H1-H7 are also included at Map 5 'Local Heritage Assets' and are listed on the 'key' to the map. The Gonville & Caius College Cricket Pavilion on Clare Road was already a BLI and has now been included; this is now listed in the table at 7.6.3 as BL12 but shown on Map 5 as BL13. Map 5 also additionally incorrectly identifies H6 (St Marks Vicarage) as a carpark, not the actual building. H4 (Gas Lamp on Grantchester Meadows) and H5 (Stink Pipes on Grantchester Meadows and South Green Road, Selwyn Road, Fulbrooke Road, and besides Paradise House) are missing from the map entirely.
5. The existing BLIs in South Newnham are now all accounted for in the NDP. Some of the groupings are a little hard to follow but factually correct. BL1-12 in the NDP corresponds to 22 BLI entries on the Cambridgeshire Local Heritage List LHLP portal which includes 27 actual buildings.

I trust that this will be of assistance to the Neighbourhood Forum as it progresses the Neighbourhood Plan and we would of course be happy to discuss this with them in more detail. Please feel free to contact the Historic Environment Team (HistoricEnvironmentRecord@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



Colum Fitzsimons
Development and Policy Manager
Planning, Growth and Environment

200117

Support

Respondent: Lynn Hieatt
Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

█ Please find attached my comments on the detail of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Full text:

█ Please find attached my comments on the detail of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Attachments:

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

Comments

In a previous submission I explained my early involvement with the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum and how the Neighbourhood Plan was put together based on consultations with residents and stakeholders. As I said in that submission, I SUPPORT the Plan and its Policies and believe that the NP is a good reflection of what people have expressed throughout the process.

Upon a close re-reading of the text, I have the following additional detailed comments, which I would ask you to take into consideration.

Policy Section 1 - Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity in our Green Infrastructure Network.

SNNP1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

This is a key policy and there has never been a more important time for it to be expressed and incorporated in planning decisions, especially as it goes to a granular level in the section 'Creating Local Green Spaces', referencing modest but important spaces largely maintained by community volunteers, e.g. the 'green islands' dotted around the area. These green spaces communicate to residents and passersby the importance that South Newnham places on nature and biodiversity.

Policy SNNP11 - Protecting and Enhancing Local Character Through Design-led Development

The principles listed in (e)-(h) are especially important in the Conservation Areas and where, for example, there is an existing architecturally coherent row of terraced or other houses.

I suggest that some additional wording could make this policy even more 'future-proof'. New materials are being developed rapidly now, especially in terms of those that can mitigate against heat/cooling loss and are sustainably sourced and use novel materials and methods. Perhaps wording along the following lines could be added:

- (i) Other building materials employing new technology to improve sustainability in terms of sourcing, manufacture, long-term viability and more effective mitigation of climate-change effect will be supported, so long as they complement or appropriately contrast with their context.*

Policy SNNP14 - Protecting the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries.

This is another policy I strongly support. And, following wording elsewhere in the NP on this subject, I suggest strengthening it by adding wording to say:

'applications to pave over front gardens for car parking will not be supported'

200118

Comment

Respondent: Natural England
Date received: 21/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

■ Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached.

Full text:

■ Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached.

Attachments:

Date: 18 June 2024
Our ref: 475584
Your ref: South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan



Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ
T 0300 060 3900

Mr Jonathan Dixon
Cambridge City Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

neighbourhood.planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Dear Mr Dixon

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 07 May 2024 .

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.

However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following information.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further information on protected species and development is included in [Natural England's Standing Advice on protected species](#) .

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If an Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Sally Wintle
Consultations Team

Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

Natural environment information sources

The [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)¹ website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, [National Parks \(England\)](#), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available from [the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres](#).

Priority habitats are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here](#)². Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here](#)³.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)⁴ website and also from the [LandIS website](http://www.landis.org.uk/)⁵, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#)⁶ sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance](#)⁷ sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

¹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

⁴ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

⁵ <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁷ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)⁸), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)⁹. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)¹⁰) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)¹¹ to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 112. For more information, see [Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land](#)¹².

Improving your natural environment

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment and should provide net gains for biodiversity in line with the [National Planning Policy Framework](#). If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you should follow the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy and seek to ensure impacts on habitats are avoided or minimised before considering opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. You may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development and how these could contribute to biodiversity net gain and wider environmental goals.

Opportunities for environmental enhancement might include:

- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to reduce impacts on wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.
- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.

Site allocations should be supported by a baseline assessment of biodiversity value. The statutory [Biodiversity Metric](#) may be used to understand the number of biodiversity units present on allocated sites. For small development allocations the [Small Sites Metric](#) may be used. This is a simplified version of the statutory [Biodiversity Metric](#) and is designed for use where certain criteria are met. Further information on biodiversity net gain including [planning practice guidance](#) can be found [here](#)

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision. Natural England's [Green Infrastructure Framework](#) sets out further information on green infrastructure standards and principles
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance](#)¹³).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks or on verges, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

Natural England's [Environmental Benefits from Nature tool](#) may be used to identify opportunities to enhance wider benefits from nature and to avoid and minimise any negative impacts. It is designed to work alongside the statutory [Biodiversity Metric](#) and is available as a beta test version.

Respondent: South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum

Date received: 07/06/2024 via Email

Summary:

We are delighted to have reached the Regulation 16 Consultation stage and would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the officers at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning who have supported us during the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan. We especially appreciate the guidance we have received from GCSP when drafting and refining our policies.

During discussion with yourselves, we recognised that the maps we had produced were not easy to read and are therefore very grateful to GCSP for offering the services of their map department to re-do the maps which are now much easier to understand. Thank you for picking up some small errors in the Submission Version of the Neighbourhood Plan and for proposing to revise the maps, which we agree with.

The making of the plan has been a lengthy process, in part due to the interruption of Covid when no progress was made, but it has now come together due to the efforts of many residents in our community, who have worked together to gather evidence for the Evidence Base and the Street Appraisals. These documents have recently been updated to reflect any changes that have taken place since the evidence was first gathered.

The Consultation Statement shows how the Forum has consulted widely with stakeholders and residents from the early days of the workshops through to the Local Consultation under Regulation 14. Feedback from residents, statutory consultees and stakeholders and our responses are all recorded in the Consultation Statement. The early invitations to stakeholders, in particular Colleges who own property in South Newnham, show how the Forum engaged with the wider community from the onset of the process.

The very real concern held by many residents for the future of the environment, both globally and in our neighbourhood area is behind the policies we have drafted on our Green Infrastructure. These issues were tabled by residents at the workshops held in 2016 and 2017, and residents concern about the potential for damage to our local environment has increased year by year since then.

We have proposed four Local Green Spaces and Skaters Meadow Footpath is one of them. During the Local Consultation we met with Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF) who were concerned that the designation of this footpath, which is Cambridge County Council Public Right of Way 39/32, as a Local Green Space would preclude any formal development in the future for car parking spaces. As described in the Evidence Base, the footpath "has become a rutted area due to parking by visitors, daily commuters, and recently by caravans and residential/motorhomes" and it is now unsightly and unsafe for the hundreds of people who walk along it daily to access Grantchester Meadows.

The wording of our neighbourhood plan policy SNNP 4, Creating Local Green Spaces, does not preclude developing a formal car park with marked bays and a safe all-weather surface, though the policy would be a barrier to an inappropriately scaled development by requiring measures that would enhance the ecological value of the site and prevent the erection of buildings. Since the style of car park CPPF described to us would be of limited size (10-12 cars), require payment, have robust protection of the verges to enhance the site's ecology, and have no parking along the verges of the access road, it would not be prohibited by policy SNNP4.

In response to new thinking on climate change and its effect on the environment the Forum has included two Policies, SNNP 9 Improving the Energy and Water Efficiency of Existing and New Buildings and SNNP10 Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding. We would like to thank GCSP for their guidance in drafting these policies.

Since becoming Statutory Consultees in 2017 the Forum has commented on many planning applications, mostly concerning house extensions and some new build. The Forum has supported development that improves the housing stock, but has discouraged overdevelopment where scale, massing and overlooking adversely affects the street scene and the amenity enjoyed by neighbours. As a result of these experiences as a Statutory Consultee, Policy SNNP13 Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham has been included. The policy aims to protect against unacceptable overlooking, levels of pollution and general disturbance arising from a site during construction and occupation.

If the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it will be a first for Cambridge and will be an invaluable aid to Cambridge City Planners, when considering planning applications in this area.

Full text:

We are delighted to have reached the Regulation 16 Consultation stage and would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the officers at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning who have supported us during the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan. We especially appreciate the guidance we have received from GCSP when drafting and refining our policies.

During discussion with yourselves, we recognised that the maps we had produced were not easy to read and are therefore very grateful to GCSP for offering the services of their map department to re-do the maps which are now much easier to understand. Thank you for picking up some small errors in the Submission Version of the Neighbourhood Plan

and for proposing to revise the maps, which we agree with.

The making of the plan has been a lengthy process, in part due to the interruption of Covid when no progress was made, but it has now come together due to the efforts of many residents in our community, who have worked together to gather evidence for the Evidence Base and the Street Appraisals. These documents have recently been updated to reflect any changes that have taken place since the evidence was first gathered.

The Consultation Statement shows how the Forum has consulted widely with stakeholders and residents from the early days of the workshops through to the Local Consultation under Regulation 14. Feedback from residents, statutory consultees and stakeholders and our responses are all recorded in the Consultation Statement. The early invitations to stakeholders, in particular Colleges who own property in South Newnham, show how the Forum engaged with the wider community from the onset of the process.

The very real concern held by many residents for the future of the environment, both globally and in our neighbourhood area is behind the policies we have drafted on our Green Infrastructure. These issues were tabled by residents at the workshops held in 2016 and 2017, and residents concern about the potential for damage to our local environment has increased year by year since then.

We have proposed four Local Green Spaces and Skaters Meadow Footpath is one of them. During the Local Consultation we met with Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF) who were concerned that the designation of this footpath, which is Cambridge County Council Public Right of Way 39/32, as a Local Green Space would preclude any formal development in the future for car parking spaces. As described in the Evidence Base, the footpath "has become a rutted area due to parking by visitors, daily commuters, and recently by caravans and residential/motorhomes" and it is now unsightly and unsafe for the hundreds of people who walk along it daily to access Grantchester Meadows.

The wording of our neighbourhood plan policy SNNP 4, Creating Local Green Spaces, does not preclude developing a formal car park with marked bays and a safe all-weather surface, though the policy would be a barrier to an inappropriately scaled development by requiring measures that would enhance the ecological value of the site and prevent the erection of buildings. Since the style of car park CPPF described to us would be of limited size (10-12 cars), require payment, have robust protection of the verges to enhance the site's ecology, and have no parking along the verges of the access road, it would not be prohibited by policy SNNP4.

In response to new thinking on climate change and its effect on the environment the Forum has included two Policies, SNNP 9 Improving the Energy and Water Efficiency of Existing and New Buildings and SNNP10 Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding. We would like to thank GCSP for their guidance in drafting these policies.

Since becoming Statutory Consultees in 2017 the Forum has commented on many planning applications, mostly concerning house extensions and some new build. The Forum has supported development that improves the housing stock, but has discouraged overdevelopment where scale, massing and overlooking adversely affects the street scene and the amenity enjoyed by neighbours. As a result of these experiences as a Statutory Consultee, Policy SNNP13 Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham has been included. The policy aims to protect against unacceptable overlooking, levels of pollution and general disturbance arising from a site during construction and occupation.

If the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it will be a first for Cambridge and will be an invaluable aid to Cambridge City Planners, when considering planning applications in this area.

Attachments: None