



CABINET

This meeting will be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website.

Please also note that under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of any images or sound recordings is not under the Council's control.

To: Councillors Barkley (Deputy Leader), Bokor, Harper-Davies, Mercer, Morgan (Leader), Poland, Rollings, Smidowicz, Taylor and Vardy (for attention)

All other members of the Council
(for information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held in The Preston Room, Woodgate Chambers, Woodgate, Loughborough on Thursday, 6th June 2019 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

23rd May 2019

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES
2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS
3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4 - 7

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

The deadline for questions is noon on Wednesday, 29th May 2019.

6. CHARNWOOD GRANTS - ROUND 1 2019/20 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS 8 - 38

A report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services to consider applications received for funding in round one of the Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants schemes for 2019/20.

Key Decision

7. QUORN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 39 - 118

A report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration Services seeking Cabinet approval for the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan to be 'made' as part of the statutory development plan for the Neighbourhood Area.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS 2019/20

A report of the Head of Strategic Support to appoint Council representatives to outside bodies, including partnership bodies, charities and management committees. **To follow.**

9. EXEMPT INFORMATION

It is recommended that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item on the grounds that it will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10. REVENUES AND BENEFITS - FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS

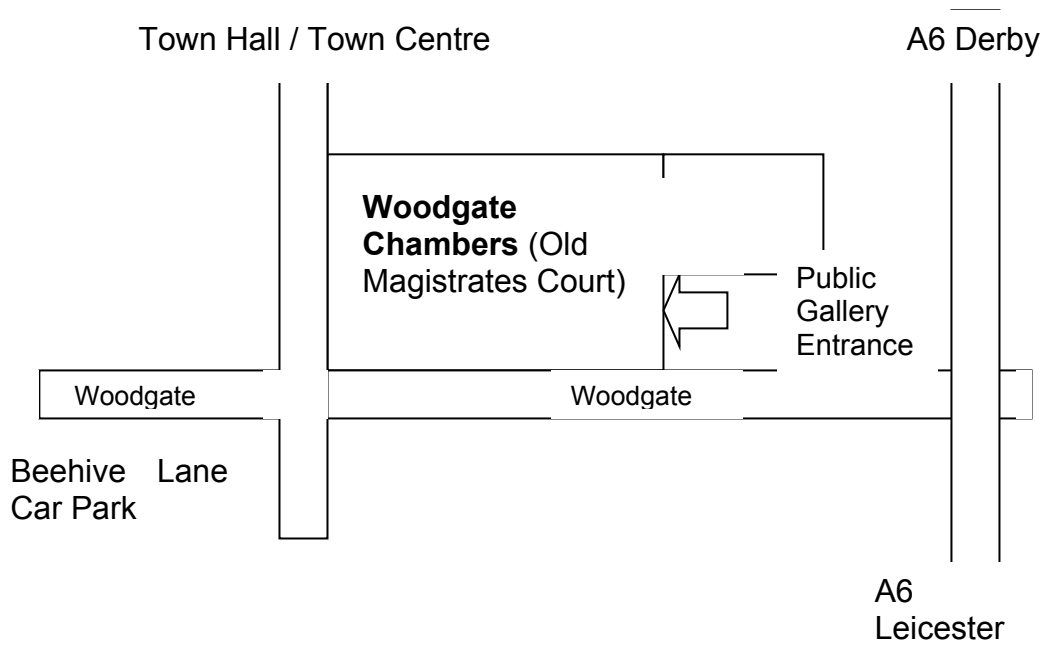
An exempt report of the Head of Customer Experience to review the future service delivery options for the Revenues and Benefits Service and approve a final option to be implemented, circulated to members.

Notification was given on 8th May 2019 that the public could potentially be excluded during this item since exempt or confidential information could be considered. No representations regarding considering this item in exempt session have been received.

Key Decision

WHERE TO FIND WOODGATE CHAMBERS AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Woodgate Chambers
70 Woodgate
Loughborough
Leics
LE11 2TZ



CABINET 11TH APRIL 2019

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Morgan)
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Barkley)
Councillors Bokor, Harper-Davies, Rollings,
Smidowicz, Taylor and Vardy

Councillor Capleton

Chief Executive
Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Head of Strategic Support
Head of Customer Experience
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mercer and Poland

The Leader stated that this meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

104. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

In respect of item 6 on the agenda, Councillor Smidowicz referred to part of the Enterprise Zone being in her ward. That was not considered to require a disclosure of interest.

105. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No formal announcements had been published prior to the meeting, but the Leader wished to thank all members of Cabinet, and officers who had supported Cabinet, over the four years of the current Council term now coming to an end. He wished those members seeking re-election well and hoped to meet them again after 2nd May 2019.

The Leader also referred to the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing who would shortly be leaving the Council to take up another position. He wished for the Cabinet's respect, thanks and appreciation for her work in supporting Cabinet to be noted and wished her well in her new role.

106. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

107. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

No questions had been submitted.

108. LOUGHBOROUGH AND LEICESTER SCIENCE AND INNOVATION ENTERPRISE ZONE

Considered a report of the Chief Executive to consider approval to the key elements of the proposed agreement with Leicester City Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Capleton, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group, presented a report detailing the Group's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Chief Executive assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to enter into an agreement with Leicester City Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone including the Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park and Charnwood Campus in accordance with the principles set out in Part B of the report of the Chief Executive;
2. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To enable the Council, Leicester City Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to establish clear arrangements to fulfil their mutual obligation to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government to jointly deliver the Enterprise Zone.
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

109. EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and it was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Democratic Services Officer stopped the sound recording of the meeting.

110. REVENUES AND BENEFITS - FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS

Considered an exempt report of the Head of Customer Experience to review the future service delivery options for the Revenues and Benefits Service and approve a final option to be implemented (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

A replacement page 66 to the above report (providing information that was not redacted) had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and an exempt addendum to the report was circulated at the meeting (copies filed with these minutes). Reference was made to typographical errors on page 20 of the report.

Councillor Capleton, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Committee, presented an exempt report detailing the Group's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Cabinet Lead Member thanked the Overview Scrutiny Group for its consideration of the matter. The Leader also wished to thank the Overview Scrutiny Group for the valuable pre-decision scrutiny work it undertook.

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Customer Experience assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that a decision be made as detailed in the exempt minute (Cabinet Minute 110E 2018/19);
2. that the exempt report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. As set out in the exempt minute (Cabinet Minute 110E 2018/19).
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

NOTES:

1. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on 23rd April 2019 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7.
2. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 24th June 2019 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on 23rd April 2019.

3. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Cabinet.

CABINET – 6TH JUNE 2019

Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services Lead Member: Councillor Deborah Taylor (TBC)

Part A

ITEM 6 CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND ONE – 2019/20 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Purpose of Report

To enable Cabinet to consider applications received for funding in round one of the Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants schemes for 2019/20.

Recommendations

1. That the following Community Facilities Grant be awarded:
 - £1,500 to Seagrave War Memorial Hall towards the installation of LED lighting;
 - £2,500 to Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society towards the Watermead Wet Reed Bed project.

2. That the following Community Development and Engagement Grants be awarded:
 - £1,600 to TS Sabre and TS Cutlass Navy Cadet Force towards First Aid training and kit;
 - £1,200 to Birstall Methodist Lunch Club towards running costs;
 - £3,500 to Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland towards the Men and Women in Sheds project;
 - £10,000 to Falcon Support Services towards their Sex Workers support project (£5,000 to be funded through the Community Development and Engagement Grant scheme, and £5,000 to be funded through the Loughborough Community Grants scheme);
 - £2,200 to Fibromyalgia Friends Together Leicestershire towards a development project;

3. That the following Community Development and Engagement Grant applications be deferred:
 - Loughborough Generator CIC - £10,000 requested – applied for funding towards the cost of the development phase of the project.

4. That the following Community Development and Engagement Grant applications be declined:
 - Quorn in Bloom - £2,000 requested – applied for funding towards a garden watering facility;
 - Hathern Village Association - £10,000 requested – applied for funding towards equipment for community events;
 - Rothley Community Library - £750 requested – applied for funding towards the production of Walk booklets.
5. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the awarded Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants.

Reasons

1. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Facilities Grants scheme in terms of community and organisational need.
2. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Development and Engagement Grants and Environmental schemes in terms of community and organisational need and to use funding provided through the Loughborough Grants scheme to support projects in Loughborough.
3. To enable further work to be undertaken with the applicant to see whether the application can be improved and strengthened.
4. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the criteria for the award of a grant under the Community Development and Engagement Grants scheme.
5. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the project.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-20 makes a commitment to make sure that Charnwood is a great place to live for families by creating a safe, secure and caring environment and to provide opportunities for participation in social, leisure and cultural activities and in community life. It aims to make Charnwood an attractive place for all by funding community groups and providing a range of diverse opportunities and events.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by Council on the 29th February 2016. A review of the existing grants criteria was undertaken at this time and it was concluded that the existing criteria were still appropriate and aligned with the priorities of the Corporate Plan 2016-2020.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Community Development and Engagement Grants considered in this report will be released, providing they are approved, once the applicants have met any required payment conditions. Grant payment terms will be on a grant by grant basis, depending on the nature of the organisation/project and level of grant awarded. Payment may be made in stages, and copy invoices, or proof of project expenditure, requested.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

Community Facilities Grant Funding

The opening balance for the Community Facilities Grants budget for 2019/20 is £72,961. This Round 1 2019/20 report recommends that two applications are supported, totalling £4,000, leaving a balance therefore of £68,961 for future rounds of Community Facilities Grants.

Community Development & Engagement Grant Funding

The 2019/20 budget for Community Development and Engagement Grants is £66,500.

This Round 1 report recommends that five applications are supported totalling £18,500, with £13,500 of this amount being funded through the Community Development and Engagement grants scheme, and £5,000 being funded through the Loughborough Community grants scheme. This will leave a balance of £53,000 for Community Development and Engagement Grants.

Loughborough Community Grant Funding

Cabinet at its meeting on the 21st January 2016 (min 93) approved the recommendation that the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to allocate any grant budget for schemes in Loughborough that are funded through the Loughborough Special Expenses between the Loughborough Community Grants fund (maximum £2,000) and a budget within the Community Development and Engagement Grants fund (maximum £10,000) ring-fenced for schemes based in Loughborough. This was to enable the budget for funding schemes in Loughborough to be more flexibly allocated between large and small applications.

The intention as outlined above is to allocate £5,000 from the Loughborough Community Grants budget towards the Loughborough based project, Falcon Support Services Sex Worker Support project.

Community Development and Engagement - Environmental Grant Funding (External funding provided by Serco)

Serco have agreed to provide £20,000 per year to Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) for grants to projects that deliver environmental outcomes. They have made a commitment to provide this funding for three financial years (2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20).

The ring-fenced budget for environmental projects in 2019/20 is £23,060, as the underspend of £3,060 from 2018/19 is available, as the external funding is ring fenced for this purpose. No applications for environmental projects have been received in Round 1 for 2019/20, therefore the balance remains at £23,060.

For all grants schemes once a grant has been awarded the recipient has 12 months in which to complete their project and draw down the grant funding. Therefore it is expected that the above grants will be drawn down over the next 12 month period, i.e. during both 2019/20 and 2020/21, dependent upon when the projects start, reach agreed milestones and are completed.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Grants do not deliver the objectives of the Grants scheme	Remote (1)	Minor (1)	Very Low (1)	The grants have been assessed against the criteria and will be supported with appropriate monitoring information.

Equality and Diversity

There is a requirement in the grants criteria for each organisation that applies to either have their own Equal Opportunities Policy or provide a statement that the organisation will abide by the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

In addition an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached at Appendix 3.

Crime and Disorder

The grants criteria specifically cover crime and disorder with projects needing to outline how the proposed project reduces the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour and promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.

Sustainability

Many of the grants criteria are concerned with sustainability.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None

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Part B

Charnwood Community Grants Criteria

1. At its meeting on 12th April 2012, Cabinet agreed the revised Community Grants Criteria to reflect the changes in the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Council's new Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by Council on the 29th February 2016. A review of the existing grants criteria has been undertaken and it was concluded that the existing criteria was still appropriate and aligned with the priorities of the new Corporate Plan 2016-2020.

Community Facilities Grants

2. The criteria include the following:
 - That the maximum amount awarded would be £20,000 (was previously £30,000) for projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
 - That the scheme would support up to 50% of the cost of feasibility studies, with an upper limit of £5,000.
3. Schemes are scored using an assessment matrix which looks for:
 - Well prepared schemes, with a realistic costing of the work, and projects that are well targeted, have good local support and a strong input from volunteers.
 - Projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
 - Applications from organisations with a strong local base and full accessibility to the community.
 - The need of the community for the facility and the need of the organisation for the funding.
4. The assessment matrix produces a maximum score of 100. A scheme scoring below 30 on the matrix is recommended for refusal and the Grants Panel will provide feedback to the community organisation on the reasons why it was not successful. Where a scheme scores between 30 and 40 on the first assessment the Grants Panel will work with the community organisation to see whether the bid can be improved and strengthened. Schemes scoring 40 and above are normally recommended for approval. However applicants seeking a large grant which scores only just over 40 are advised that they may only receive part of the money they have applied for.

Community Development and Engagement Grants

5. The criteria include the following:
 - Maximum amount to be awarded is £10,000.
 - Provides funding for projects delivered by the voluntary and community sector

- Must be available for the wider community
6. All applications are assessed against two measures of need: how the project meets the Council's aims and objectives in meeting identified community needs and the organisational need of grant funding from the Council to enable the project to succeed. Both measures seek to demonstrate the value for money to be obtained in providing grant funding. Twelve criteria are used to assess community need based on the aims and objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.
- How does your project promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities (in particular encouraging people from different backgrounds to get along together)?
 - How does your project involve volunteers and how will volunteers be supported and developed?
 - How does your project promote and support physical health and well-being (in particular healthy eating, physical activity, sexual health and reduced substance misuse)?
 - How does your project promote and support improved mental health and emotional well-being?
 - How does your project reduce the impact of crime and/or anti-social behaviour?
 - How does your project improve the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods?
 - How does your project improve the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs?
 - How does your project enable children, young people and older people to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live?
 - How does your project enable older people to live independent lives?
 - How does your project promote access of local people to green spaces and the countryside?
 - How does your project add value to Charnwood's commitment to reduce the impact of climate change?
 - How does your project help promote local businesses to prosper and develop vibrant towns and villages, and support rural enterprise?
7. Five criteria are used to assess the need for the Council to provide grant funding. Organisations must demonstrate that their projects are prepared and managed well and will be encouraged to explore other funding sources where appropriate.
- Has a realistic total cost and timetable for the project been identified after being researched, for example through obtaining quotes or using reliable information from previous years?
 - Have efforts been made to obtain other funding to enable the project to begin and is the amount sought from the Council necessary to secure match funding or because other sources of funding are not available?
 - What balances and reserves are available and has using these to fund the activity been considered?
 - Is the proportion of the cost of the project the Council is being asked to fund justified?

- No specific geographically based conditions or targets are applied to grant awards but the geographical distribution of grants across the Borough is taken into account.

8. Applications are assessed qualitatively against these criteria and rated high, medium or low. These ratings are converted to a score on the following basis which rewards those applications which rate highly in meeting community need and provide a maximum possible score of 97.

Table 1 – Conversion of rankings into scores

Ranking	Community Need Score	Organisation Need Score
HIGH	6	5
MEDIUM	2	3
LOW	1	1
Maximum Score	72	25

Levels for funding

Score	Level of funding
Less than 30	Nil
30 – 40	Some of grant funding applied for
More than 40	Most or all of funding applied for

Community Facilities Grant Applications

9. One application for Community Facilities Grant funding has been received for this round, and a further application which was originally received as a Community Development and Engagement grant application, has been deemed to be more suited to the Community Facilities grant scheme. Both applications have been assessed against the grants criteria, and have been recommended for approval.

It should be noted that grant applications are usually sent out for consultation, (where it is deemed that an application for funding will benefit a specific Ward only), to appropriate Ward Councillor's for their comments and input. Due to the Council being in 'Purdah' because of the Borough Elections on 2nd May, applications have not been forwarded to Councillors on this occasion for their comments, but will be for all future rounds.

Seagrave War Memorial Hall - Score 46.5 - Recommendation to award up to £1,500

10. Seagrave War Memorial Hall was established in 1954, and aims to provide and maintain a local community facility for use by individuals and organisations from within and outside the village. The hall is in use most days and evenings of the week, and is used for Parish Council and the Hall's Committee meetings. Groups using the hall include the village school, the W.I., junior football club, pilates groups, a martial arts group, a Victorian dance group and for ballroom dancing lessons. The hall can be hired out for

wedding receptions, and has regular bookings from cycling groups as a base for time trials and races, and the Caravan Club for weekend visits. The hall is also a base for the village summer fete and for the Seagrave Wolds Challenge held in November, which both raise much needed funds for charitable causes.

11. The organisation is applying for funding towards upgrading the hall's lighting to LED. The cost of electricity used per year in the hall forms a considerable part of the hall's running costs. The installation of LED lighting will help the hall reduce its overall bill for electricity by as much as 75%, contributing to the long term sustainability of the facility and enabling the hire costs to remain competitive and attractive.
12. The benefits of the project include:
 - Reduction in electricity bill will allow the hall to maintain its hire charges at a competitive level, to the benefit of all those that use the hall;
 - Project fits with the aims of Charnwood Borough Council Corporate Plan to reduce the overall carbon footprint within the Borough.
13. The application of £1,500 is for 43.7% of the total scheme costs of £3,432.
14. The Panel scored this scheme at 46.5 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,500 be awarded.
15. The Panel feel that this is a project that should be supported, it will upgrade the lighting and bring the running costs down for the Memorial Hall. It will contribute towards the long term sustainability of the local facility and will ensure that the hire costs remain competitive and affordable to the local community.

Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society - Score 42.2 - Recommendation to award up to £2,500

16. The Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society was formed in 1941 and aims to promote the study, conservation and enjoyment of birds and birding in Leicestershire and Rutland, to record and publish members' sightings, and organise survey work to further their knowledge of the birds of Leicestershire and Rutland. They organise a range of other activities and facilities for its members. These include a monthly newsletter, an annual bird report, indoor meetings, and fieldwork.
17. The application is for funding towards the creation of an off-line reed bed reserve at Watermead Country Park, with the aim of improving the wetland habitat of the area particularly for bird species such as Water Rail, Bittern and Sand Martin, and to support breeding birds such as Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Little Egret and Cetti's Warbler. The work will also provide an improved habitat for mammals such as otter and water shrew, and for fish, including spawning and fish fry. Works will involve digging an area to create a wet reed bed with some areas of open water with depths up to 2 metres. The

resultant material will be retained and placed elsewhere within the Country Park (above the 100 year flood level), to provide additional noise baffles to the A46 and to help divide land management zones.

18. The benefits of the project include:
 - Will ensure that Watermead Country Park provides a diverse range of spaces and habitats to provide a rich variety of sites for visitors, residents and volunteers to visit and enjoy;
 - Enables a range of individuals to make a positive contribution towards the quality of Watermead Park;
 - Will provide flood relief benefits for residents downstream from Wanlip;
 - Will improve habitats for wildlife.
19. The application of £5,105 is for 14.1% of the total scheme costs of £36,121.
20. The Panel scored this scheme at 42.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded, subject to further quotes being provided before work commences, which will provide an opportunity for the costs to be reviewed and potentially reduced.
21. The application was originally submitted as a Community Development and Engagement grant application, however the Panel feel that the project is more suited to the small-scale environmental improvements element of the Community Facilities grants scheme. The application scored well against the criteria of the Community Facilities grant scheme and the Panel feel that this is a positive project that will enhance the wildlife facilities at Watermead Country Park for all visitors. The organisation has already secured the majority of the funding of the scheme, but needs to seek further quotes to ensure a competitive price for the works and to see if there is scope for the cost of the works to be reduced.

Community Development & Engagement Grant Applications

22. Nine applications were received for funding in Round 1 for 2019/20. Nine applications have been assessed against the criteria; five have been recommended for approval, one has been recommended for deferral, and three have been recommended for refusal.

It should be noted that grant applications are usually sent out for consultation, (where it is deemed that an application for funding will benefit a specific Ward only), to appropriate Ward Councillor's for their comments and input. Due to the Council being in 'Purdah' because of the Borough Elections on 2nd May, applications have not been forwarded to Councillors on this occasion for their comments, but will be for all future rounds.

TS Sabre and TS Cutlass Navy Cadet Force - Score 37 - Recommendation to award up to £1,600

23. TS Sabre and TS Cutlass Navy Cadet Force was established in 2014 and is based in Anstey. The organisation aims to:

- Help young people fulfil their potential to become a responsible adult;
 - Allow young people to participate in activities that enhance their knowledge and skills in an organised and disciplined environment;
 - Enable young people to interact with their peers, participate in teamwork, competitions and learn leadership skills based on the traditions and training of the sea services;
 - Provide a syllabus and programme that is structured and designed to engage, challenge, educate and be fun;
 - Promote the historical, social and economic links that this Country has with the sea.
24. The organisation encourages young people into responsible adulthood using the customs and traditions of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, although they are not there to encourage this as a career. The organisation teaches cadets, from 8 years to 18 years, life skills that they use to further their education and chosen career. They are coached in water sports that are nationally recognised and so far have had many cadets go on to use this as their chosen career. They are also trained in discipline, teamwork, leadership, engineering, catering, and much more. The group is dependent on funds raised as they are not sponsored, and all funds raised go into facilities, training and equipment.
25. The organisation is applying for funding towards the provision of first aid training courses for all cadets, staff, parents and the wider community. In order to do this the organisation needs to purchase the kit required (including British Heart Foundation Resus kits and bandages), and to send staff on first aid instructor courses to ensure quality teaching as well as giving people the incentive of nationally recognised qualifications. In addition, the organisation will be able to run courses for the local wider community as well as their own members, so enhancing further first aid skills within other local groups.
26. The benefits of the project include:
- Giving young people opportunities of realising their potential, instilling in them a sense of pride in themselves, their peers, their organisation and community;
 - Upskilling individuals with essential first aid skills;
 - Promoting health and wellbeing, and caring for others;
 - Young people working together will widen their support network and improve mental health and wellbeing.
27. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
- Involves, supports and develops volunteers effectively;
 - Promotes and supports physical health and wellbeing;

- Enables children, young people and older people to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live.
28. The application of £2,118 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £4,236.
 29. The Panel scored this scheme at 37 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,600 be awarded, subject to the organisation identifying local events they will support, and offering first aid courses to the wider community.
 30. The Panel feel that this is a good project, and note that the organisation is pro-active with its fundraising. They feel that there is potential for the organisation to provide first aid training to other local groups and the wider community which will enable the qualifications gained to be more widely used and potentially provide a source of income to the group. The Panel would like Officers to meet with the group to discuss how they might do this.

Birstall Methodist Lunch Club - Score 36.8 - Recommendation to award up to £1,200

31. The Birstall Methodist Lunch Club was formed in 1970 and was originally known as the 'Luncheon Club', before being re-launched in 2013. It aims to provide a nourishing two-course meal and a hot drink for up to 30-35 elderly people in the Birstall area, regardless of cultural and ethnic background, every week and allow them to socialise and integrate in their community. Members of the lunch club are aged between 85 and 97 years, some are partially sighted or with hearing loss, there are disabled members or those who require assistance with walking, and individuals who have dementia. Members are charged a small fee each week towards the meal and transport if required.
32. The organisation is applying for funding towards their annual running costs, which include costs for catering, a mini bus, extra expenses for their Christmas meal, contribution to gas, electricity and use of premises and the servicing and steam-cleaning of the cooking appliances.
33. The benefits of the project include:
 - Encourages elderly people who may otherwise be housebound, to leave their home and socialise in a safe environment.
 - Provides members with stimulation, encouragement and support to continue to live independently.
 - Increases confidence and reduces anxiety.
 - Opportunities for volunteers, including food hygiene qualifications.
 - Majority of members usually eat ready-meals. The lunch club gives them access to a nutritious home-cooked meal once a week.
34. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
 - Promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities;
 - Involves, supports and develops volunteers effectively;

- Promotes and supports physical health and well-being;
- Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being
- Enables older people to live independent lives.

35. The application of £1,500 is for 100% of the total scheme costs.
36. The Panel scored this scheme at 36.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,200 be awarded to cover the period June 2019 to May 2020.
37. The Panel feel that this is a positive local group that brings older isolated people together and supports the project. They note that the application states that the running costs cover the period from September 2018 to August 2019, and as grants cannot supply funding retrospectively, the grant awarded will cover the period May 2019 to April 2020. In addition the Panel felt that the VCS Development Officer could work with the group to look at both its financial planning and other funding opportunities.

Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland – Score 49.2 - Recommendation to award up to £3,500

38. Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland is a local, independent charity established in 1952 for the benefit of all older people. Since that time they have strived to meet the continually evolving needs and aspirations of older people, promoting their health wellbeing and independence through the provision of a range of high quality services. Frequently uppermost amongst the challenges currently faced by the older people they support are social isolation, low incomes, mental and physical frailty and decisions about care, caring and housing. Their activities currently include:
- Information & Advice Services
 - Community Resource Centres
 - Lunch Clubs
 - Befriending Services
 - Men / Women in Sheds
 - Day Care Services
39. This application is for funding towards the Men and Women in Sheds project in Loughborough. The original project 'Men in Sheds' has been running since May 2015. Whilst set up to tackle social isolation amongst older men, the remit was broadened in 2017 to include women and the project now caters for over 200 older people in the borough. It is a workshop and focal point for older people in the community who wish to take advantage of shared tools, resources, skills and support for individual pursuits and community projects. The Shed, located in an industrial unit, is a place of purpose, achievement and social interaction. It is a centre where older people come together to engage in activities such as carpentry, metal work, model making, repairs, crafts, pottery and gardening. Many of the participants are referred through health and social care professionals or family members with a view to combatting their social isolation as a step in improving health. Many are suffering from physical and mental frailty.

40. The benefits of the project include:
- Reduction in social isolation and loneliness;
 - Improved health and wellbeing;
 - Increased involvement in the community;
 - Increased feeling of self-worth and confidence
 - Development of new skills and new social networks (and access to other activities and services);
 - Respite for carers;
 - Opportunities for health and social care professionals to refer clients;
 - A facility for community projects and opportunities for collaboration with other community groups;
 - Opportunities for volunteering;
 - Signposting to other sources of support for older people.
41. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
- Promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities;
 - Promotes and supports physical health and well-being;
 - Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being;
 - Improves the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods;
 - Enables older people to live independent lives.
42. The application of £10,000 is for 27.5% of the total scheme costs of £36,374.
43. The Panel scored this scheme at 49.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,500 be awarded.
44. The application scored very highly against the criteria of the scheme, and the Panel fully support the project, which they believe fills a gap in community need, and has been very successful in the last few years. Despite the high score, the amount awarded has been reduced in line with previous years, and the VCS Development Officer will work with the applicant to help move the organisation towards a more sustainable funding position.

Falcon Support Services – Score 48.5 - Recommendation to award up to £10,000 (£5,000 through the Community Development and Engagement grants scheme and £5,000 through the Loughborough Community grants scheme)

45. Falcon Support Services provide supported accommodation and community projects to individuals that are homeless, at risk of homelessness or vulnerable in the community. They help vulnerable people by providing safe, secure accommodation in a positive learning environment. Staff work alongside clients to help them develop their skills, so they can move away from homelessness to live independently and positively contribute to their community. In addition, they now provide a whole spectrum of services for service users' journeys; from rough sleeping to supported housing, move on accommodation and independence.

46. The Charity aims to relieve the need, hardship and distress experienced by homeless people and disadvantaged groups, regardless of age by the provision of emergency and other temporary accommodation and by the provision of support and advice services calculated to relieve their conditions of need and by the provision of support, advice, educational and community involvement services.
47. This application is for funding towards a pilot Sex Worker Support project, through the provision of 2 staffed sessions per week, where the doors will open for individuals to drop in and seek advice and support. The project will improve the life chances of vulnerable people who are involved in prostitution. Loughborough has been identified as having an increasing issue with sex workers and the Community Safety Partnership's and Police's intel log estimates approximately 30 sex workers that are known to them currently. From speaking to those that are open about their sex work, it has come to light that their circumstances/vulnerabilities (addictions, homelessness, mental-health, addiction, debts, DV, abuse etc) make them particularly susceptible to becoming victims of exploitation. The organisation wants to take action by running a drop-in safe space. There are currently no services meeting those needs.
48. The project will provide:
- Specialist support re housing, substance misuse, offending behaviour, welfare/benefits advice/debts and referrals/signposting;
 - Specialist preventative health services including free condoms/lube/pregnancy testing by being a c-card venue, links with GU clinics, smoking cessation, HepC screening, First Aid/Naloxone training, adopt safer practices;
 - Kitchen (hot food/drinks) and laundry facilities;
 - Access to clothes/toiletries/food donations;
 - Health Care Assistant on site to complete basic health checks, address sexual health, assist with registration with GP's surgeries, ultimately improving access to primary care, reducing numbers presenting at urgent care/accident and emergency services and reducing health inequalities to this client group in Leicestershire;
 - Training to collect evidence of sexual assault;
 - Contribution and promotion of the Ugly Mugs National programme;
 - Needle exchange service.
49. The benefits of the project include:
- Building confidence and self-esteem, providing opportunities to help them gain greater control over their lives and hopefully decide to eventually leave prostitution;
 - Achieving engagement with the individuals, allowing them to open up about their complex issues, identifying vulnerabilities so they can support

them and address the social inequalities they face before these become too deep-seated;

- The individuals will feel valued during the drop-in sessions and it will give them a positive experience of people that care.
- Will encourage them addressing their support needs;
- Will promote choice and freedom, giving greater control over their lives and hopefully reducing the need for sex work;
- Raise awareness of keeping safe, reducing violence and street related ASB;
- By bringing ex-sex workers on board as volunteers and potentially staff members, they can give hope and peer support to those still in the trade.

50. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:

- Involves, supports and develops volunteers effectively;
- Promotes and supports physical health and well-being;
- Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being;
- Reduces the impact of crime and/or anti-social behaviour;
- Improves the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods;
- Improves the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs.

51. The application of £11,735 is for 92% of the total costs of £12,735.

52. The Panel scored this scheme at 48.5 and recommends that a grant of up to £10,000 be awarded, (£5,000 through the Community Development and Engagement grants scheme, and £5,000 through the Loughborough Community grants scheme).

53. The application scored highly against the criteria of the scheme. The Grants Panel fully support the scheme, are aware of a gap in provision and feel that Falcon Support Services, being a local organisation with expertise in this area, are the best placed to deliver the project. The Panel also recognised that the organisation had sought advice from other agencies who deliver similar projects in Nottinghamshire and Leicester City and are proactively talking with other organisations regarding longer term funding if the pilot is successful.

Fibromyalgia Friends Together Leicestershire – Score 32 - Recommendation to award up to £2,200

54. Fibromyalgia Friends Together is a Charnwood based group with over 140 members. With the assistance of the Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation, the group was formed in 2015 and has been based at Ulverscroft Manor ever since. They hold monthly meetings as a self-help group, providing emotional and practical support. Guest speakers attend most meetings and recent topics have included, 'setting up powers of attorney', 'using mindfulness to deal with mental health problems, and 'how to claim Personal Attendance Allowance and Attendance Allowance'. In the last year, they have started to

have regular social events, to include carers where needed. These have helped members to develop friendships and personal support networks.

55. There are over 9,000 people in the Charnwood living with Fibromyalgia. It is a lifelong condition for which there is no cure, but there are treatment approaches that can help sufferers live well with the condition. Patient education and peer support is really important. Fibromyalgia can be a highly disabling condition which comes with over 150 possible physical and mental health symptoms. The symptoms include fatigue, memory loss, severe pain, incontinence, stiffness and eye sight problems. In the group's 2017 joint research project with Healthwatch, they found that two thirds of respondents were housebound, with no support to get out their homes leaving them feel socially isolated.

The group's objectives therefore are:

- To support Fibromyalgia sufferers and their carers within Leicestershire, but with a particular emphasis on Charnwood as this is the area the group meet and where most of their members and volunteers live;
 - To raise awareness and understanding of the condition;
 - To campaign to get local NHS Fibromyalgia services developed;
 - To tackle the stigma that people with the condition can face within the medical community and in the general population.
56. The application is for funding towards developing the group's activities to the next level. They would like to engage with more sufferers and carers by:
- Creating an Access Fund of £500 - providing a fund that people can bid into to help them attend the group's meetings;
 - Providing a buddying scheme - linking every sufferer with another sufferer and every carer with another carer;
 - Raising awareness amongst medical professionals, as Fibromyalgia is a really difficult condition for medical professionals to diagnose;
 - Referring sufferers and carers that are struggling financially to the Citizens Advice Bureau sessions across the District. For those carers that are struggling with their caring responsibilities, the organisation will refer them to Voluntary Action South Leicestershire Carers Project and to Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland Care Act Advocacy Project;
 - Ensuring that all members of the Management committee have had the necessary training to carry out their roles effectively;
 - Improve equipment, such as laptop and printer.
57. The benefits of the project include:
- More information to be made available about fibromyalgia. This includes using online platforms and social media to raise public awareness and reduce stigma;

- Reducing social isolation for sufferers and role isolation for carers, who often feel they are alone and unsupported in their role;
 - Improvement of mental health and well-being.
58. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
- Promotes and supports physical health and well-being;
 - Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being;
 - Involves, supports and develops volunteers effectively;
 - Improves the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs.
59. The application of £5,055 is for 90.7% of the total scheme costs of £5,575.
60. The Panel scored this scheme at 32 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,200 be awarded as a contribution towards the project as a whole, but not including costs for the printer, laptop, projector and access fund.
61. The Panel are supportive of this project and feel that it is offering something different, however they also feel that the project costs are high and note that participants do not currently contribute toward sessions. For this reason, they feel that the grant awarded should not be awarded for certain elements of the project including for the printer, laptop, projector or access fund, and they would recommend that the applicant considers introducing a small weekly subscription for participants, as well as exploring other fundraising opportunities. The Panel would also like the VCS Development Officer to meet with the group to look at their Constitution, which they feel could be strengthened and to look at other funding opportunities.

Loughborough Generator CIC – Not Scored - Recommendation to defer

62. Loughborough Generator CIC was established to secure funding for, and manage the conversion of the former College of Art Building at 12 Frederick Street, Loughborough, into a business hub for small creative businesses and a community building for the delivery of a programme of arts, culture and heritage activities for the local community. The CIC's Vision is: "The disused historic building will be given new life and purpose as The Generator, a place of enterprise, inspiration and connection. It will be a focal point for creative activity, an attractive place to visit, well-connected with its community, a hub for creative business, training, advice, high quality arts events and business support".
63. Located at 12 Frederick Street, Loughborough, the Generator is one of the last remaining early 20th Century buildings which housed the original Loughborough Technical College. Empty and unused, the building is under threat of loss. The University will transfer the building to the CIC on a long lease at a peppercorn rent. The building will be refurbished for use as a centre for creative industries, for start-up businesses, apprenticeships and for local creative enterprises. It will become the focus for community and public involvement in local heritage and the arts with a publicly accessible cafe,

exhibition and performance space. The building will become a venue in which the rich history of the town's intertwined relationship with industries, education and local people will be told, interpreted and celebrated. This is a unique opportunity to preserve and celebrate a key part of the town's heritage.

The capital costs of refurbishing the building are likely to be in the region of £2 – 3 million. The organisation have been successful in being selected by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a capital award of £310,000. In order to be successful in drawing that down they have to complete a development stage for which HLF have awarded a further £30,000 on the condition that it is match funded from other sources and partners. This application is therefore for £10,000 from the Community Development Grant scheme to secure part of that match, with the balance coming hopefully from other partners.

64. Charnwood Arts and other Partners will engage people to:

- Research and preserve memories;
- Conserve documents;
- Record success.

65. In addition the organisation will:

- Revisit and complete the design, survey and cost plan package comprising: structural survey, building design to RIBA Stage 4, flood risk assessment, mechanical and electrical Design, preparation of cost plan and obtaining statutory approvals;
- Develop a Conservation Plan and Management and Maintenance Plan;
- Review and redrafting of the Business Plan including needs and market analysis and the development of the strategic and economic case;
- Seek legal and business advice on lease creation and CIC governance

66. The Project will include the recruitment of a Heritage project co-ordinator, heritage lead worker and volunteers through the initiation of the community research project and initial programme of activities. An archive will be built through a range of sources including working with the Loughborough University archivist. In this phase they will also work with local charities and community groups to develop intergenerational programmes and approaches specifically aimed at young people. They will co-manage and develop the programme with Charnwood Arts aligning it to People Making Places and working with them through the new Loughborough Heritage Group that has emerged through recent co-working between arts and heritage initiatives in the town (WW1, Luddites and Suffrage projects as well as working together with heritage sites).

67. The organisation is applying for funds towards:

- Professional fees for the co-ordination and review of project plans, business plan development, management and maintenance planning, conservation architect, development appraisal and governance;

- New staff costs – Part-time Heritage Co-ordinator and part-time Heritage Worker, 2 days per week for 9 months;
 - Recruitment, advertising and interview expenses;
 - Contingency costs;
 - Other costs, such as evaluation, travel and volunteer costs, materials, digital outputs, education and heritage materials, exhibitions, access fund, workshops and talks, and artists fees.
68. The application of £10,000 is for 12.2% of the total scheme costs of £82,000.
69. The Panel recommends that the application for funding be deferred to a future round to enable further work with the applicant to refine the project so it meets the criteria and it is clear what is being applied for and the associated outcomes.
70. The Panel were unclear about the current purpose of the application, what the actual requirements of the HLF are for the development phase. The outcomes listed in the application all related to the building once it is completed, it is unclear what the outcomes are that will be achieved in this development stage and how they relate to the criteria of the grants scheme applied for. The Panel are also aware there is a currently a significant shortfall towards the cost of the construction / refurbishment works associated with the building and need to ensure that any Community Development and Engagement grant awarded towards a project has stand alone community benefit. The Panel feel that the project is in its early stages, and that there is more work to be done with the applicant before the application will be in a position to be scored.

Quorn in Bloom - Score 26.5 - Recommendation to decline

71. Quorn in Bloom was established in 2015, and its charitable objects are to maintain, conserve and improve the environment, in particular within the parish of Quorn for public benefit, and to educate the public about environmental conservation. The organisation maintains a high standard of horticulture on publicly owned and publicly accessible land in Quorn using volunteers.
72. The organisation is applying for funding towards the installation of a water supply with a meter, and lockable insulated tap with a backflow prevention device at Church View Garden in Quorn. This will facilitate the management to a high standard of horticulture by volunteers in this public open space, thereby providing a recreational facility which will increase the happiness of the people of Quorn. Over the last three years Quorn in Bloom has transformed Church View Garden on the High Street in Quorn from a near-abandoned, overgrown and litter-strewn greenspace into an attractive public garden which has received considerable approving comment from the people of Quorn. The Garden was opened in April 2019. There is no water supply to the garden or accessible supply nearby, and bringing water during dry periods is a considerable burden to the volunteers. This was especially the case during the 2018 drought.
73. The application of £2,000 is for 57.9% of the total scheme costs of £3,453.

74. The Panel scored this scheme at 26.5 and recommends that their application for funding be declined.
75. The application did not score highly enough against the criteria of the scheme to be awarded funding. The Panel welcomes the organisation's contribution to 'Bloom', however they feel that the current proposals are costly and that there are other watering options that could be explored. No evidence was provided to the Panel as to why this was the only option available, that other options had been explored and costed.

Hathern Village Association – Score 25.8 - Recommendation to decline

76. Hathern Village Association was formed in 2010 and aims to encourage a community spirit in Hathern. This is achieved by organising and supporting community events for the village of Hathern and surrounding villages. Its objectives are:
- To involve the community through volunteering;
 - To provide events and activities for all ages;
 - To support other village organisations through financial donations and to organise and run the annual Wicked Hathern Festival.
77. The organisation is requesting funding towards the purchase of a marquee, herras fencing and event barriers. They arrange several big events, such as the Wicked Hathern Festival, which is now the biggest volunteer-led music festival in the area with around 5,000 people attending. In June, there is also a week of activities called the Big Week. In November there is a Bonfire and Fireworks event. For many of these events the organisation uses marquees, and are an important asset for the events in order to meet the needs of all the community. Having their own marquees saves on hiring costs and because Hathern Village Association is a key partner in the Hathern Together project, the marquee will be available to a wider group of village organisations.
78. The application of £10,000 is for 26.3% of the total scheme costs of £37,955.
79. The Panel scored this scheme at 25.8 and recommends that their application for funding be declined.
80. The application did not score highly enough against the criteria of the scheme to be awarded funding. The Panel have no concerns with the community event aspects of the application, however they feel that the costs of the equipment are high, and that the project is too commercial and able to income generate through the events programme to cover the costs of the equipment.

Rothley Community Library – Score 27.5 - Recommendation to decline

81. Rothley Community Library was formed in 2015 and aims to:
- Provide and encourage the use of library services to Rothley community and villages beyond;

- Support and provide a financially secure service after LCC funding finishes;
 - Encourage reading, promote digital access, enable lifelong learning and help to find information;
 - Provide knowledge about local services and activities, enrich cultural life, provide a safe space to meet and to provide a helpful space to study.
82. In the last decade, Rothley's population has significantly increased due to the building of several new housing developments. The Community Library are applying for funding towards the production of 500 illustrated books about local walks which will act as a catalyst for new and current residents to gain information about their village, its history and heritage, its open spaces and marked pathways. At some of the most interesting points of historical interest sites there will be QR readers. These will be linked to further information on the local community library website.
83. The application of £750 is for 100% of the total scheme costs.
84. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.5 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
85. Whilst the Panel appreciates the idea behind producing the walks booklets, they feel that in printing 500 booklets, they have a finite number of people that will be reached and once the booklets are gone there will be a need to reprint. They feel that an online version of the booklet would be more cost effective and more accessible, with the potential to reach a greater number of people in the area. The Panel recommends that the organisation meets with the Council's Sports and Active Recreation team to look at how they might work together and discuss the possibility of providing guided walks in the area and how the local walk information could be better provided.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Community Facilities Grants Summary

Appendix 2 - Community Development and Engagement Grants Summary

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

Opening Budget 2019/20 - £72,961

Round 1 2019/20 - Community Facilities Grants Summary

Balance remaining after Round 1: £68,961

Applicant	Project description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Total score	Recommendation
Grant ref 1218 Seagrave War Memorial Hall	Installation of LED lighting	1,500	3,432	46.5	Approve up to £1,500
Grant ref 1224 Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society	Watermead Wet Reed Bed project	5,105	36,121	42.2	Approve up to £2,500

APPENDIX 2

Budget - £66,500

Round 1 2019/20 - Community Development and Engagement Grants Summary

Balance remaining: £53,000

Applicant	Project description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Community need score	Organisation need score	Total score	Recommendation
Grant ref 1214 TS Sabre and TS Cutlass Navy Cadet Force	First Aid training and kit	2,118	4,236	22	15	37	Approve up to £1,600
Grant ref 1216 Birstall Methodist Lunch Club	Running costs	1,500	1,500	21.8	15	36.8	Approve up to £1,200
Grant ref 1219 Age UK Leics and Rutland	Men and Women in Sheds project	10,000	36,374	34.2	15	49.2	Approve up to £3,500

Grant ref 1221 Falcon Support Services	Sex Workers project	9,775	108,539	30.5	18	48.5	Approve up to £10,000 (£5,000 through Community Development and Engagement grants scheme, and £5,000 through the Loughborough Community grants scheme)
Grant ref 1223 Fibromyalgia Friends Together Leicestershire	Development project	5,055	5,575	20	12	32	Approve up to £2,200
Grant ref 1215 Loughborough Generator CIC	Heritage project	10,000	82,000	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Defer
Grant ref 1220 Quorn in Bloom	Garden watering facility	2,000	3,453	15	11.5	26.5	Decline
Grant ref 1222 Hathern Village Association	Community activities	10,000	37,955	14	14.2	25.8	Decline
Grant ref 1228 Rothley Community Library	Production of Walk booklets	750	750	17	10.5	27.5	Decline

Charnwood Borough Council

**Equality Impact Assessment
'Knowing the needs of your customers and employees'**

■ **Background**

An Equality Impact Assessment is an improvement tool. It will assist you in ensuring that you have thought about the needs and impacts of your service/policy/function in relation to the protected characteristics. It enables a systematic approach to identifying and recording gaps and actions.

■ **Legislation- Equality Duty**

As a local authority that provides services to the public, Charnwood Borough Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that we can demonstrate having paid due regard to the need to:

- ✓ Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- ✓ Advance Equality of Opportunity
- ✓ Foster good relations

For the following protected characteristics:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion and belief
8. Sex (Gender)
9. Sexual orientation

What is prohibited?

1. Direct Discrimination
2. Indirect Discrimination
3. Harassment
4. Victimisation
5. Discrimination by association
6. Discrimination by perception
7. Pregnancy and maternity discrimination
8. Discrimination arising from disability
9. Failing to make reasonable adjustments

■ **Step 1 – Introductory information**

Title of the policy	Community Development & Engagement Grant and Community Facilities Grant.
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Julie Robinson
Date EIA started	May 2019
Date EIA completed	May 2018

■ **Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:**

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)
<p>Charnwood Borough Council recognises the value and contribution of individuals, voluntary sector organisations and other community-led projects and the benefits they provide to the residents of Charnwood.</p> <p>Through our Charnwood grant schemes we provide a range of grants to help these organisations, groups and individuals access the funding support they need.</p> <p>Three / Four times a year Cabinet considers applications for revenue funding for the Community Facilities Capital Grants and Community Development and Engagement Grants Schemes.</p> <p>It is the Councils aim to ensure the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p>
What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?
<p>It is the Councils aim to ensure that the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals/ residents across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Analysis is therefore undertaken to ensure that the grant are distributed in a reasonable and proportionate manner.</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?
<p>Evaluation takes place on successful applications to analyse whether there any gaps with regards to the protected characteristics in order to ensure the grants process is fair and equal to all. In particular analysis is undertaken to determine any barriers which may prevent specific community groups/ communities of interest from successfully applying or even applying at all to Charnwood Grants.</p>

Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

- Analysis of successful Community Development & Engagement Grants, Loughborough Grants and Community Facilities Grants 2018/19

What does this information / data tell you about diverse groups? If you do not hold or have access to any data/information on diverse groups, what do you need to begin collating / monitoring? (Please list)

Number & total of grants awarded based on protected characteristic:

	Number of grants awarded	Total funding approved
Age	8	£28,425
Disability	9	£21,496
Gender Reassignment	0	£0
Pregnancy & Maternity	1	£1300
Race	3	£9,010
Religion or Belief	N/A	N/A
Sex/ Gender	0	£0
Sexual Orientation	0	£0
No Characteristic/ Wider Community	18	£50,044
TOTAL	39	£110,275

N.B. The characteristic of Marriage and Civil Partnership was not included due to its status within the Equality Act 2010 legislation, as it is to protect individuals from discrimination in the employment law. The harassment provisions that relate to other protected characteristics do not apply to marriage or civil partnership.

It is acknowledged that some of the approved grants are towards projects which support individuals with multiple characteristics and those projects supporting the wider community have a wide range of beneficiaries.

Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?

In light of the answers you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not please explain why.

Further equalities monitoring may be required for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful in order to identify any further issues or potential barriers.

However, at this stage of analysis it is felt the information currently held is sufficient to analysis trends

and determine any barriers or negative impacts.

■ **Step 5 – Assessing the impact**

In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any ‘protected characteristics’ and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

	Comments
Age	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Age. Of the grants awarded, there is a reasonable proportionate spread between projects for older and younger people. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Age.
Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to disability. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Therefore, creating further positive impacts for people with disabilities. The process has therefore created a positive impact overall in relation to the protected characteristic of Disability.
Gender Reassignment (Transgender)	No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Gender Reassignment. The impact of this is neutral as there have been no applications to date. However it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place where specific support groups etc. meet for further awareness raising.
Race	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Race. In additional it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics.
Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)	Whilst Charnwood Grants do not specifically support religious groups / activities, it does provide funding to these groups who are delivering activities for the wider community. The impact is therefore neutral with regards to the protected characteristic of religion or belief with the acknowledged that wider benefits are created for the wider community.
Sex (Gender)	There is no specific grant funding awarded to projects relating to Gender. In addition, however, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected

	characteristic of Gender.
Sexual Orientation	No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Sexual Orientation. The impact of this is neutral as there have been no applications to date. However it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place where specific support groups etc. meet for further awareness raising.
Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to these other protected groups, therefore the impact is positive. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross - cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Additional targeted promotional work will be undertaken.
Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)	The grants which focus on the wider community have a wide range of benefits, particularly for residents from priority neighbourhoods or areas of deprivation and hard to reach sectors of the community.

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

Please note:

- a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

No negative impacts or potential barriers have been identified. However it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place for the protected characteristics of Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity and Sexual Orientation.

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Charnwood Borough Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

It is the opinion that the Community Development & Engagement Grant and the Community Facilities Grant comply with Charnwood Borough Council's equality and diversity responsibilities. It will further promote equal opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.

■ Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

Monitoring will continue on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are successful. Continuous monitoring and analysis will aim to identify gaps which may potentially highlight barriers or negative impacts towards specific community groups/ communities of interest.

Further equalities monitoring will be explored for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful, for the further identification of issues or potential barriers.

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

Where barriers/ negative impacts are identified, the mitigating action and progress against this will be included within the relevant service plan.

■ **Step 7- Action Plan**

Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan:

The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan

Reference Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date
001	Continue to monitor the Grants on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are both successful and unsuccessful.	J. Robinson	March 2020

■ **Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?**

	Who needs to know (Please tick)	How they will be informed (we have a legal duty to publish EIA's)
Employees	✓	This EIA will be published on the Council's website.
Service users	✓	
Partners and stakeholders	✓	
Others	✓	
To ensure ease of access, what other communication needs/concerns are there?	✓	

Please delete as appropriate
I agree with this assessment / action plan
If disagree, state action/s required, reasons and details of who is to carry them out with timescales: N?A
Signed (Service Head): Julie Robinson
Date: 06.05.2019

[Please send completed & signed assessment to Suzanne Kinder for publishing.](#)

CABINET - 6TH JUNE 2019

Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration Services Lead Member: Councillor Vardy (TBC)

Part A

ITEM 7 QUORN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan to be 'made' as part of the statutory development plan for the Neighbourhood Area.

Recommendations

That the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' part of the statutory development plan for Charnwood, in accordance with the provisions of Section 38(A) (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Reason

To fulfil the legal duty to make the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan for Charnwood.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Localism Act (2011) introduced new provisions to allow local communities to prepare neighbourhood development plans and establish them as part of the statutory development plan alongside the relevant local plan and mineral and waste plan. Further direction has been provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and subsequent amendments giving details on how neighbourhood plans are to be brought into effect.

The support to be provided by Charnwood Borough Council for the delivery of neighbourhood plans was set out by a Cabinet resolution on 14th March 2013 (Minute 121/13). The adopted Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy identifies opportunities which are available for communities to prepare neighbourhood plans and shape the future of development within their area. For example, by addressing specific, identified local housing or employment needs or by identifying land as Local Green Space.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The PPG states that where a local planning authority has the responsibility for the neighbourhood planning process, it should make every effort to conclude each stage promptly. Timely decision taking is important particularly at the start and the end of the process and certain decisions must be taken within prescribed time periods as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure

(Amendment) Regulations 2016, which amend the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The time limits that apply include:

- a) the designation of a neighbourhood area (as soon as possible);
- b) the decision whether to put a neighbourhood plan to referendum following receipt of the report of the independent examiner (5 weeks);
- c) the time period within which the referendum must be held, following the decision that the plan should be put to referendum (56 working days); and
- d) the time period to bring a neighbourhood plan into force after it has been approved in referendum (8 weeks).

Steps a) to c) above were undertaken by the Borough Council within the time limits prescribed by the Regulations. The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum was held on Thursday 2nd May 2019. In order to meet the timescale provided for by d) above the Regulations state the Plan should be brought into force within 8 weeks of the referendum; in this case by the 27th June 2019.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

The cost of producing neighbourhood plans falls mainly upon the neighbourhood planning group preparing the plan. The Borough Council provides support and advice to the groups through existing resources and the arrangements for the examination and referendum are made and facilitated by the Council with the direct costs being met through funding drawn down from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Neighbourhood area designation grants totalling £25,000 have been received for the first five neighbourhood areas designated. MHCLG caps support at a maximum level of five applications for designation thus the Council will not be able to receive any further funding for neighbourhood area designations. Additional funding of £20,000 is also available from MHCLG upon successful completion of each neighbourhood plan examination, once the date of the referendum is set. This can be used to pay for the examination and referendum costs and a funding application has been made in relation to the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan.

The cost of the referendum is estimated at approximately £3,000 and the cost of the examination £7,019.82, and will be met by the MHCLG Neighbourhood Plans Grant. Officer support costs have not been precisely calculated although nominally a figure of 20% of the Planning Policy team's time has been taken up by Neighbourhood Planning in recent months. There are likely to be additional financial implications for the Council arising from publicity and making the plan available for use as part of the development plan. The total costs for officer support, the referendum, publicity and publication of the plan are expected to be consistent with and not exceed the £20,000 grant funding that has been claimed for the plan.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
The Quorn neighbourhood development plan is not 'made' part of the statutory development plan for Charnwood resulting in a breach of the legal duty to progress in accordance with the regulatory framework, the community's objectives not being delivered, impacting on the determination of planning applications and leading to reputational damage to the Council.	Unlikely (2)	Serious (3)	Moderate (6)	The process to 'make' the neighbourhood plan will have been closely followed and the neighbourhood plan will be in conformity with the vision, objectives and policies of the Charnwood Local Plan core Strategy.

Equality and Diversity

The extensive consultation procedures provided for by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 help ensure that all groups within the community have participated in the preparation of the plan. The Examiner's Report confirms the neighbourhood plan has had regard to fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998 and there is no substantive evidence to the contrary. There are no equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Sustainability

The plan has been prepared with a presumption in favour of sustainable development. A Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report has been undertaken and, having consulted with the three statutory consultees, has determined that it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers:

[Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report](#)

[The Localism Act 2011](#)

[Town and Country Planning, England \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012](#) (SI 2012 No. 2031)

[Town and Country Planning, England, The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#) (SI 2012 No. 637)

[Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Specified Documents](#)

[Decision under Delegated Powers \(DD106 16/17\) Quorn Neighbourhood Area](#)

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Part B

Context

1. The Localism Act (2011) has enabled local communities to shape their areas by allowing parish and town councils to prepare neighbourhood development plans. A detailed legislative framework for undertaking neighbourhood planning has been set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012) and subsequent amendments.
2. A neighbourhood plan can decide where and what type of development should happen in the area; promote more development than is set out in the local plan; or include more detailed policies which will take precedence over existing policies in the local plan, for example the introduction of specific design standards. However, the neighbourhood plan cannot be used to prevent development included in the local plan or be in conflict with strategic policies in the local plan.
3. A neighbourhood plan, once “made” (adopted), becomes part of the statutory development plan and will sit alongside the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy and apply to the Neighbourhood Area it was prepared for. Subject to Cabinet’s decision, applications for planning permission in Quorn parish will in future be determined in accordance with the whole development plan for Charnwood:
 - The saved Policies of the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan (2004)
 - The Core Strategy 2011-2018 (2015)
 - The minerals and waste plan (prepared by the County Council).
 - The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan (2018)
4. A neighbourhood plan must:
 - Support sustainable development;
 - Generally conform to the strategic policies in the local plan;
 - Have regard to national planning policies;
 - Comply with the relevant legislation; and
 - Specify the period it will cover.
5. There are a number of legally prescribed stages which need to be undertaken when preparing a neighbourhood plan, set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The plan should then be subject to examination by an independent examiner before proceeding to referendum, if that is the recommendation following the examination. After a successful referendum, if the local planning authority is satisfied that EU and human rights obligations have been met, the plan must be brought into force within 56 days.

The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan

6. A neighbourhood plan has been produced for Quorn parish, led by the parish council and prepared by the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee comprising members of the local community and parish councillors. The Committee has been supported by officers from the Council throughout the preparation of the plan,

although it should be expressly noted that the resultant plan has not been prepared by the Borough Council. The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to be based upon robust evidence including statistical information along with community consultation and engagement.

7. The plan is considered to reflect local needs and priorities which have been identified through extensive consultation during the plan preparation process. Engagement activity undertaken by the Committee has included drop-in sessions; leaflets; and, questionnaires.
8. The neighbourhood plan is considered to provide a simple, clear vision for the future development of the parish. This vision is to be realised by policies and actions which cover a number of areas including settlement limits; design; housing; green infrastructure; biodiversity; heritage; renewable energy; community facilities; employment; and transport.

Key Stages in the Process

9. An application was received from Quorn Parish Council to designate the entire parish as a neighbourhood area on 31st October 2016 and the area was designated on the 21st December 2016.
10. Once designated the neighbourhood plan group began to gather evidence and identify the issues, vision and objectives to inform the plan. Extensive consultation was also undertaken with the local community, landowners, local groups and statutory consultees. This enabled the creation of an initial draft plan in July 2017.
11. The Quorn Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan underwent a statutory 6 week consultation from the 23rd July to the 9th September 2017. A number of amendments were then made to the plan by the Advisory Committee in response to the representations received during the consultation.
12. The revised plan, along with other statutory submission documents, was submitted to the Borough Council on the 8th October 2018. Following confirmation from the Borough Council that all the necessary material had been submitted the Borough Council undertook a further 6 week statutory consultation on the submission documents from the 15th October to the 26th November 2018.
13. During this consultation period the Council appointed a suitably qualified and experienced independent examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft, to conduct the examination. This took place in January 2019 and sought to ensure that the neighbourhood plan met a number of basic conditions in that it:
 - Has appropriate regard to national policy;
 - Is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for Charnwood;
 - Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development; and
 - Is compatible with EU obligations.
14. The examiner's report was issued on the 29th January 2019. This determined that "On the basis of the findings in this report I recommend to Charnwood Borough

Council that subject to the incorporation of the modifications set out in this report that the Quorn Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to referendum.”

15. The neighbourhood plan was amended in line with the examiner’s recommended modifications and was published, together with a decision statement confirming that the Borough Council was satisfied that the plan met the basic conditions and could proceed to a referendum.
16. The Borough Council held the referendum in Quorn parish on Thursday 2nd May 2019. The referendum presented a single question upon which anybody registered to vote in the parish could answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’:

Do you want Charnwood Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Quorn area to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?

17. All neighbourhood plans are required to gain a majority of 50% plus one in favour at a local referendum in order to be made by the local planning authority. 1,485 votes (84.6%) were cast in favour of “Yes”. 198 votes (11.3%) were cast in favour of “No”. It was declared by the Counting Officer that more than half of those voting had voted in favour of the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan.
18. In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, following the outcome of the referendum, it is now for the Borough Council to make the neighbourhood plan so that it formally becomes part of the development plan for Charnwood.
19. Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires local planning authorities to make a neighbourhood plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the referendum is held. A time limit of 8 weeks being introduced by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Final Stages

20. Charnwood Borough Council must publicise its decision to make the Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan for the area and the reasons for this. The Borough Council is also required to send a copy of the decision to the parish council; any persons making written representations on the proposal; the Environment Agency; Natural England; and, Historic England.
21. The Neighbourhood Plan must also be publicised on the website with details provided of where and when it can be inspected. Once made by the Council the plan is part of the development plan for the Borough and must be used to help determine planning applications in Quorn parish.

Appendix: Quorn Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2036



**Quorn
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
2018-2036**

Referendum Version, February 2019



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Foreword

When we started out on the journey to produce this the Quorndon Neighbourhood Development Plan (Quorn Neighbourhood Plan) back in 2016 we could not have dreamt



that we would ever get to be where we are now.

From the start it was intended that this would be a community project facilitated by the Parish Council, but it was never expected that we would be blessed with such splendid support from the whole community.

The open event consultations brought the people out not only to express their views but to volunteer to participate. Both

the young person's and the adult's consultation survey questionnaires produced a good percentage of returns and well thought out and meaningful text comments.

The process was much more than producing a statutory planning document but as mentioned earlier, it really was a journey. A journey of discovery as we found out so much about our parish: its history, environment, people and its life. Issues and concerns surfaced that were not realised before and this really was local democracy in action.

We are of course grateful to the officers at Quorndon Parish, Charnwood Borough and Leicestershire County Councils, our consultants YourLocale, the funders Locality and the Big Lottery Fund as well as the businesses, organisations and the many hundreds of local people that attended the various public meetings, participated in the Theme Groups and the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee. Thank you.

Dennis Marchant

Chairman - The Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

1 About this Neighbourhood Plan

Background

The Localism Act of 2011 introduced the concept of Neighbourhood Plans. These plans give local communities a much greater opportunity to influence future development in their areas. The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) is the Government’s ‘bible’ on planning issues. It states that:

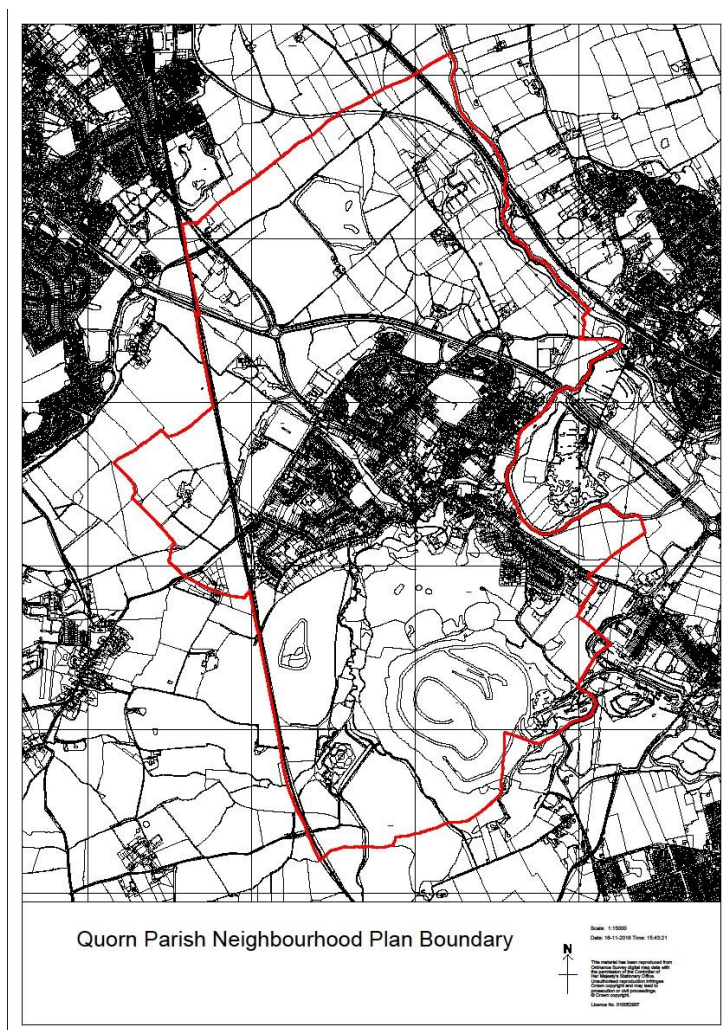
“Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community.”

The 2018 NPPF integrates neighbourhood planning throughout the document. Although not tested against the updated NPPF, this Neighbourhood Plan references the 2018 document where appropriate.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside, and must obviously be aligned with, Charnwood Borough’s emerging Local Plan. We can’t promote less development than in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. Other than that, our Neighbourhood Plan is able to shape and direct sustainable development in the Parish. Once approved, the POLICIES it contains will take precedence over non- strategic policies in the Local Plan. This Neighbourhood Plan also identifies a number of COMMUNITY ACTIONS. These are not planning policies and are not subject to examination.

They reflect future work activities that it is proposed are undertaken within the Parish and involving a range of third parties to help improve the Parish in line with the outcome of community consultation.

On 21 December 2016, Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) approved our application for designation as a Neighbourhood Plan area. The area to be covered by our Plan is defined by the Parish boundary (see Figure 1).



Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version final February 2019
Before being adopted, this Neighbourhood Plan must pass an independent examination to test against 'Basic Conditions': **Figure 1: Parish boundary and Neighbourhood Plan Area.**

- Compliance with national planning policy.
- General conformity with strategic policies in Charnwood's Local Plan.
- Compatibility with EU and human rights requirements.

Once an independent examiner has checked that this Neighbourhood Plan meets these conditions and makes amendments where felt appropriate to meet the basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan will go to a referendum of all parishioners.

The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared against a background of a review of the Charnwood Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will be progressed in advance of the Local Plan being adopted, but the emerging evidence base that is informing the emerging Local Plan has been taken into account in the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee was fully established by the Parish Council in early 2017 and its first meeting was in May 2017. This group comprises both Parish Councillors and other volunteers from the community who have all contributed to the creation of the Plan, either as part of the NPAC or by providing much-appreciated assistance.

The Group has worked hard to drive the process forward, supported by YourLocale consultancy. The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan must conform to guidelines laid down by central Government and involve consultation with not only the local community, but also the Borough Council and local businesses and landowners. There is a prescribed procedure with appropriate checks and consultations, which we have observed.

Initial Public Consultation

The first round of Neighbourhood Plan drop-in consultation sessions was held in Quorn on 19 August 2017. In advance of these events, leaflet notifications were delivered to every home and email, local press and Facebook notifications issued. The session ran from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, staffed by a rota of available Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee members. 157 parishioners gave their time to share their ideas about the future development of the Parish and contributed their thoughts and ideas. In the following five categories, people were asked what they liked, what they disliked and what they would like to see in the future:

- Housing and Development.
- Environment and Green Space.
- Transport.
- Employment.
- Community Facilities.

The data collected indicated a very clear picture of the main issues, priorities and ideas for the future. The priorities have been assessed based on the number of comments in that category.

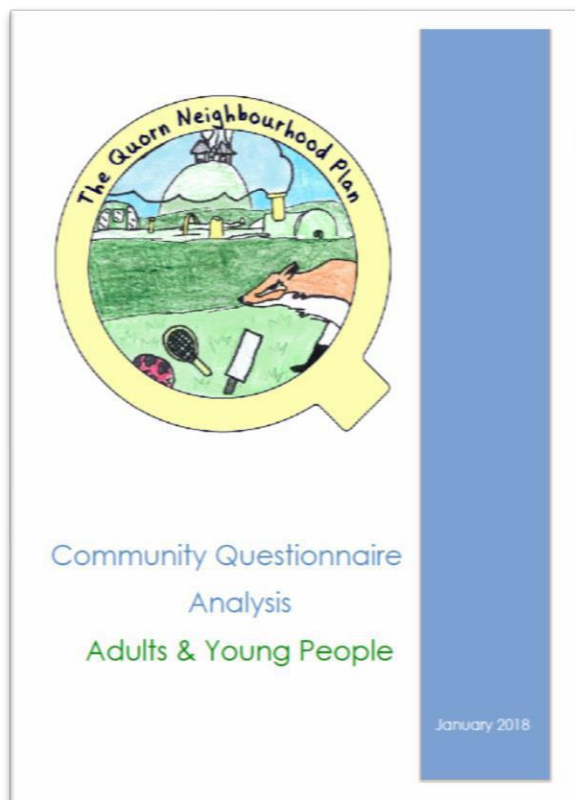


Questionnaire

A Community Questionnaire distributed amongst the community in late 2017 attracted 562 responses through paper copy and on-line. A separate Young Person's Questionnaire was completed by 64 young people.

The comments made through these consultation approaches were fed into the working of four Theme Groups that were established to drill down into the detail of the neighbourhood plan. Groups met from October 2017 through until May 2018 and involved a mixture of Parish Councillors, Advisory Committee Members and other interested parties. The Groups looked into Housing and the Built Environment; the Natural Environment; Traffic and Transport and Community Facilities/Employment.

All of the comments were considered alongside other sources of evidence to produce draft policies that were shared with the community in March 2018.



Second Public Consultation

The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee organised a further drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 24 March 2018.



The aim of the event was to share the emerging policies – particularly in relation to housing allocations and environmental designations – and to seek feedback on these plus further input in the development of the Plan. The drop-in event was promoted in a variety of ways: Leaflets, posters and social media.

140 people attended the event, many of whom were engaging with the neighbourhood plan process for the first time.

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the open event were explained. The first displays introduced Neighbourhood Planning and described the process that is being followed by the Parish Council. Copies

of explanatory booklets and finalised Neighbourhood Plans from other parishes were available for people to read as they walked around the displays.

A series of display boards were located around the room that explained the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee's proposals. These focused on the main topics to be covered by the Plan:

- Housing Development – housing mix, location and design.
- Environment – Local Green Space criteria and protection of other land and environmental features.
- Employment, Transport and Community Facilities.

Respondents recorded their many valuable comments and ideas on a form distributed to attendees for this purpose.

A full report of all engagement activities is included in Appendix B: Consultation Statement.

In general, the responses were very supportive of our draft proposals and this has empowered the Group to progress to the final stage of writing the Submission Plan.

2 A Plan for Our Parish

Introduction

The policies of the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan are set within the context of the plan-making framework for England. The scope and content of the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan has been shaped by the priorities and aspirations of the local community, led by the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee. This Plan covers the period up to 31 December 2036, in line with the Charnwood Local Plan.

A history of Quorn

Quorn or Quorndon (both names are still in use) does not appear in the Domesday Book, but references can be found to the village as early as 1128. There is also evidence of earlier settlement with occasional prehistoric finds, and more significant evidence of Roman settlement to the south-east.

The name Quorndon is thought to originate from 'cweorn', meaning quern or hand mill, and 'dun', meaning hill. Vast deposits of granodiorite (similar to granite) are found in the south of Quorn, which would have been used for millstones, and extensive quarrying has removed the hill that once formed Buddon Wood. The distinctive pink hue of the stone can be seen in buildings and walls all around Quorn, although these days it is used mainly for roads.

In mediaeval times, Quorn largely came under the Manor of Barrow upon Soar, as part of a huge deer hunting park, with the rest being under the Manor of Beaumanor. St Bartholomew's United Church dates from 1138, and due to this historical relationship, was only a chapelry of the Mother Church at Barrow upon Soar until 1868, when it became a separate ecclesiastical parish.

The centre of Quorn is focused on Quorn Cross, where the old A6, a former turnpike road and major coaching route between London and Scotland, crosses with what was the old salt way, which carried salt from East Anglia to the midlands. Excellent transport links have been of great benefit to Quorn, and these were further improved with canalisation of the River Soar, and the opening of the Great Central Railway station.



parkland estate around Quorn

The influential Farnham family were first granted land in Quorn in the 1260s, remaining as local squires for over 700 years, until 1993. The original family lived at the Over Hall (Quorn House), but in the 1400s a younger son built the Nether Hall (Quorn Hall), strengthening their position and influence even further. The large

House has enabled the south of

the parish to remain of high landscape value, despite the encroachment of Swithland Reservoir and the Mountsorrel Quarry.

In 1754 Quorn Hall became home to the famous Quorn Hunt, which had a massive impact on the village, bringing wealth and employment. Many grand hunting boxes were built, and royalty and the aristocracy hunted with The Quorn. Quorn got a reputation for being 'upmarket' and became somewhat of a tourist destination. Although the hunt moved away in 1906, the infrastructure and reputation remained.

Quorn has historically displayed a mix of industrial and rural occupations, which have existed side by side, and utilised the village's location on Buddon Brook and the River Soar. Farming in this rural environment has always been largely pastoral and is still significant today. However Quorn developed an industrial side too, including hosiery, framework knitting, lace-making and quarrying. In 1870 Wright's elastic webbing factory came to Quorn, and eventually employed over 2,000 people. The business has changed over the years but continues to thrive in the centre of Quorn.

Quorn has always been proud of its distinctive and independent identity, even opting to become Quorndon Urban District Council in 1894, when most parishes were joining with others to become larger Rural Districts. This individuality and unique history, has resulted in the characteristic buildings mix of old and new, trade, residential and industrial that we see in the village today.

Quorn today

According to the 2011 Census, the Quorndon Parish had an estimated population of 5,177 residents living in 2,244 households dispersed across 888 hectares. There were 70 vacant dwellings representing a 3% vacancy rate. Since 2001 the number of residents living in the Parish is estimated to have increased by around 4% (217 people). The number of dwellings (occupied and vacant) also increased, rising by 193 (9%).

At the time of the 2011 Census around 17% of residents were aged under 16 which is in line with the district rate but slightly under the regional (18%) and national (19%) rates. Around 63% of residents were aged between 16 and 64 which was lower than the district (67%), regional (64%) and national (65%) rates. There is a higher than average representation of older people (aged 65+) accounting for 20% of total residents which is above the district (16%), regional (17%) and national (16%) rates. The median age of people living in the Parish was 45 which is older than the district (39), region (40) and national (39) rates.

There is further evidence of an ageing population with the proportion of residents aged 65 and over increasing from 17.3% in 2001 to 19.9% in 2011. The Census shows the number of residents aged 65+ rose by 20% (171 people) during this period.

At 72% Quorndon Parish's economic activity rate was higher than the district (68%), regional (69%) and national (70%) rates. When compared to the district, regional and national rates, Quorndon has a higher than average share of self-employed residents and at the time of the 2011 Census, the unemployment rate was relatively low.

Home ownership levels are high with around 81% of households owning their homes outright or with a mortgage or loan. This is somewhat higher than the district (72%), regional (67%) and national (63%) rates. Over a fifth (11%) of households live in private rented accommodation which is lower than the district (14%), region (15%) and national (17%) rates. Around 6% of households live in social rented accommodation which is lower than the district (12%), regional (16%) and national (18%) rates.

Data from the 2011 Census shows that the majority (48%) of residential dwellings are detached which is higher than the district (30%), regional (32%) and national (22%) shares. Semi-detached housing accounts for around 22% of the housing stock against 38% for the district, 35% for the region and 31% nationally. Terraced housing, flats and apartments provide 29% of accommodation spaces which is lower than the district (31%), region (32%) and national (47%) shares.

Around two fifths (39%) of households live in houses with four or more bedrooms which is high when compared with the district (23%), regional (20%) and England (19%) rates. There is an under representation of housing for single people with just 7% of dwellings having one bedroom against 9% for the district, 8% for the region and 12% for England as a whole.

There is evidence of under-occupancy in the parish (having more bedrooms than the notional number recommended by the bedroom standard). Analysis of the 2011 Census shows that around 53% of all occupied households in the Quorndon Parish have two or more spare bedrooms and around 30% have one spare bedroom. Under occupancy is higher than district, regional, national rates and the England Rural area average. Under-occupancy in the parish is particularly evident in larger properties with almost half (49%) of households with 4 or more bedrooms occupied by just one or two people. This is above district (40%), regional (43%) and England (41%) rates.

Domestic properties with Council Tax Band C make up the largest group (approximately 20.8% of the total) in the parish and a similar proportion (20.6%) are in band E. It has a much higher proportion of properties with high value council tax bands with 18% of dwellings having a Council Tax Band F or above against 7% for the district, 5% for the region and 9% for England as a whole.



The data reveals the cost of an entry-level property on average across

England and Wales has increased by almost 20% in the last decade, to £140,000 (year ending June 2016). For new properties, the price was nearly £180,000. The data also shows that home-ownership prospects vary across the country.

In the Quorndon Parish area a low to mid-priced property costs on average £162,500 which is higher than the national average. Assuming a 15% deposit, those entering the property

Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version final February 2019
market in the area would require a household income of £39,133 (£26,444 E&W average) and savings of £27,125 which is a challenge for many households.

With the average cost of an entry-level home in the area being £162,500 prospective buyers would require an estimated £2,000 for legal and moving costs, £750 for stamp duty and £24,375 for a 15% deposit, coming to £27,125 in total.

A Vision for 2036

A Vision Statement was developed for Quorn by a community working group which considered the parish councils application letter, an advisory committee visioning exercise and the comments from community open events and Village Library display. There was overwhelming support for the statement with comments emphasising the desire for Quorn to remain a village with improved infrastructure and affordable housing to meet the needs of a growing and ageing population.

Our vision for Quorn is that it continues to be an attractive, thriving and sustainable place for people to live and work, while keeping its character as a beautiful rural village of historic significance, with a strong sense of community spirit and cohesion, making the most of its special qualities to attract visitors from further afield.



It will have a balanced and diverse community, to provide wellbeing through a healthy, creative, equitable and sustainable life for all, regardless of age, lifestyle or status. Attractive streets, green spaces and thriving natural environment will provide safe and enjoyable movement on foot and bicycle. It will be socially inclusive with shops, pubs and restaurants as well as the facility for lifelong learning, sports and recreation.

Growth will be managed, sustainable and in keeping with the village character, retaining its independent rural identity, distinct from adjoining urban areas. New development will be located on sites which minimise negative impacts on traffic, parking or community resources, and enable new arrivals to contribute positively to the social and commercial life of the village. It will also provide opportunities for existing residents to find accommodation suitable to their circumstances with easy access to community resources including health care, schools and youth organisations.

To help achieve the vision, the following objectives have been established:

Housing

- Future growth will be managed and sustainable in keeping with Quorn's village character; and

- Any new housing developments will be located on sites that minimise negative impact on existing traffic, parking, community resources and amenities, and meet a locally demonstrated housing need including homes for older people and for young couples.

The Natural and Built Environment

- To maintain Quorn as an independent and distinctly separate settlement and to protect and, where possible, enhance the open spaces within and surrounding the village, and:
- To protect the most valued and special local green spaces;
- To preserve the character of Quorn by retaining important views and areas of separation; and
- To improve access to countryside and thus promote recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy.

Community facilities and amenities

- Valued existing facilities will be protected and where possible enhanced;
- New facilities will be welcomed where they are needed by the community; and
- Efforts will be made to ensure that the Schools and Medical Centre are enabled to grow in line with increased demand without negative impacts on the community.

Employment

- To support employment in Quorn where there is no detrimental impact on local amenities.

Transport

- To manage growth in a way that minimises the impact on the existing transport system and addresses the acute car parking problem in Quorn centre.

Planning Context

The procedure for the making of a Neighbourhood Plan is prescribed within the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Regulations have informed the preparation of policies for the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan, in particular ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- Is in general conformity with the strategic policies of Charnwood Borough Council and has regard for the policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as well as meeting a range of EU obligations.

Sustainable Development

A definition of sustainable development is provided within the NPPF. It describes three dimensions to sustainable development and that these dimensions give rise to the need for planning to perform a number of roles:

An economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure. Whilst the community is primarily residential, there is a desire to safeguard its employment locations, including the farming community. We therefore wish to retain the current level of employment and develop it further where possible.



A social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by promoting the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations and by creating a high-quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

Through the Neighbourhood Plan, we are seeking to ensure that any new housing delivers a mix of housing types so that we can meet the needs of present and future generations and ensure that we support the community's health as well as its social and cultural wellbeing. We are particularly looking to provide bungalows for older people as well as some smaller and more affordable homes. We are also seeking to support and enhance existing community facilities and to improve services for younger people.

An environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including supporting the move to a low carbon economy. In order to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, we are seeking to ensure that:

- The special open spaces within our village are protected from development, to protect the village identity and retain the rural nature of its surroundings;
- Development preserves and contributes to the attractive local countryside and maintains the areas of separation from adjoining communities; and
- Development recognises the need to protect and, where possible, improve biodiversity and important habitats and includes adding hedging to boundaries of new developments.

The 2018 NPPF retains the definitions of sustainable development, replacing 'roles' with 'objectives' This document sets out local considerations for delivering sustainable

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development across Quorn. Development proposals should meet the requirements of all relevant policies in the Development Plan for Charnwood.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not replace the policies contained in the Charnwood Borough Council Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan or the requirements of the NPPF. It works in synergy with these planning requirements to give additional, more detailed, Parish- wide specific policies that clarify and achieve the Community's vision. Where suitable Districtwide policies already exist in the Charnwood Borough Council Core Strategy, emerging Local Plan or NPPF they are not duplicated in this Neighbourhood Plan.

3 General Policies

3.1 Overview

The principal aim of the UK Planning System established by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF - 2012) is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This is described by the NPPF as “change for the better, and not only in our built environment”. The 2018 NPPF summarises this as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The Neighbourhood Plan meets the policy intent of the NPPF as it is based upon a clear presumption in favour of sustainable development. The ethos and direction of the NPPF (2018) is also enshrined in the Neighbourhood Plan overarching framework.

The overall vision and objectives have been set out earlier in this Neighbourhood Plan. There are a number of general policies that cut across a number of themes identified within the Neighbourhood Plan. These include updating the settlement boundary for Quorn within which development will be supported, subject to provisions within the development plan (of which the Neighbourhood Plan will be a part) and building design.

3.2 Settlement boundary

In historical terms rural communities like Quorn have often been protected by the designation of a settlement boundary (also known as a village envelope or limits to development) adopted in a statutory Local Plan. With a settlement boundary in place development was directed to sites on the inside of the boundary, or outside of the envelope in certain circumstances (for example to provide affordable housing). The purpose of the new Neighbourhood Plan settlement boundary policy is to ensure that sufficient new land resources are available in appropriate locations to meet residential and commercial need to 2036.

A settlement boundary has been established for Quorn by Charnwood Borough Council in order to clarify where all new development activity is best located. The settlement boundary is used to define the extent of a built-up area of a settlement and distinguish between locations where development is acceptable in principle, such as in the main settlement, and where it would not be acceptable, generally in the least sustainable locations such as in the open countryside. Such unfettered and/or unsustainable growth in open countryside would risk ribbon or piecemeal development and the merging of distinct settlements to the detriment of the community and visual amenity of the built-up area.

The Neighbourhood Plan has therefore designated a Settlement Boundary for the built form of Quorn – as shown below in figure 2. This new Settlement Boundary updates and supersedes the existing settlement boundary used by Charnwood Borough Council as it

takes into account recent planning approvals and the site allocation proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Within the defined settlement boundary an appropriate amount of development is acceptable in principle, although some sites within the settlement boundary are protected from development and all development will be required to take into account the policies within the Development Plan for Charnwood, including the Neighbourhood Plan. The overall approach is to focus development within the agreed settlement boundary to support existing services within the village and protect the open countryside setting of Quorn from inappropriate development.

In statutory planning terms, land outside a defined settlement boundary, including any individual or small groups of buildings and/or small settlements, is treated as open countryside.

It is both national and local planning policy that development in the countryside will be carefully controlled. It will only be allowed where it is appropriate to a rural location, such as for the purposes of agriculture, including (in principle) farm diversification, or if needed for formal sport, community and recreation uses or for affordable housing provision.

The Neighbourhood Plan strongly supports this approach to future growth because it has strong public backing and also because it will ensure that any development is focused in or adjacent to the built-up form of Quorn which has a wide range of services and facilities. The following strategic policy will also help to maintain the special and unique character and setting of Quorn and its identity as a successful stand-alone settlement.

The community through a series of questionnaires and other consultation events have expressed a clear desire to protect what is special about Quorn as a place for future generations. Its countryside setting and separation from the nearby town of Loughborough and village of Mountsorrel are seen as being of particular importance.

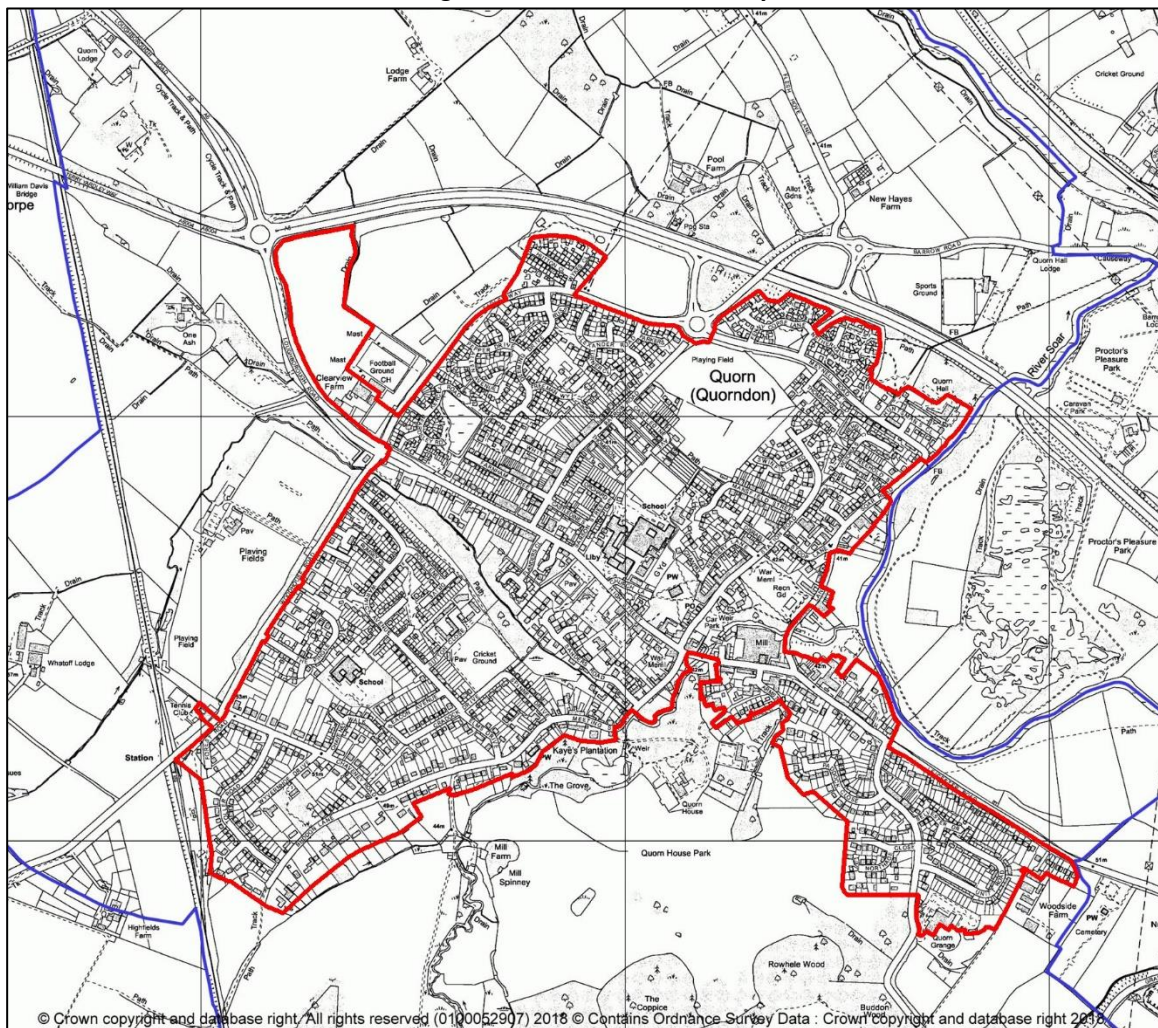
A specific methodology has been agreed through the extensive community consultation undertaken which is consistent with the approach adopted by Charnwood Borough Council.

Settlement Boundary Methodology:

In designating the settlement boundary, the following methodology has been applied:

1. The residential site allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan has been included within the settlement boundary;
2. Defined physical features such as walls, fences, hedgerows, woodland, gardens, streams, brooks, formal leisure uses and roads have been used as the defined boundaries. Isolated development which is physically or visually detached from the settlement has been excluded;
3. Non - residential land which is countryside, agricultural land, paddock, meadow, woodland and/or other green-field land has been specifically excluded.

Figure 2 – Settlement boundary



POLICY S1: SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY - Development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area will be supported on sites wholly within the settlement boundary as shown in Figure 2 (above) where the proposal fully complies with all of the policies in this Neighbourhood Plan.

Land outside the settlement boundary is treated as open countryside, where development will be carefully controlled in line with the provisions of this Neighbourhood Plan, local and National strategic planning policies.

Appropriate development in the countryside includes uses contained in para 55 of the 2012 NPPF (para 79 of the NPPF 2018) and Core strategy Policy CS11 and;

- Farm diversification for the viability of agriculture – (in principle).
- The provision of affordable housing, where the local need has been proven.

The provision of a formal recreation, community or sport use.

3.3 Design Guidelines relating to the Natural & Built Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of Quorn's Natural & Built Environment and ensure that all future developments are sympathetic and designed to a high standard which embraces the design guidelines of the Quorn Village Design Statement (VDS).

Policy S2 incorporates the requirements of the long-standing Village Design Statement into the key principles set out in paragraphs 56 to 68 of the NPPF. The Guidelines in Section 5 are particularly important in the context of planning policy. They continue to be applicable to good design in the neighbourhood area. It is telling that one of the 12 core planning principles in the NPPF (paragraph 17) is '(always seek) to secure high-quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings.

Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan fully endorses the Design Guidance provisions of the Quorn Village Design Statement which was prepared by and on behalf of local residents, fully consulted within the community and subsequently adopted by Charnwood Borough Council as a Supplementary Planning Document in October 2008.

Since then all proposed building works in the village from major new developments to minor alterations and extensions have been required to reference the provisions of the VDS as a material consideration in the determination of Planning Applications. However, this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has only advisory status and whilst planners may accord SPD provisions significant weight in determining consents, they cannot be regarded as prescriptive. As a constituent element of an approved Neighbourhood Plan, the design guidance provisions of the VDS will be accorded enhanced status as a part of a Development Plan document.

With this in mind, the Housing & Built Environment Task Group, a working group of the Parish Council Advisory Committee have reviewed the 2008 VDS and notwithstanding the passage of time consider that the design guidelines to each of 'The Village Context, Landscape Geology & Biodiversity, Settlement Pattern, Buildings & Spaces in the Village and Highways & Traffic' sections reflect current design issues and remain entirely relevant. As a design appendix it supports and illuminates policy directions within the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Buildings & Spaces section reviews 'architectural character in general'. This embraces analysis of the local vernacular, with examples of distinctive features including materials, chimneys, roofs and gables and windows and doors. In addition, together with the Settlement Pattern section the Building & Spaces section covers 'Setting and character of distinct areas of building types within the village. Scale, height & density of buildings. Design, mixture of sizes, styles and types of buildings.

The VDS references the Quorn Conservation Area Character Appraisal prepared by Charnwood Borough Council in February 2008 which also sets out design principles for contextually appropriate development within the Conservation Area. The 'Character Appraisal' relates to the historic core of the village but provides additional historical

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information relevant to the wider settlement together with a schedule of Listed Buildings
(nationally & locally listed) and notes regarding their importance.

**POLICY S2: DESIGN GUIDANCE - New development should reflect the guidance in the current
Quorn Village Design Statement (Appendix E).**

**New development will be supported where it respects the character or appearance of the
neighbourhood area and, where appropriate, incorporates vernacular building materials.**

4. HOUSING

4.1 Overview

Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) is currently undertaking consultation on its new Local Plan to 2036. An element of the plan development has been the completion of a settlement hierarchy review. The review has confirmed Quorn as a Service Centre along with six other Settlements that have “all the essential and desirable services and facilities as well as access to employment opportunities, higher order services and a secondary school either within the settlement or in Loughborough or Leicester”.

Through the Adopted Local Plan, Quorn, along with other Service Centres, has no specific housing allocation. However, the 2018 CBC discussion paper ‘Towards a Local Plan for Charnwood’ identifies the need for between 8,100 and 15,700 additional homes in the Borough by 2036. Dwellings which achieve planning approval from April 2017 onwards will count towards this target.

The NPPF 2018 (para 66) addresses this issue as follows ‘Where it is not possible to provide a requirement figure for a neighbourhood area, the local planning authority should provide an indicative figure, if requested to do so by the neighbourhood planning body. This figure should take into account factors such as the latest evidence of local housing need, the population of the neighbourhood area and the most recently available planning strategy of the local planning authority’.

Draft Planning Practice Guidance supports this approach and says as follows ‘Where a local authority’s strategic policies do not include a housing requirement for a particular neighbourhood area, neighbourhood planning groups may request an indicative figure from the local authority if they wish to plan for housing. If, in exceptional circumstances, a local planning authority has been unable to provide an indicative housing requirement figure within a reasonable timeframe, then the neighbourhood planning group may need to determine a housing requirement figure for the designated neighbourhood area’. The draft PPG also states that this figure ‘... should be derived from the authority’s housing need figure and take into consideration relevant policies and evidence such as the spatial strategy (or the emerging strategy if indicative figures are being set), the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, the population of the neighbourhood area and the role of the neighbourhood area in providing services’.

Locally, it is people’s aspiration to live in a home that meets their needs and those of their families and that are of good design, in the right location, affordable and with access to local services such as shops, schools and medical facilities.

An approach to establishing a housing target for Quorn was agreed with CBC in the process of preparing this Neighbourhood Plan.

This approach is based on providing new housing in Quorn to meet (and exceed) the minimum housing requirement for Charnwood as expressed in the emerging Local Plan. An allowance has been made for windfall development over the lifetime of the Plan (5 per annum) and account has also been made of those planning applications that have received approvals prior to the finalisation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The net figure taking these considerations into

Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version final February 2019 account is 21 new dwellings up to 2036 (see supporting information ‘Calculating a housing target for Quorn’).

The site allocation identified in the next section will deliver a minimum of 75 dwellings. Significantly in excess of the CBC minimum requirement. A reserve site is also identified, to be allocated only if the final housing requirement for Quorn as determined in the emerging Local Plan once adopted exceeds the minimum requirement identified in the CBC discussion document and builds in flexibilities in the event that numbers change.

This will ensure that there is flexibility built-in to enable the Neighbourhood Plan to respond to future circumstances as yet unknown.

4.2 Residential site allocation

The respondents to the Quorn community questionnaire showed some concern that Quorn would be “swallowed up” by Loughborough and lose its individual character and appeal, becoming a suburb of the nearby university town. Substantial numbers of residential units have already been built and there are further planning approvals for development on the border of the Quorn parish within Loughborough.

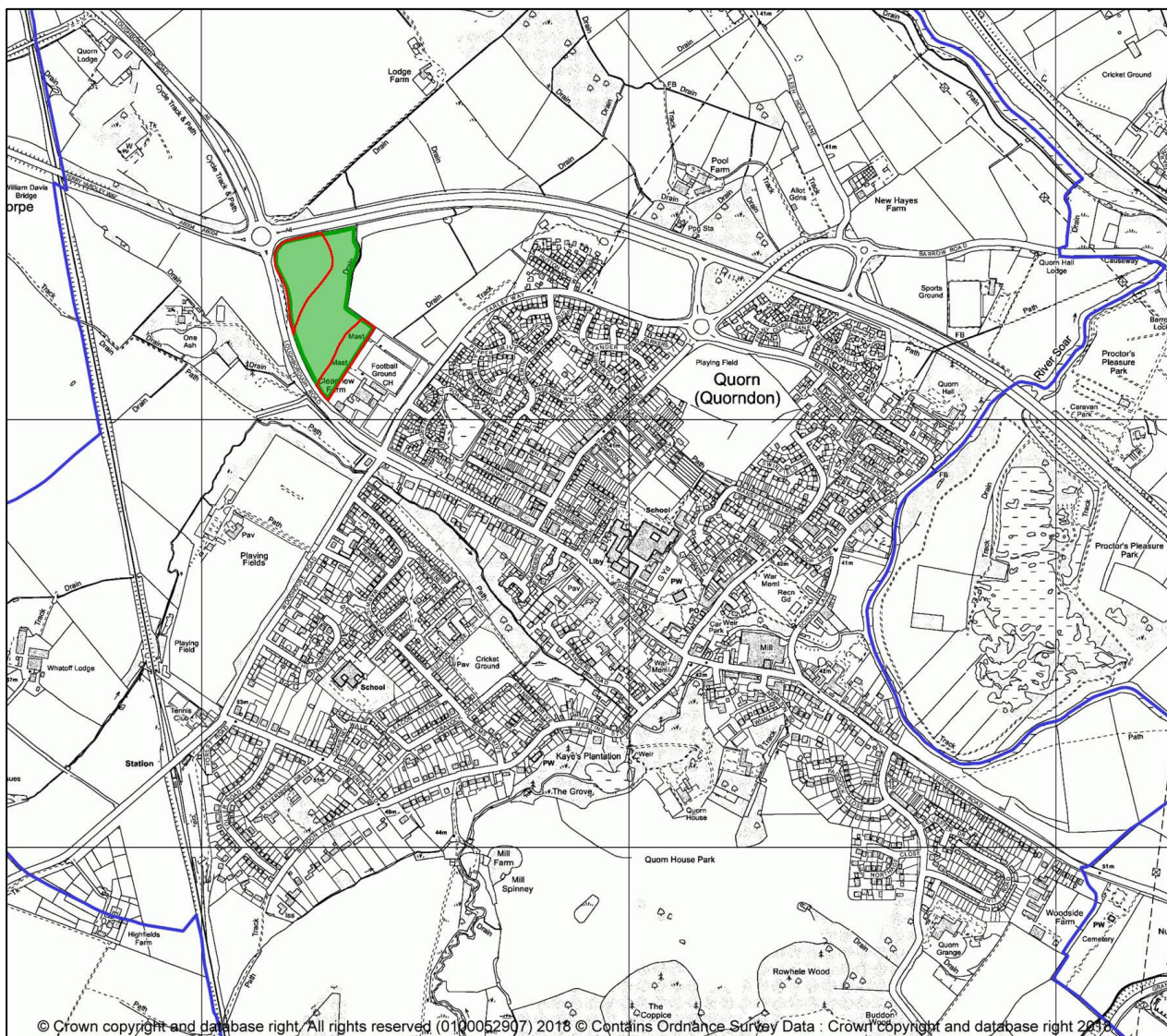
As set out in section 4.1 above, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to meet or exceed the minimum housing provision target required by CBC through a sustainable site assessment (SSA) process.

The outcome of the process is described in Appendix F (a) whilst the process of reaching an agreed housing target for Quorn is described in Appendix F (b). In total, 10 potential sites were assessed following a ‘call for sites’ to all landowners in the Parish. The following site is allocated through the Neighbourhood Plan, with the conditions agreed with the developer.

POLICY H1: RESIDENTIAL SITE ALLOCATION - Land is allocated for approximately 75 dwellings on land to the north-east of Loughborough Road, Quorn as shown on Figure 3a subject to the following criteria:

- a) The development provides for a range and mix of new dwellings. Priority should be given to dwellings of 3 bedrooms or fewer in line with policy H3;
- b) The development takes appropriate account of surface water drainage and the existing drainage channels within the site and provides appropriate remediation measures where necessary.
- c) The development provides a satisfactory access to the highways network
- d) its design includes, as appropriate, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) with ongoing maintenance provision, other surface water management measures and permeable surfaces;
- e) The badgers’ set is retained and harm mitigated;
- f) A play area to development plan standards is provided, located away from the main access point;
- g) Off-road car parking is to be provided in accordance with development plan standards.

Figure 3 – allocated site



4.4 Housing Mix

As described in Section 2, Quorn’s population is ageing and there is evidence of under-occupancy in the Parish. Home ownership levels are high, and the majority of residential dwellings are detached, whilst the presence of four plus bedroomed properties exceed the Borough average.

The balance of the housing stock in Quorn, coupled with the level of under occupancy suggests a need for smaller homes of up to three bedrooms suitable for residents wishing to downsize, as well as providing homes for small families and those entering the housing market. Providing suitable accommodation for older residents will enable them to remain in the local community and release under-occupied larger properties onto the market suitable for growing families.

POLICY H3: HOUSING MIX – Any new housing development proposals should provide a mixture of housing types specifically to meet identified local needs in Quorn. Support will be given to dwellings of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms and to homes suitable for older people and those with restricted mobility. 4-plus bedroom units may be included in the mix of dwellings and where they are included within the overall composition of the site, they should be in a clear minority to the number of 1,2 and 3 bedroom houses

4.5 Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is defined in the NPPF (Annex 2) as “social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market”. The 2018 NPPF references ‘housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers)’ and identifies four elements – affordable housing for rent starter homes; discounted market sales housing and other affordable routes to home ownership. The PPG (2a-022) describes affordable housing need as being an estimate of “the number of households and projected households who lack their own housing or live in unsuitable housing and who cannot afford to meet their housing needs in the market.”

With average house prices too high for those on average incomes, housing affordability remains a key housing issue for the Parish and there is a clear case to meet local targets for affordable housing provision. The Charnwood Local Plan contains a requirement to provide 40% affordable units on-site for all developments with 10 or more dwellings.

The mix of affordable housing proposed within the Neighbourhood Plan is based predominantly on the available statistical data, the Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Housing Needs Assessment (HEDNA), the Census 2011 data, a YourLocale produced Housing Needs report and Land Registry data (see appendix C). In addition the views and aspirations of residents obtained through various consultation exercises including open events and a community questionnaire have refined the policy proposals.

The Plan supports the provision of more affordable housing within Quorn. It is also felt that development should make provision for the increasing numbers and demand of older members of the population.

A strong theme from the statistical data and the local consultation activity has been to address the difficulty of young people, or poorer older people to be able to afford to live in the Parish. The entry point for market housing is simply too high at over £260,000 for a three bedroomed property (prices at April 2018).

It has been agreed to incorporate a local connection policy within the Neighbourhood Plan to help prioritise local people in the allocation of affordable housing. Similarly, consultation has highlighted the importance of any affordable housing being indistinguishable from homes for sale in any development. It is recognised that dispersing affordable units as individual dwellings throughout the development presents viability and management issues for registered providers and the policy therefore calls for clusters of affordable units to be dispersed. Clusters of up to six dwellings would help to ensure that the affordable housing is not specifically concentrated in any single area. This is captured in Policy H4. It reflects the size of new housing developments which are likely to come forward in the neighbourhood area in the Plan period. A degree of flexibility on the number of houses in any cluster may be appropriate where it might otherwise affect the overall viability of the site concerned and/or the ability and willingness of a social housing provider to manage properties effectively.

Discussions have been held with Charnwood Borough Council to ensure the affordable housing to be provided will play an important part in meeting the statutory housing needs requirements of the Borough.

POLICY H4: AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION - Development proposals for new housing where there is a net gain of ten or more dwellings should provide at least 40% affordable housing or other figure within the Local Plan when Adopted.

The affordable housing stock should be made available as an integral part of the development, should be visually indistinguishable from the equivalent market housing on the site and should be provided as clusters of up to 6 dwellings dispersed throughout the development, subject to a registered provider being prepared to take the dwellings on if applicable.

If it is not possible to provide affordable housing on site, in exceptional circumstances it will be acceptable to provide funding in lieu of affordable housing on-site if this leads to the provision of additional affordable housing in the Parish.

The tenure mix should meet an identified local need as follows:

- **One third of units will be for social or affordable rent.**
- **One third of units will be for shared ownership provision.**
- **One third of units will be for low cost starter homes for sale.**

The provision of affordable homes for people with a local connection to Quorn will be supported. If there are no households with a Quorn connection, then the properties will be made available to other applicants on the Council's waiting list.

4.6 Windfall sites

A windfall site is defined in the NPPF (2012 and 2018) as one which has not been specifically identified as available through the local or neighbourhood plan process. The sites often comprise previously developed land that has unexpectedly become available. To help protect the nature of the Village character, development beyond the housing allocation described in H1 above will be restricted to windfall sites within the Settlement Boundary.

To meet the need for smaller dwellings, single unit developments will be of a suitable scale to the site but developments of two units will include at least one dwelling that is no more than three bedrooms in size.

The aim of this Plan is to create a vibrant approach to the Parish's development so supporting delivery on windfall sites is seen as a positive factor in supporting future managed growth.

POLICY H5: WINDFALL DEVELOPMENT - Small residential development proposals within the Settlement Boundary will be supported where they are well-designed, and comply with the relevant requirements set out in other policies in the Development Plan and where such development:

- a) Comprises a restricted gap in the continuity of existing frontage buildings or on other sites within the built-up area of Quorn or where the site is closely surrounded by existing buildings;
- b) Retains existing important natural boundaries such as trees, hedges and streams;
- c) Does not reduce garden space to an extent where it adversely impacts on the character of the area, or the amenity of neighbours and the occupiers of the dwelling;
- d) It provides for a safe vehicular and pedestrian access to the site; and
- e) Does not result in an unacceptable loss of amenity for neighbouring occupiers by reason of loss of privacy, loss of daylight, visual intrusion or noise.

5 Environment

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1 Environmentally significant characteristics of the Plan Area

This section of the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to safeguard the environmental sites and features of Quorn that are both *significant* (for their biodiversity, history, etc.) and *valued* by local people. It also deals with broader environmental matters impacting on the parish and its residents, including rights of way, flood risk, energy generation and environmentally responsible development.

Quorn has a combination of features which uniquely characterise its natural, historical and social environment:

- Straddling the landscape transition between the rocky, upland of Charnwood Forest and the broad floodplain of the River Soar
- Significant historic landscapes and features surviving among industrial, quarrying and residential sites
- Important range of natural environment sites and areas, most being a secondary result of the parish's centuries of human activity

The Plan aims to protect as much of the parish's characteristic environment as is compatible with sustainable development, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). Environmental protection should cover enough of the Plan Area to protect a viable network of natural habitats and a coherent representation of parish history, both for their inherent value and for the enjoyment of local people.

5.1.2 Landscape and geology

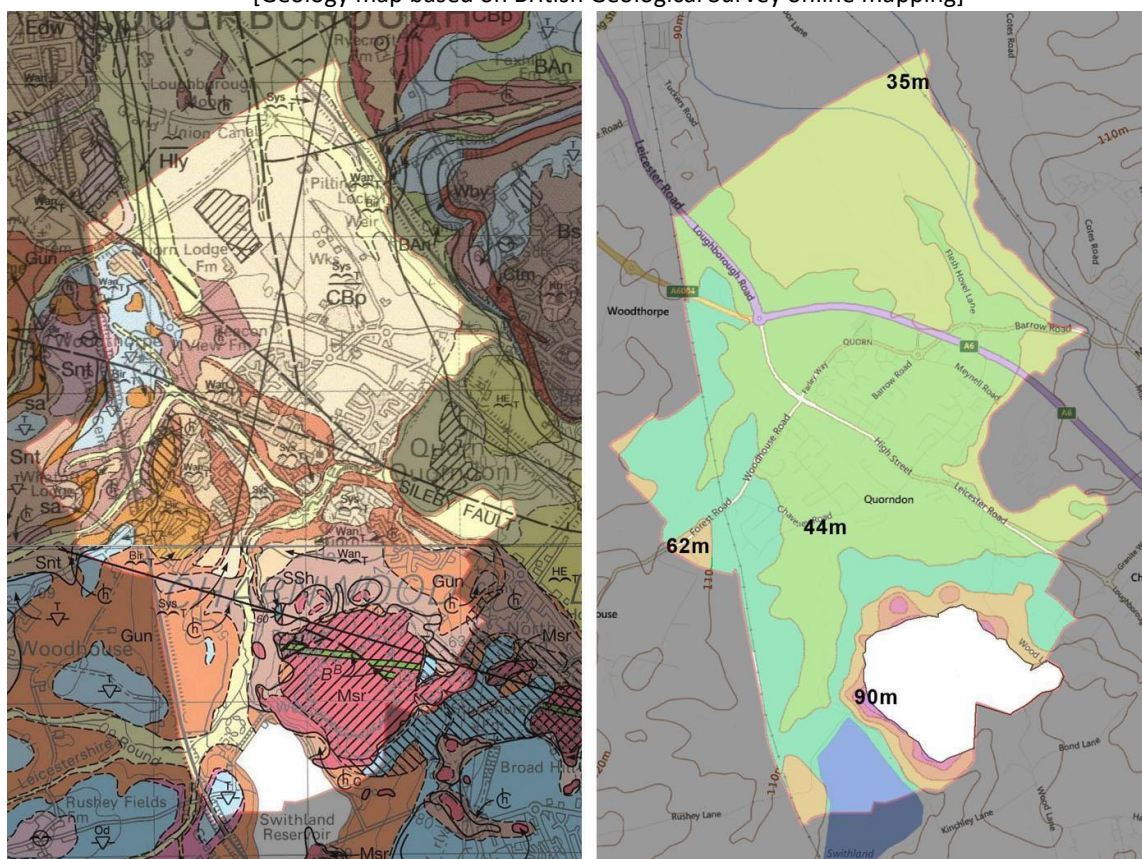
Quorn is characterised by two distinct landscapes. West, the land rises toward the mini-upland of Charnwood Forest, with its ancient rock outcrops and stone-walled fields, while south is dominated by the granodiorite massif of Buddon Hill and its roadstone quarry; in contrast, north is the floodplain of the broad, flat, Soar valley, an area of wet grazing meadows (originally marshland) from much of which sand and gravel was extracted in the 20th century. The historic village was located where the two landscapes met (and close to the river), to take advantage of the benefits offered to medieval people by both; the modern settlement has spread into both areas and is, to some extent, constricted by the geographical realities of both.

The far west of the parish rises to 62m; the summit of Buddon Hill (currently avoided by quarrying) is at 90m. The centre of the village lies at about 45m while the lowest part of the floodplain, where the river Soar leaves the parish, is at 35m.

The different landscapes and topographies are the result of a southwest/northeast split in the geology of the Plan Area. Hard, resistant Precambrian and Devonian rocks outcrop in the southwest, but directly beneath Quorn village a geological fault of major local significance means the hard rocks have dropped (relative to Charnwood Forest) as much as 1km downwards on the northeast side, where younger, softer rocks have accumulated over the millions of years since the fault was active. The effect is clearly seen in the geological map (Figure 4 below). The Soar valley occupies the easily-eroded ground directly northeast of the fault-line.

The natural and human landscapes of the two halves of the Plan Area – vegetation, wildlife, agriculture, building styles, industry, and more – are different because of the different rocks beneath them, and these two characteristic landscapes are the basis for the policies and site protections in this section of the Plan.

Figure 4: (left) geology and (right) topography of the Plan Area
 [Geology map based on British Geological Survey online mapping]



5.1.3 Historical environment

Although humans have lived in the area now occupied by Quorn since prehistoric times – as evidenced by occasional finds of Paleolithic to Neolithic stone artefacts and by the Bronze Age – Iron Age settlement on the site of Mountsorrel Quarry (Buddon Wood), the earliest ‘town’ was of Romano-British age. It occupied an elongated site at the east end of modern Quorn, close to the place where the prehistoric ‘salt way’ crossed the River Soar.

The present settlement does not appear in Domesday Book (1086), and the place-name is apparently based on the Old English (Anglo-Saxon) name for the prominent hill (Buddon Wood/Mountsorrel Quarry); perhaps there was a ‘dark ages’ settlement on the hill, a continuation of the Iron Age site mentioned above. Clearly the hill was an important source of stone for quern-making at this time – it is possible that the original quern-making settlement was called Buddon (Old English personal name + ‘dun’ = hill). Medieval Quorndon, on the ‘modern’ site, presumably adopted the Quorndon name – perhaps because of its quern-making fame - when a number of scattered small settlements and farms coalesced into one ‘nucleated’ township in the early medieval period. After the Norman Conquest, the area formed part of the extensive Manor of Barrow a large parish.

The first settlement in Quorn dates from early 12th century and St Bartholomew’s United Church also dates from this period. The early development and prosperity of the medieval village relied mainly on farming, based on its open fields, meadows and common land with its own system of open fields.

The village's economic mix of farming worked on the open field system carried on until Enclosure in 1762, this had a profound effect on the local landscape, small hedged fields replaced the open fields, and on the local economy as the landowners were able to convert former arable land into more profitable pasture land for the rearing of livestock. At this time the Leicester Road and High Street had become part of the turnpike ultimately connecting London with the North West and Quorn was able to develop as a staging point, providing coaching inns, stables and other businesses to serve the travelers.

The parish remained largely pastoral with industry and manufacture (quarrying, lace-making, framework knitting), combined with the proximity of the navigable river Soar, explains the characteristic buildings mix of old and new, trade, residential and industrial in the village.

In the late 19th century Quorn developed as a dormitory for the more affluent whose work was in neighbouring towns. The building of Victorian and Edwardian villas along Loughborough Road marked the start of change and the transfer to commuter settlement was given further impetus by the arrival of the Great Central Railway in 1898, providing improved access to all parts of the country and large houses were built on plots convenient for the station. Quorn became an attractive residential village and new housing sites have continued to be built. Recent trends have seen property extensions and garden sell offs.

The present Conservation Area reflects the basic historic street pattern that had been established because of the local topography and the historic development.

5.1.4 Natural environment

The diversity of landscapes and historical land uses in Quorn gives its open countryside, and some parts of the built-up area, a good range of habitats and associated biodiversity. These habitats include floodplain grazing meadows, riparian and streamside habitats, low-improvement grassland, woodpasture/parkland, woodland, old hedgerows, quarries and open water. The quarries are also of high geological interest. A number of bird species have been recorded in the parish, as well as mammals (bats, otters and water voles), reptiles, amphibians, fungi, and a wide range of flowering and non-flowering plants.

5.1.5 Existing environmental designations

The parish is located in parts of two **National Character Areas** (NCAs, defined by Natural England for planning purposes): NCA 69 *Trent Valley Washlands* and NCA 73 *Charnwood*. There are 33 **Listed Buildings** and one **Scheduled Monument**, one parcel of Registered Common Land, several further sites of historical significance with surviving above-ground features (Historic England *Heritage Gateway* mapping and Leicestershire & Rutland *Historic Environment Records*), 2 **SSSIs** (in 6 sections), one **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation** (SINC), some 35 areas of **Priority Habitat** (as defined and mapped by Natural England), and several potential or designated **Local Wildlife Sites** (LWS, identified in a *Phase 1 Habitat Survey* carried out for CBC in 2012).

5.2. Evidence base

5.2.1 Environmental inventory

An environmental inventory (Appendix G) of Quorn parish was carried out between November 2017 and February 2018. The work comprised two elements:

- Review of all existing designations and available information, and
- Fieldwork to identify sites and features of natural and historical environment significance in the context of the Plan Area.

The review compiled information from many sources, including:

- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Records
- Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Record Centre records (biodiversity and geology)
- Environment Agency
- British Geological Survey
- Old maps (Ordnance Survey, manuscript)
- British History Online
- Local history and archaeology publications
- Local knowledge

The fieldwork reviewed open and currently undeveloped land in the Plan Area, and significant species, habitats, landscape characteristics, earthworks and other extant features were checked. This data, along with all relevant site-specific information from the existing information review, were mapped and tabulated, and each site was scored and evaluated using the nine criteria for Local Green Space selection in the *National Planning Policy Framework 2012*:

Fig. 5. Environmental inventory scoring system used in the Plan

Criterion (NPPF 2012/18)	Score range			Notes
	0	1-3	4	
ACCESSIBILITY	0	1-3	4	e.g. private, no access (0) – visible from public place – accessed via PRow – fully open to the public (4)
PROXIMITY / LOCAL	0	1-3	4	Distant (0) --- fairly near to --- adjoins (3) or is within (4) settlement
BOUNDED	0	1-3	4	Individual parcel of land (not an undefined or large area)
SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY	0	1-3	4	Opinion of local people e.g. via questionnaire or at consultation events
RECREATIONAL / EDUCATIONAL USE	0	1-3	4	Actual or potential, informal sports, dog-walking, Forest School use, informal or official open space, etc.
BEAUTY (including views)	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification); use consultation map results
TRANQUILITY	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	1-3	4	Extant, visible evidence. Number of periods/features/records etc. / Relevant existing designations (Historic Environment Records)
WILDLIFE SIGNIFICANCE, GEOLOGY	0	1-3	4	Richness of species and habitats (Priority (BAP) spp. / Priority habitats) / relevant existing designations (Habitat Survey, Local Wildlife Sites / site of geological/industrial history significance)
[Maximum possible score]			32	

5.2.2 Environmental protection in the sustainable development of Quorn

In the National Planning Policy Framework, the *natural and historical environment* is acknowledged to be an essential component of *sustainable development*; as such it should be given equal weight in a balance against social and economic growth, including new development, when Planning matters are being determined.

This section identifies land and features of environmental significance in Quorn. It includes policies to protect the best from loss or damage by allocating them to categories based on their type, importance, function (as community assets, for example) and intrinsic value.

The levels of protection afforded by the Policies in this chapter are summarised in the supporting information.

Care was taken during preparation of the Plan to ensure that the policies (and the sites and areas of environmental significance covered by them) were not unduly restrictive on development during the Plan's lifetime. Thanks in part to the substantial area of existing statutory and nationally-recognised environmental protections, only 5.7% (approximately) by area of the currently open land in the parish has been newly earmarked for environmental protection. Local designations are an important component of the powers delegated to communities through Neighbourhood Planning, and local sites and features should not be deemed less eligible for protection because of the amount of higher-level protection in the Plan Area.

Total area of Plan Area = 830 ha

Statutory or nationally recognised designations for environmental protection: 162 ha (**19.5%**)

Additional environmental protection proposed in this Plan: 48 ha (**5.7%**)

Total area of environmental protection in Plan Area = 210 ha (**25.3%**)

Village and other developed areas (not SSSI) + 100m allowance for future expansion = c.220 ha

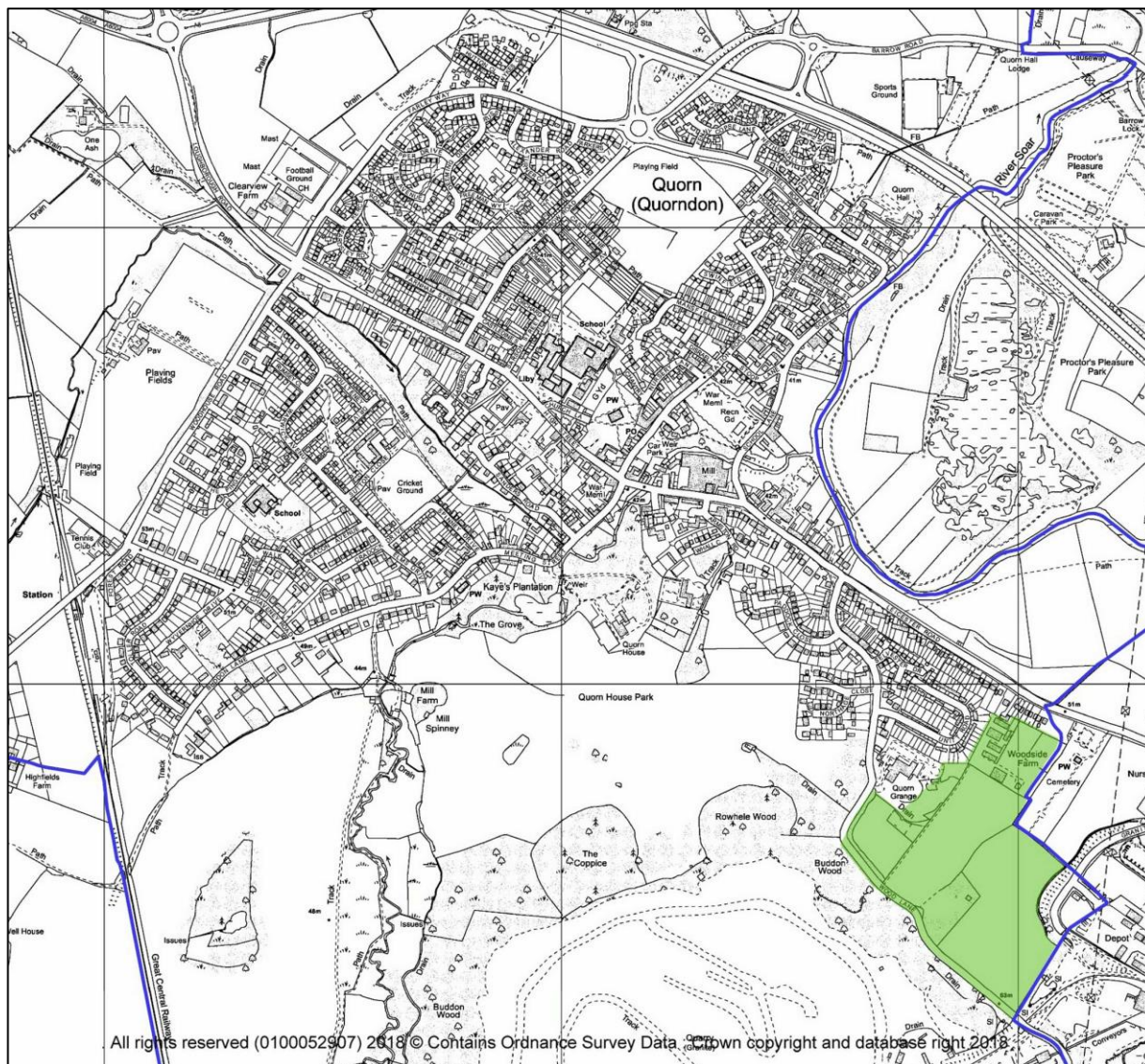
Area proposed for environmental protection within this = 11 ha (**5%**)

5.3. Site-specific policies

5.3.1 Area of Separation

Quorn and Mountsorrel are separated by a gap of only two fields (c.200m) in the area of ribbon development along Leicester Road southeast and northwest from the two villages. A very strong wish to retain the separate geographical identity of Quorn has been expressed in community consultation responses, including the questionnaire (ref). Charnwood Borough Council policy recognises the importance of this Area of Separation, and this Neighbourhood Plan endorses the CBC proposal.

Because Quorn Neighbourhood Plan is not empowered to designate an Area of Separation beyond its Plan Area boundary, the area in Mountsorrel shown on the CBC map, including a cemetery and other currently undeveloped fields, is supported in the accompanying Community Action.



POLICY ENV 1: AREA OF SEPARATION – To retain the physical and visual separation between Quorn and Mountsorrel, an Area of Separation is designated. (figure 6).

Development within these areas should be located and designed to maintain and where possible enhance the separation of the villages.

5.3.2 Local Green Space

Over 90% of residents (questionnaire responses) support the principle of protecting the best of Quorn’s environment through Local Green Space designation.

Of the approximately 220 parcels of open and undeveloped land in the parish, 85 were identified as having notable environmental (natural, historical and/or community) features. These sites were scored, using the nine criteria for Local Green Space designation noted in the *National Planning Policy Framework 2012* (see above for the criteria and scoring system adopted for this Plan).

Three sites score 75% (24/32) or more of the maximum possible and are also appropriate for Local Green Space designation. Site 995 is already (in part) protected as a burial ground, the others exceed the essential requirements for designation as Local Green Space as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 paragraph 77 (paragraph 99 in the 2018 NPPF). Their statutory protection will ensure that these most important places in Quorn’s natural and human environment are safe for future generations.

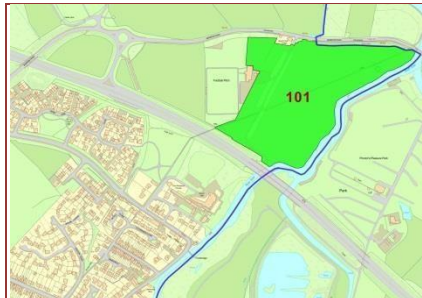
Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012 and 2018) ELIGIBILITY									
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /4	Special /4	Rec/Ed /4	/ 2s w ei	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	TOTAL
995	<p>Churchyard of St. Bartholomew’s Church</p> <p>Churchyard on elevated site (likely to be of pre- or early-Christian origin) surrounded in part by retaining wall of Mountsorrel stone.</p> <p>Provides <i>setting</i> for Church and adjoining Farnham Chapel, Listed grade 1.</p> <p>Managed and rough grass, graves (headstones include Swithland Slate with fine carving), ornamental trees and shrubs.</p> <p>CBC OSSR site; a tranquil refuge in the village, also used as an informal public garden. (it’s the churchyard and adjoining flowerbeds/seating)</p> <p>Bats, birds (BAP species) and invertebrates.</p>	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	4	3	30

Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version final February 2019



St Bartholomew's churchyard



Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012 and 2018) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA										
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /4	Special /4	Rec/Ed /4	/ 2s w ei	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	TOTAL	
101	<p>Barrow Slabs</p> <p>Open field, known as 'Barrow Slabs' because it is crossed by a paved footpath, originally slabbed. Mature native trees and rough grass either side of the path. Well-used by walkers and cyclists. Bounded by wire fence and mature hedgerow along Barrow Road, and the River Soar on the other side and across/under Barrow Road. Accessed near the bridge over Barrow Road, and from a footbridge over the A6 (bypass) from the built part of Quorn.</p> <p>Contributes to CBC Core Adopted Strategy Policy CS12 by providing a link between the community of Quorn and the River Soar (River Soar and Grand Union Canal Strategy).</p>	4	3	4	4	3	2	>	1	3	3	27
		<p>Barrow Slabs:</p> 										



view northeast from the road bridge, summer 2018



View southwest along the river, March 2018


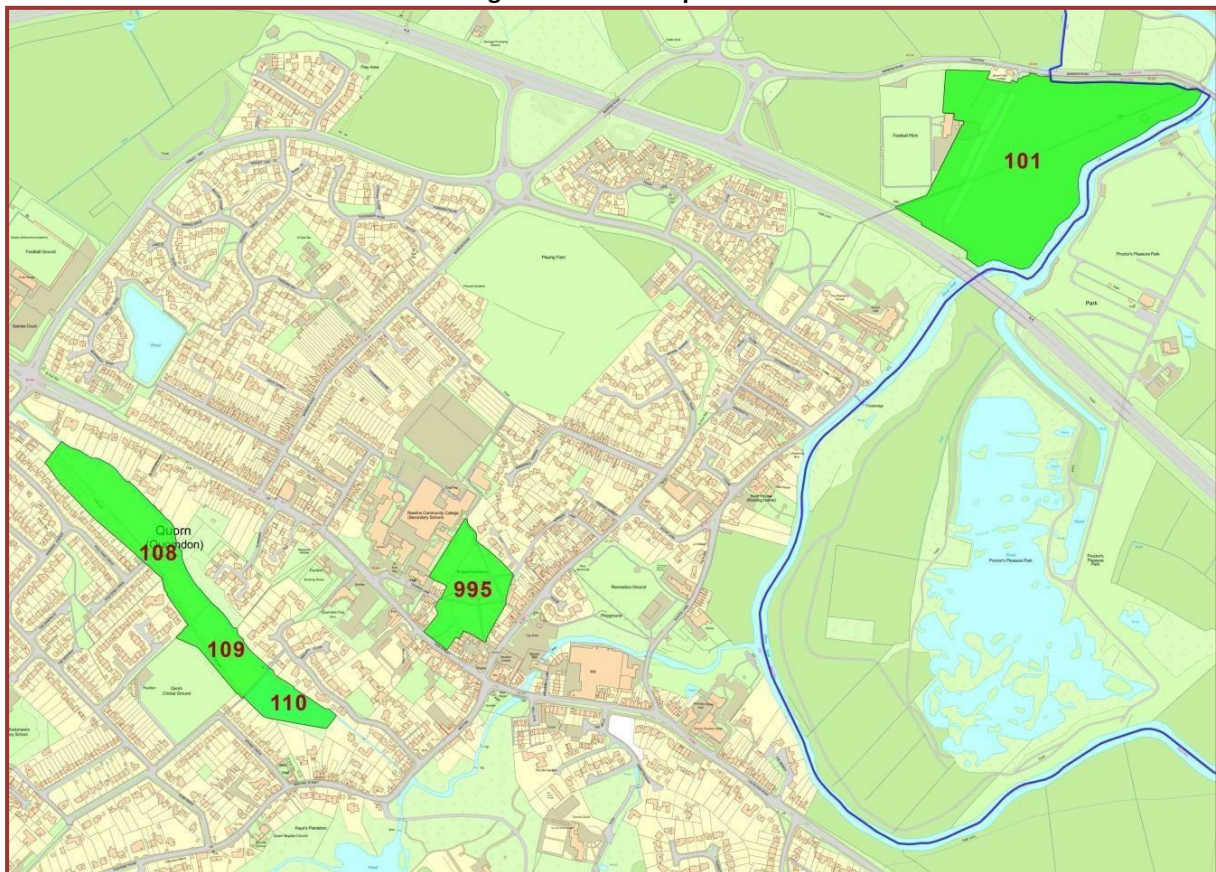
Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012 and 2018) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA										
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /4	Special /4	Rec/Ed /4	/ 2s w ei	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	TOTAL	
108 109 110	<p>Tom Long’s Meadow. Divided by bridge over the stream/flooded land running over part of the field, which leads to Elms Drive. Divided off from field 108.1 by a paved footpath and bounded by wire and wooden fencing. <i>Priority Habitat</i>, Important wet meadows and marsh site. High local significance for birds, bats, invertebrates (Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, etc.) and meadow and marsh flora.</p> <p>CBC OSSR site, managed by QPC.</p>	3	4	4	3	3	2	V	1	2	3	25
												



Fig. 7 Local Green Spaces



POLICY ENV 2: LOCAL GREEN SPACE – The following sites are designated as Local Green Space

Churchyard of St. Bartholomew's Church (inventory site 995) (also CBC OSSR site (ref)

Barrow Slabs (101)

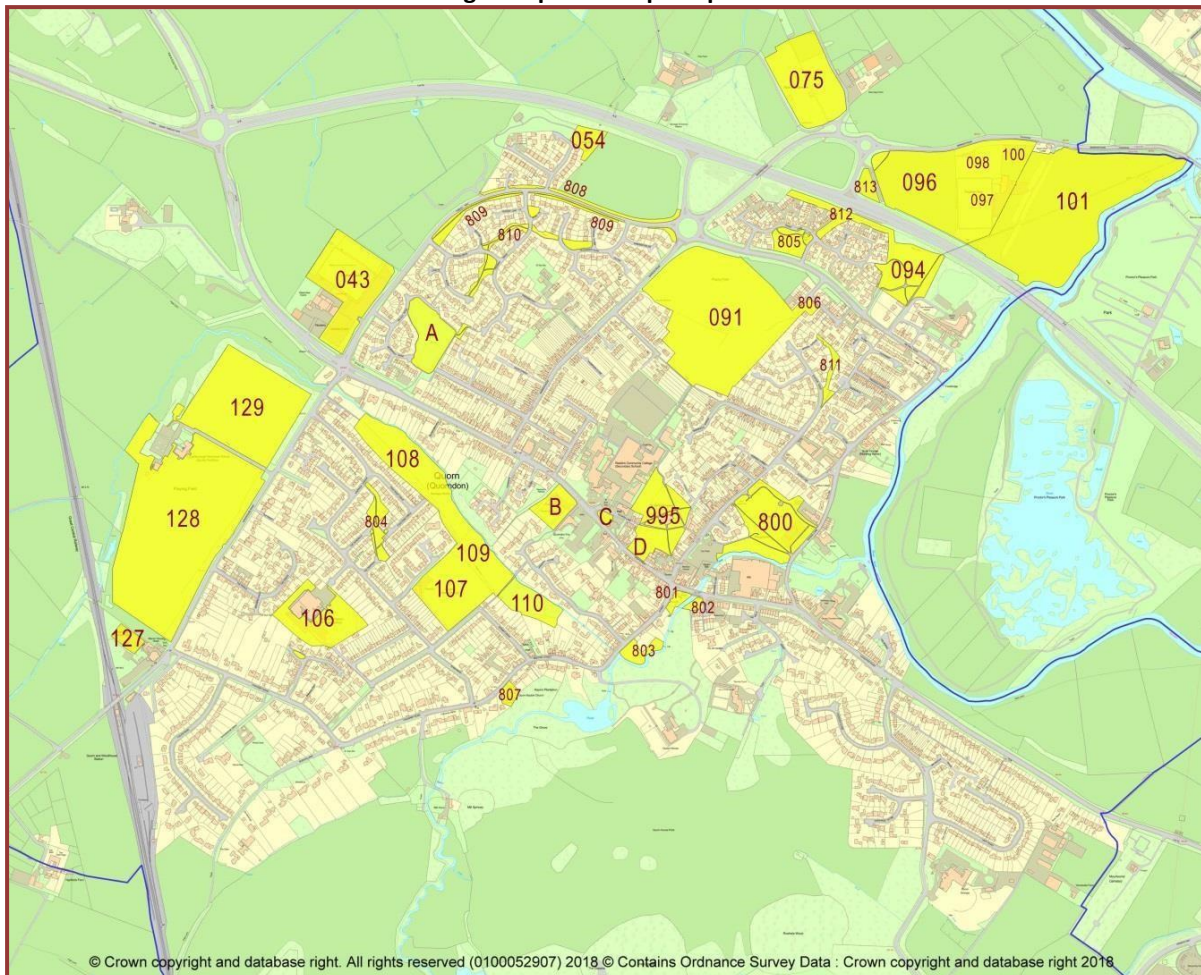
Tom Long's Meadow (108/109/110)

Development on the local green spaces will not be supported other than in very special circumstances.

5.3.3 Important Open Spaces

A further group of sites scored highly in the inventory (scoring at least 75% of the possible total under the relevant criteria) for their community value. They have been identified in fieldwork, community consultations and in Parish records; and most are existing Open Space, Sport & Recreation (OSSR) sites as listed in the *Charnwood Open Spaces Strategy (2013-2028)*.

Fig. 8 Important Open Spaces



In Quorn these sites have been allocated to the following CBC OSSR categories:

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces
- Amenity green space
- Provision for children and young people
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Allotments, community gardens and urban farms
- Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds
- Civic spaces

These sites' value, as open space *within and close to the built-up areas* and for their value as formal or informal community assets, is recognised in the Community Action described in Section 9 (Env 2).

5.3.4 Sites of natural environment significance

A group of inventory sites scores highly for 'wildlife' but, because their community value scores are not high enough they do not qualify for Local Green Space designation. The features for which the identified sites have been selected and notified are listed in the environmental inventory (Appendix G). The map (fig. 9) shows their locations.

The natural environment sites comprise a) SSSIs, b) Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), c) Local Wildlife Sites (Charnwood Borough Council or Leicestershire County Council data), d) sites mapped by Natural England as Priority Habitat or as other Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, e) group Tree Preservation Order sites, f) sites where Priority Species (species of conservation concern, BAP species) have been recorded as breeding or as regular visitors and g) other sites identified during the inventory process as being of high biodiversity significance in the context of the Plan Area.

Together, these sites are regarded as essential for biodiversity conservation in the Parish, in conformity with NPPF 2012 paragraphs 109 and 113 (Section 15 in the 2018 NPPF).

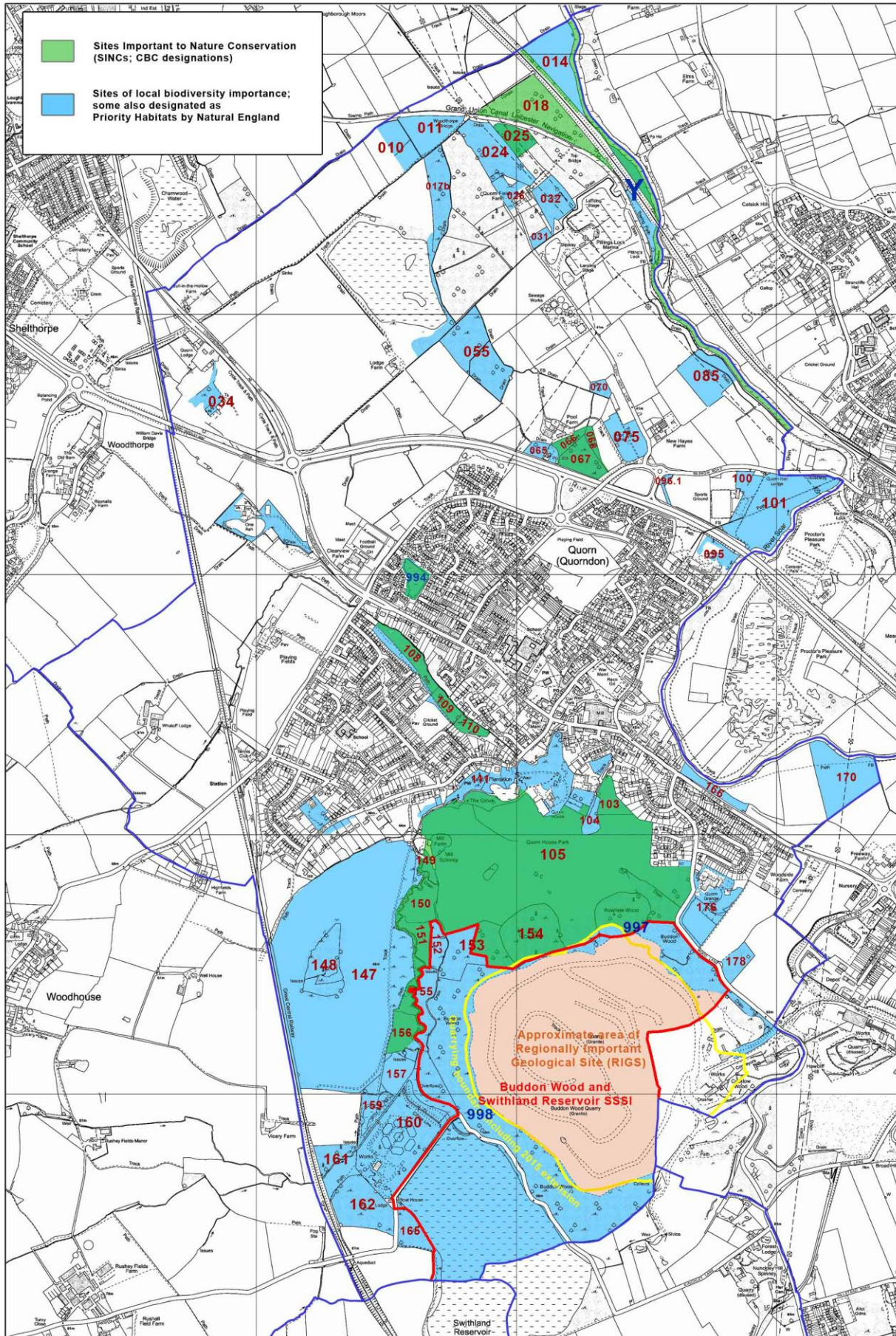
Trees, woodland and hedgerows are a scarce habitat in Quorn; examples that do survive have disproportionate biodiversity and landscape value and should be protected wherever possible or replaced (by new planting, properly maintained) where not. The Quorn Parish Council Tree Management Policy (2018) will apply to all woodland, trees and hedges on its land and property.

POLICY ENV 3: SITES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE - Development proposals that affect sites of natural environment significance shown in Figure 9 will be expected to protect the identified habitats and/or species, according to their status, and to give appropriate weight to the contribution they make to the wider ecological network. Development proposals should demonstrate that the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh the ecological loss.

POLICY ENV 4: TREES, WOODLAND AND HEDGES – Development proposals that have an unacceptable adverse effect on trees, woodland and hedges of environmental (biodiversity, historical, arboricultural) significance, or of landscape or amenity value, will not be supported. New development should be designed to retain such trees and hedges wherever possible. Where the loss of trees and hedges cannot be avoided, developers will be required to plant replacement trees and/or hedges on site or to provide compensatory planting elsewhere in the Parish.

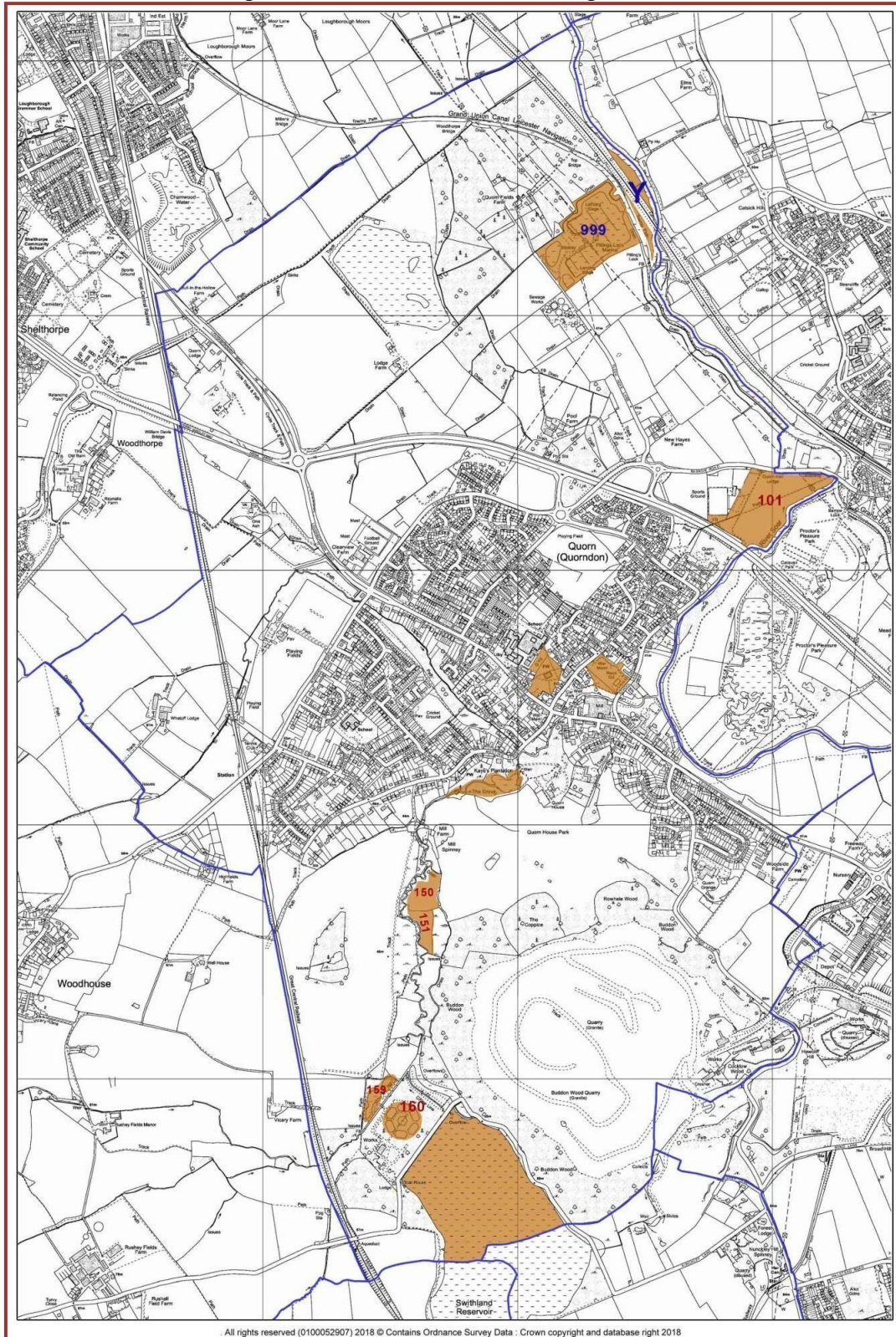
Hedgerows should be retained and protected. Where minor loss is unavoidable, it should be minimised and loss compensated for with replacement planting of locally-appropriate native species. Development providing a net gain in length and quality of hedgerows will be encouraged supported.

Fig 9 Sites of natural environment significance



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Fig. 11: Sites of historic environment significance



POLICY ENV 5: SITES OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE – Development proposals that affect the sites of historic environment significance shown in Figure 11 protect the identified features, according to their legislative status, and to give appropriate weight to the contribution they make to the wider coherent historical record. Development proposals that would have a detrimental impact on a site of historic environment significance will not be supported unless the need for and benefits arising from development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

5.4. General environmental policies

5.4.1 Biodiversity, wildlife corridors and habitat creation

Wildlife in Quorn is important for many reasons; it has intrinsic value and local people take pleasure from their natural surroundings. Well-functioning ecosystems are vital for a healthy environment and contribute to residents' physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Key natural habitats and species that are essential considerations for conservation of biodiversity are often termed *Species or Habitats of Principal Importance*¹ or are listed as 'Priority' in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Leicestershire and Rutland². Areas of particular significance are designated nationally as Sites of Species Scientific Interest (SSSI) or locally as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) or potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS). Protection of these sites, habitats and species is reflected in this Plan through policies intended to reinforce the protection afforded elsewhere by the Planning system.

Biodiversity enhancement is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework and by Policy CS13 of the *Charnwood Local Plan 2011-2028*. In consultation for preparation of this Plan, an overwhelming 97% of respondents supported biodiversity protection.

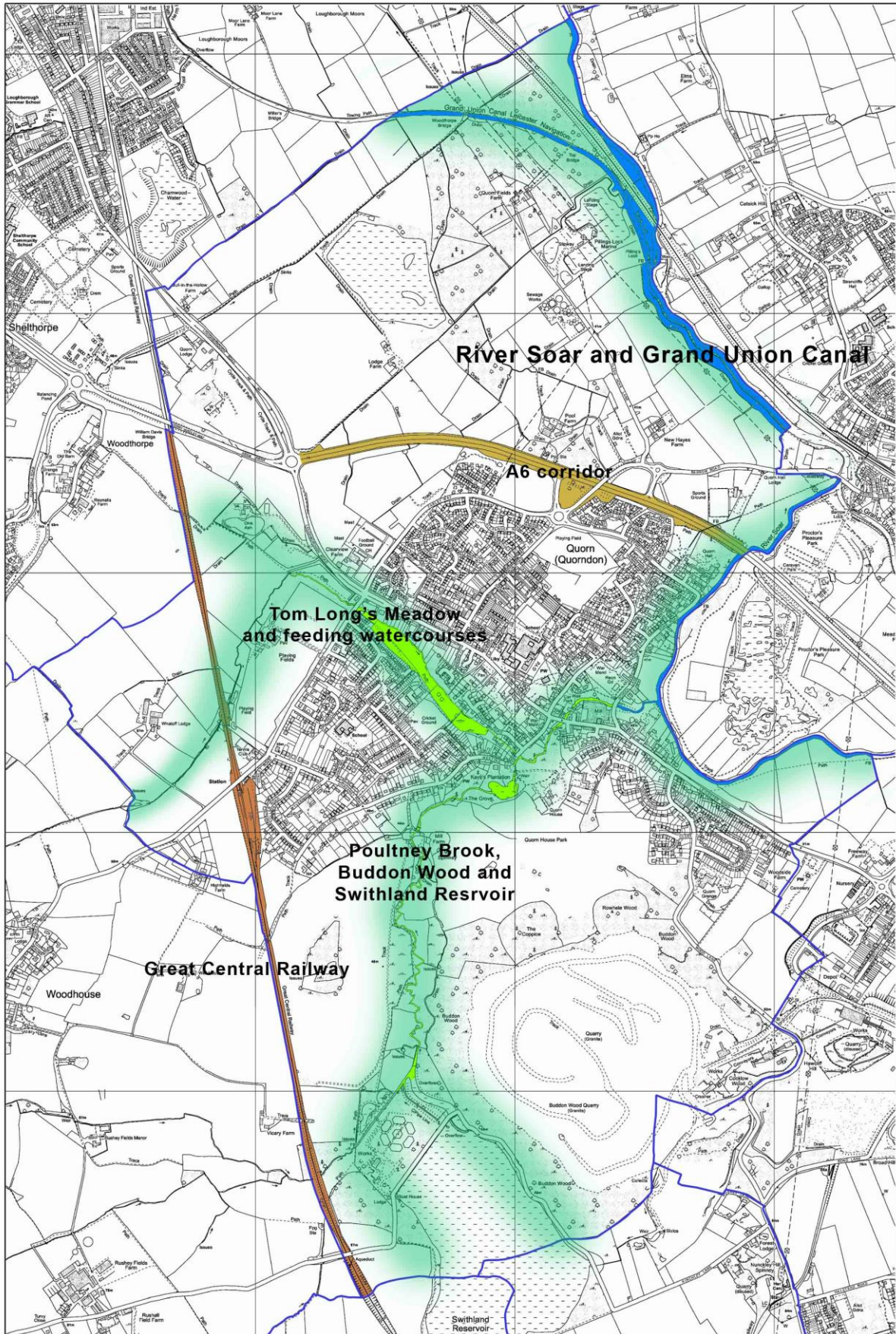
POLICY ENV 6: BIODIVERSITY - Development proposals should not damage or adversely affect sites designated for their nature conservation importance (SSSI, RIGS, LWS), or Priority Habitats, Species of Principal Importance (species of conservation concern) or their key habitats, or other statutorily protected species.

The protection and enhancement of the identified significant features of sites shown in figure 11 as "other sites of historic environment significance" and detailed in the Environmental Inventory will be supported unless the need for, or the benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss².

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

² http://www.lrw.org.uk/media/uploads/miscellaneous/space_for_wildlife_2010-2015_2011_revision_.pdf

Fig. 12 Wildlife corridors



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Wildlife corridors are green links through the landscape that provide routes for the dispersal and connection routes of flora and fauna between habitat sites and populations. Trees, hedgerows, watercourses, field margins and swathes of vegetation such as species-rich or rough, unmanaged grassland and scrub can all provide important links and it is important that development not only complements wildlife corridors, but respects and expands any other habitat and natural features that serve this connective function. This Plan identifies three significant wildlife corridors and two further linear features with high wildlife connectivity value:

River Soar & Grand Union Canal Corridor (part of that identified in CBC *Strategy* of the same name, 2009)

Poultney Brook and Buddon Wood

Tom Long's Meadow and its feeding watercourses

Great Central Railway

A6 Quorn- Mountsorrel Bypass

POLICY ENV 7: WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY – Development in the Plan Area should protect and enhance the identified wildlife corridors (fig. 12) and other potential habitat links. Development proposals that would create barriers to the permeability of the landscape for wildlife in general, or fragment populations of species of conservation concern will not be supported.

5.4.2 Important views

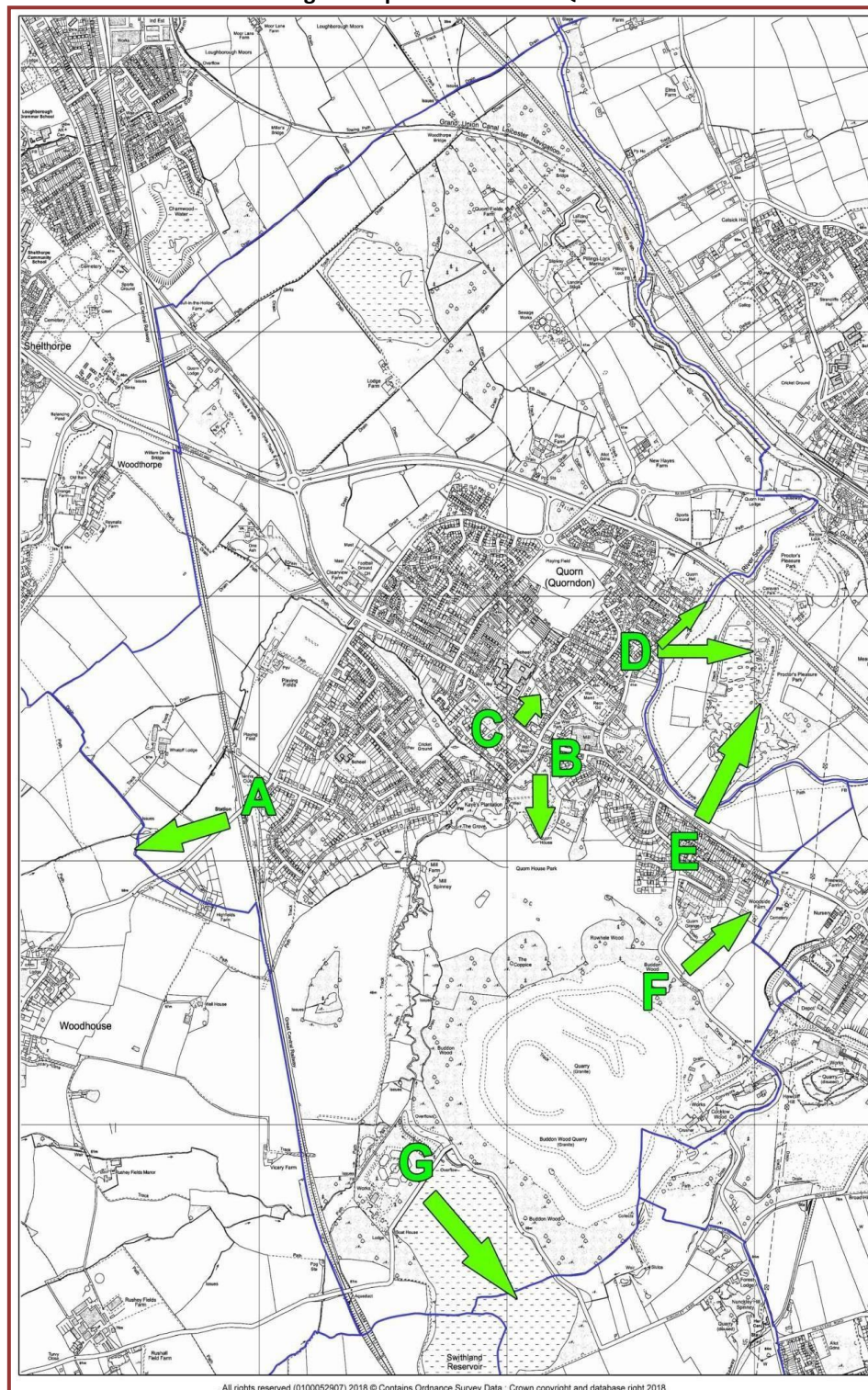
Residents have identified a small number of highly valued views during the consultations carried out during preparation of this Plan. Their wishes were taken into account in the environmental inventory fieldwork, with checking and further selection. The objective is to protect the views (both from and towards the village) which best connect the settlement with its surrounding countryside, which help create a sense of 'place', or which help to define the historic layout and 'townscape' of the village itself. The identified Important Views are shown in Figure 13. The details of each view together with a photograph are included after Figure 13. Plainly views in general have no regard to administrative boundaries. Nevertheless, this policy only applies to the views identified insofar as they are within the neighbourhood area.

Policy ENV8 establishes a policy context to safeguard the identified Important Views. Its approach is to ensure that development proposals should retain and respect wherever practicable the views concerned. It recognises the potential ability of new development to proceed which could sit comfortably both with the policy and with the important and sensitive relationship between the village itself and the surrounding countryside. Proposals that have the potential to affect detrimentally one of the identified important views in Figure 13 should be





Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version final February 2019 accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to assess the proposal from the affected viewpoints. Where appropriate mitigation measures should also be included.




POLICY ENV 8: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS – Development proposals should retain and respect where practicable the views within the village, to and from the village and of the wider landscape in the neighbourhood area (as shown in Figure 13). Development which would have an unacceptable impact on the identified views will not be supported.

Fig. 13 Important Views in Quorn



Details of Important views

<p>A</p>	<p>From Station Road/Forest Road at the Great Central Railway station bridge, west over the Beaumanor estate and into the northern part of Charnwood Forest, the Outwoods, etc. This view connects the village with the important landscape of the Forest.</p>	
<p>B</p>	<p>From Memorial Garden, Meeting Street, south into an important area of mature woodland on the northwest edge of Quorn House Park. This view brings an important semi-natural landscape via a public open space right into the village centre.</p>	
<p>C</p>	<p>From High Street, northeast to the Parish Church on its mound and the historic churchyard.</p>	
<p>D</p>	<p>From School Lane/Soar Road east to the River Soar.</p>	

E	Northeast from Leicester Road across managed wildflower-rich grazing meadows to the River Soar	
F	From Wood Lane northeast, across a group of small hedged and walled fields and a small priority habitat woodland	
G	From the dam, southeast across Swithland Reservoir to its wooded north and south banks and the railway viaduct and island in the distance. This view does not require protection but is included for completeness.	

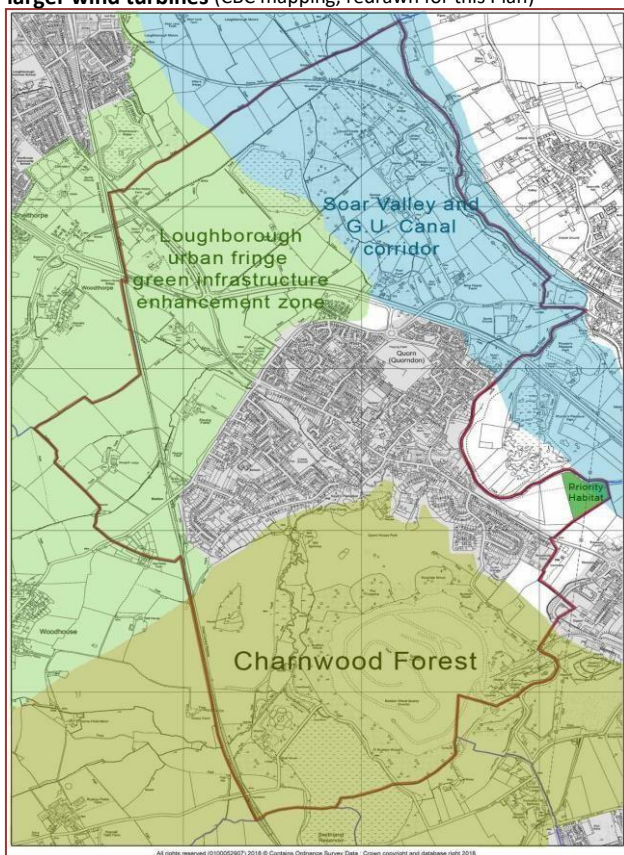
5.4.3 Renewable Energy Infrastructure

The community of Quorn will make its contribution to local and national climate change mitigation by, for example, welcoming infrastructure for renewable energy generation of appropriate types and at suitable scales and locations. There is strong support for built-in solar generation and surface water harvesting, using the latest available and viable technologies, in new development.

Turbines

The CBC Core Strategy 2011-2028 (Policy CS16) states that planning permission for ‘one or more’ wind turbines will only be granted ‘if the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy ... in a Neighbourhood Plan’ and when ‘following consultation, it can be determined that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and that therefore the proposal has their backing’. This Plan takes a proactive approach to the matter by previewing the suitability of the Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Area for large or multiple turbines. There are three strategic, spatial, or site-specific land-use designations of relevance to the siting of renewable energy infrastructure in Quorn.

Figure 14: Strategic, spatial and site-specific environmental designations in the Plan Area of relevance to the siting of larger wind turbines (CBC mapping, redrawn for this Plan)



a) Two strategic areas in the CBC green infrastructure network:

Charnwood Forest, because of its high landscape, biodiversity, historical and recreational significance, is judged to be unsuitable for commercial or large turbine installations. This is confirmed by the high value placed on it by Natural England as *National Landscape Character Area 73*.

Although recognised as having high value for recreation and biodiversity (particularly for habitat connectivity), *The Soar Valley and Grand Union Canal corridor* is close to, or has been allocated for, turbine installations in other parishes in the Borough; careful decisions about the future number and positioning of turbines in this corridor are crucial to avoid compromising its community, landscape and biodiversity value.

The Plan Area is also partly in the *Loughborough/Shepshed urban fringe* whose community and 'green' values are planned for *enhancement*. This area has been scored as of moderate current value (*CBC Green Wedges, Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones and Areas of Local Separation Report, 2016*) but as having high potential for enhancement. As above, the number and locations of any turbines will need to be carefully balanced against the actual and potential environmental and community ('green') value of the identified area.

b) One Priority Habitat designation (in an area not covered by designations a) as *Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh* adjacent to Barrow Gravel Pits SSSI in the river Soar floodplain lies within the Plan Area. Its national significance (as a *habitat of conservation concern* because of its increasing scarcity in England) means it should not be damaged by development, including turbines.

Although energy generation from renewable sources is environmentally important in Quorn, as elsewhere, and is welcomed by local residents at appropriate scales, opportunities for medium- and large-scale wind generation are shaped by other environmental designations and strategies. Policy ENV 9 recognises this and adapts the CBC Policy regarding renewable energy generation infrastructure (site allocation and mitigation) to the Quorn situation.

Solar power generation

Larger-scale solar power generation infrastructure is welcomed by the community, subject to environmental and aesthetic conditions and careful siting – although it is noted that many of

the restrictions implied by the landscape and environmental designations referred to in the discussion of turbines, above, also apply to the siting of solar 'farm' arrays. Leicestershire County Council proposes a 25 hectare solar farm installation (and light industry) on its own land near Flesh Hovel Lane; this is a location within the *Soar Valley and Grand Union Canal corridor* and overlaps into the *Loughborough/Shepshed urban fringe enhancement area*. If approved this would indicate a flexible approach to delivery of the CBC green infrastructure strategy's objectives; Policy ENV 9 introduces local criteria about allocation of sites for solar generation where there are strong environmental or aesthetic considerations.

The approach taken in the policy is based around a general component (part 1) and detailed components (parts 2 and 3) dealing with specific types of renewable energy development. Proposals for each of the detailed elements also need to comply with the general approach as set out in the first part of the policy.

POLICY ENV 9: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE –

1. Renewable energy generation infrastructure will be supported if the proposal demonstrates that it:

- a) will not have an adverse impact (including, *inter alia*, noise, visual impact, reflection, glare, shadow flicker, water pollution, smell, air quality, gaseous or particulate emissions) on the health, wellbeing or amenity of residents and visitors;
- b) will not have an adverse impact on the Plan Area in relation to the identified important views (Policy ENV 8) or the character of the surrounding landscape, including areas identified for environmental protection or enhancement in Charnwood Borough Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy;
- c) will not have an adverse impact on biodiversity (species and Priority Habitats);
- d) will not have an adverse impact on statutory or locally identified historic environment sites and features; and
- e) is supported by appropriate and relevant assessments and documentation in respect of, *inter alia*, transport, heritage, archaeology, landscape (visual impact), environment and flood risk.

2. Wind turbine developments will be supported if:

- a) turbine tip height is less than 25 metres
- b) the proposal is for no more than one turbine

3. Large scale solar energy generation proposals will be supported where:

- a) the ground area covered by the panels does not exceed 25 hectares (500mx500m)
- b) the array is not visible from any valued and accessible viewpoint 250m metres or more from the proposal site, or from any private or residential property,
- c) reflection (glare) is not experienced from any viewpoint.

6 Community Facilities

6.1 Introduction

The village of Quorn has a strong community ethos and the retention and enhancement of community facilities is important for the future sustainability and wellbeing of residents of the Parish. The Parish has a unique character for which residents, when consulted, expressed strong support to retain and strengthen³.

Community facilities and amenities provide important infrastructure for the residents of Quorn, supporting and enhancing the quality of daily life and contributing to the vitality of the village. Some of these facilities and amenities offer local employment opportunities whilst others provide a focal point for social interaction and support important services; thereby reducing the need to travel, which is particularly important for those who do not have access to a car.



The loss and threatened closure of facilities and services is, however, a common dilemma for rural communities. The viability of many rural services is likely to be challenged further in future as a consequence of squeezed local authority budgets and more car owning residents commuting to work, driving to retail centres and accessing leisure facilities and other amenities further afield.

Community consultation has shown that most people in the village feel it has a good range of amenities and would like to see any housing development protect and enhance these.

6.2 The Retention of Community Facilities and amenities

In the Parish of Quorn there are two state schools, two independent schools and a medical centre and a pharmacy, both centrally located on Station Road. Other facilities in the centre of the village include the village hall; a post office, a community library, an optician, an estate agency, 19 restaurants, pubs & cafes, 7 shops and 5 hair and beauty salons. Quorn residents enjoy and support a wide range of pre-school activities as well as some 20 active clubs and societies.⁴ Quorn Parish benefits from two places of worship, St. Bartholomew's C of E Church on the High Street and a Baptist Church on Meeting Street.

Since the most populated age group in Quorn is the 61-75 category followed by the middle-aged 31-60⁵ category it is not surprising that few organisations are available for young people aged 6-16. Whilst there is a wealth of activities for the youngest children and also for older

³ Community Questionnaire November 2017

⁴ Clubs and Societies in Quorn in supporting information

residents there is a shortage of leisure opportunities for teenagers. The Scouts and Guides, cater for in excess of 250 young people every week in accommodation with very limited space. Quorn Football Club and the Cricket Club provide support for junior teams. Every facility that is available in the Parish competes for scarce meeting space but rarely for members as waiting lists are common.

Parishioners of Quorn also enjoy football, cricket and bowls. A swimming pool and tennis courts have been lost in recent years due to the expansion of Rawlins Academy. The Academy reaches capacity in September 2018 with 1680 on roll of which only 15% of pupils are residents of Quorn. In order to accommodate the steady growth of Rawlins Academy the community has lost a considerable number of facilities that were previously available. For example, the swimming pool and tennis courts have been closed to the public; evening classes have been substantially reduced; space that was available for community use is now available



only at premium rates. This reduction in community assets is of concern to residents of the Parish and referred to in their responses to consultations about the Neighbourhood Plan⁶.

Particularly valued are Quorndon Fox previously Swan with Two Necks; The White Hart Inn, High Street; The White Horse, Quorn Cross; The Blacksmith's Arms, Meeting Street; The Apple Tree, Stoop Lane; The Royal Oak, Quorn

Cross, Quorn Baptist Church on Meeting Street; St Bartholomew's United Church, the village hall, Stafford Orchard Park, the Church Rooms, the Cricket Pavilion on Caves Field, Quorn Bowling Club Thatched Pavilion, Deep End Activity Centre, Allen House Scout and Guide HQ 99 Meeting Street and the Great Central Railway, Pilling's Lock Marina, Quorn Football Club and Club house, Quorn Community Library, Quorn Country Club, Quorn Grange Hotel and the Manor Hotel.

Quorn residents highly value these facilities and the Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that aim to retain, protect and enhance these important community assets.

The full range of community facilities in Quorn is described in Appendix H

⁵ 2011 Census data quoted in overview to results of November 2017 Survey Questionnaire

⁶ November 2017, March 2018

POLICY CF1: RETENTION OF PARTICULARLY VALUED COMMUNITY FACILITIES –

The following are identified as particularly valued community facilities:

- Quorndon Fox PH
- The White Hart Inn
- The Blacksmith's Arms
- The Apple Tree
- The Royal Oak
- Quorn Baptist Church
- St Bartholomew's United Church
- The Village Hall
- The Church Rooms
- Quorn Bowling Club Thatched Pavilion
- Deep End Activity Centre
- Allen House Scout and Guide HQ
- The Great Central Railway
- Pilling's Lock Marina
- Quorn Football Club and Club House
- Quorn Community Library
- Quorn Country Club
- Quorn Grange Hotel
- The Manor Hotel

Proposals that would result in the loss of any of the particularly valued community facilities listed above will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that any of the below apply:

- a) there is no longer a need or a demand for the community facility concerned; or
- b) the existing community facility can be demonstrated no longer to be economically viable; or
- c) the proposal makes alternative provision for the facility that would otherwise be lost, in an appropriate and convenient location elsewhere in the Plan area, and the proposed alternative provision complies with other policies in this Plan.

6.3 Promoting additional Community Facilities

Consultation confirmed the importance of enhancing the range of community facilities and amenities in the Parish (87%). Residents recognise their value as a focus for community life and interaction; they are also important for the good health and the long-term sustainability of the community. In particular there is a need to maintain existing sports facilities, provide additional community meeting spaces and increase facilities for teenagers.

Community consultation has highlighted a broad consensus that the type and capacity of community facilities and services should evolve in an appropriate manner to serve population growth and changing demographics resulting from new housing development.

Improving the village's present facilities is supported.

POLICY CF2: NEW OR IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES - Proposals that improve the quality and/or range of community facilities will be supported where the development:

- a) will not result in unacceptable traffic movements or other disturbance to residential properties;**
- b) will not result in unacceptable traffic movements that generate increased levels of noise, fumes, smell or other harmful disturbance to residential properties including the need for additional parking which cannot be catered for within the curtilage of the property;**
- c) is of a scale appropriate to the needs of the locality and conveniently accessible for residents of the village wishing to walk or cycle; and**
- d) takes into account the needs of people with disabilities.**

6.4 Education

One key to the sustainability and strength of Quorn is its wide range of educational provision.

The parish enjoys a range of educational provision in the form of St Bartholomew's Primary School, Rawlins Academy, Gryphon School and Woodside Lodge Outdoor Education School.

The Schools are popular and attract pupils from outside of Quorn. This increase in demand is having an impact on the village and, in terms of Rawlins, some facilities previously accessible to the public are now unavailable because they are needed by the Academy for student use.

POLICY CF3: SCHOOLS - Proposals for the expansion of existing schools in the Parish will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- a) expansion would not exacerbate existing access-related or traffic circulation problems, or that suitable mitigation measures are brought forward as part of a proposal;**
- b) there is no loss of land already used for recreation by the community unless outweighed by benefits to the community;**
- c) the development will not result in the significant loss of amenity to residents or other adjacent users.**

6.5 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Quorn Medical Centre is at the heart of the village and services a wide NHS Catchment Area. It was built in 1986 and extended in 1992 to accommodate patient growth with 8691 patients registered in February 2018. The Medical Centre is clearly affected by the population growth due to new housing developments in Quorn and the wider NHS area. The aging population of the parish adds pressure on the facility.

POLICY CF4: Medical Facilities - Proposals for alternative premises that increase the accessibility of health care for residents living in the Plan Area will be supported providing that the development:

- a) will not result in unacceptable traffic movements, noise, fumes, smell or other disturbance to residential properties, or generate a need for parking that cannot be adequately catered for;**
- b) Will provide parking provision, including that for essential medical personnel, to development plan standards.**

7 Employment

7.1 Introduction

Quorn is a semi-rural parish with some employment opportunities and close to the significant employment centre of Loughborough and the regional cities of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. The strengths of the local economy and community go hand in hand. Supporting the economy through growth of small businesses in the Parish is therefore an important theme of the Neighbourhood Plan. 38% of respondents to the Quorn parish survey preferred shops within any planned development. Respondents did feel, however, that any new business should be in keeping with and not in detriment to the rural and predominantly residential nature of the Parish.

During the preparation of the neighbourhood plan, a survey was conducted with 47% of the owners and managers of 100 core Quorn businesses. Information was collected from a further 33% of businesses with a web presence. The questionnaire and results of the survey are available in the supporting information.

7.2 Businesses in Quorn

Historically, a mix of industrial property within the village has helped to sustain a vibrant local economy with three 'heavy' industries active within the Parish.

The quarry is a granite quarry operated by TARMAC and located between the villages of Mountsorrel and Quorn. Wright's Mill has been at the centre of the village since 1870. Their heritage lies within the woven narrow fabrics industry, originally manufacturing components for the footwear and corsetry trades and the military. Quorn Stone at 2a Loughborough Road is the showroom of a large company with a global reach. The company warehouse is based in Wanlip which is outside the Neighbourhood Plan area but approximately five minutes away by car.

A number of smaller businesses are based in homes or in small business units scattered around the Parish. These are often in buildings converted from relics of a former industrial/urban heritage. There are no custom-built small business units and the stock of buildings suitable for conversion to business use has declined dramatically in the last few years. For example, the plant nursery and small units on Clear View trading area recently received notice to quit in order for a retirement village to be constructed on the site for which a Planning Application is in progress. The former Pine Furniture retail unit on Leicester Road and business units on Farley Way have already been redeveloped for housing.

Consequently, no business units are available for rent or purchase in the Parish and business is actively moving away from the Parish: examples include the relocation of the plant

nursery 20 miles away, Art & Craft enterprises are moving to Loughborough and motor services have removed to adjacent villages.

There are approximately 100 core businesses in the Parish. These enterprises include non-retail operations that charge the public for services such as schools, and the facility of the medical centre. The businesses surveyed employ 104 residents of the parish and 43 non-residents. Some employers, mainly in the pubs and cafes and grocery stores, make it a policy to employ young workers and offer work experience places to the secondary school.

As small businesses and start-ups seek to expand they will need office space and storage/production space that can only be found elsewhere. In the November 2017 Community Survey 41% of respondents were in favour of a small business park or new office unit which would include shared office facilities and resources through which a small number of local employment opportunities would be created. Cost-effective centralised facilities located outside the residential area, would reduce any conflict between business activity and residential housing, as illustrated by the Quorn Stone industry.

104 thoughtful responses to the Village Questionnaire (Autumn 2017) show that the development of further employment opportunities, whilst potentially desirable, is a complex issue. Some highlight the loss of services, such as a car mechanic, and would like to see more business, others wish to retain the residential feel of the Parish. The proximity of larger conurbations with available business units and other facilities are mentioned as is concern about increases in delivery vehicles and other traffic if economic activity were to increase.

POLICY E1: EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, an existing employment use will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the site or building is no longer suitable for employment use.

Proposals for employment-related development (for new and/or expansion of employment uses) will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the development will not generate unacceptable disturbance, noise, fumes, smell or traffic; has appropriate off-road parking; that it will respect and be compatible with the local character and surrounding uses; and that it will, where appropriate, protect residential amenity.

7.4 Quorn Village Centre

Quorn has a thriving village centre around Quorn Cross that offers shopping, eateries and pubs, which are important to parishioners and visitors. Small independent traders predominate, so their livelihood is directly linked to the success of the village centre as a retail and social destination of choice.

But there are challenges to the continuing success of the village centre. Technology is, of course, changing the ways that many people shop. When choosing to visit the shops, people have more options; for example there is a Waitrose, with ample parking, less than a mile away, and there are plans for the development of another nearby supermarket. Those visiting Quorn may well do so by car. Parking in the centre and its immediate surrounds is challenging. A lack of parking impacts significantly on the numbers visiting the village centre and therefore the success of the business there.



Respondents to surveys have expressed their support for local business and especially for the village centre. It is therefore an aim of our Neighbourhood Plan to support and encourage local businesses, thereby maintaining the character and ongoing success of the Quorn village centre.

7.4.1 Shop Frontages in Quorn Village Centre

Responses express that the visual appearance of shops and businesses in the village centre is very important to maintain and enhance its unique character.

The retention of historic/traditional shop fronts is particularly important. Alongside high quality contemporary design, they make an important contribution to the architectural and historic interest of the retail area.

Concern has been expressed that the visual appearance of some shops and businesses in the village centre has declined, resulting in a less attractive street scene and diminishing the impact of the traditional buildings within it.

Well-designed shopfronts and frontages to buildings make an important contribution to the character of Quorn village as well as to individual buildings across it. The retention of historic shopfronts is particularly important. Alongside high quality contemporary design, they make an important contribution to the special architectural and historic interest of the retail area.

In Quorn, the concentration of retail shopping frontages is along High Street, Station Road and Leicester Road. This is recognised as the Local Shopping Area in Quorn, where core (A1) uses such as shops and cafes are principally concentrated.

Policy E2 addresses this important matter. It defines the Local Shopping Centre within which new retail proposals will be supported. The opening of new retail units would be particularly supported. The second part of the policy seeks both to support the establishment of other commercial operations in the Local Shopping Centre and to resist any such proposals which might result in clusters of non-retail activity. Plainly it is impractical to anticipate how such

Quorn Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version final February 2019 proposals might come forward within the Plan period. Nevertheless, as guidance it is considered that a cluster of two or more non-retail uses would be considered to be inappropriate.

POLICY E2: QUORN VILLAGE CENTRE - The Local Shopping Centre is indicated in Figure 15 below. Within the designated local shopping centre proposals for new retail (A1) development will be supported

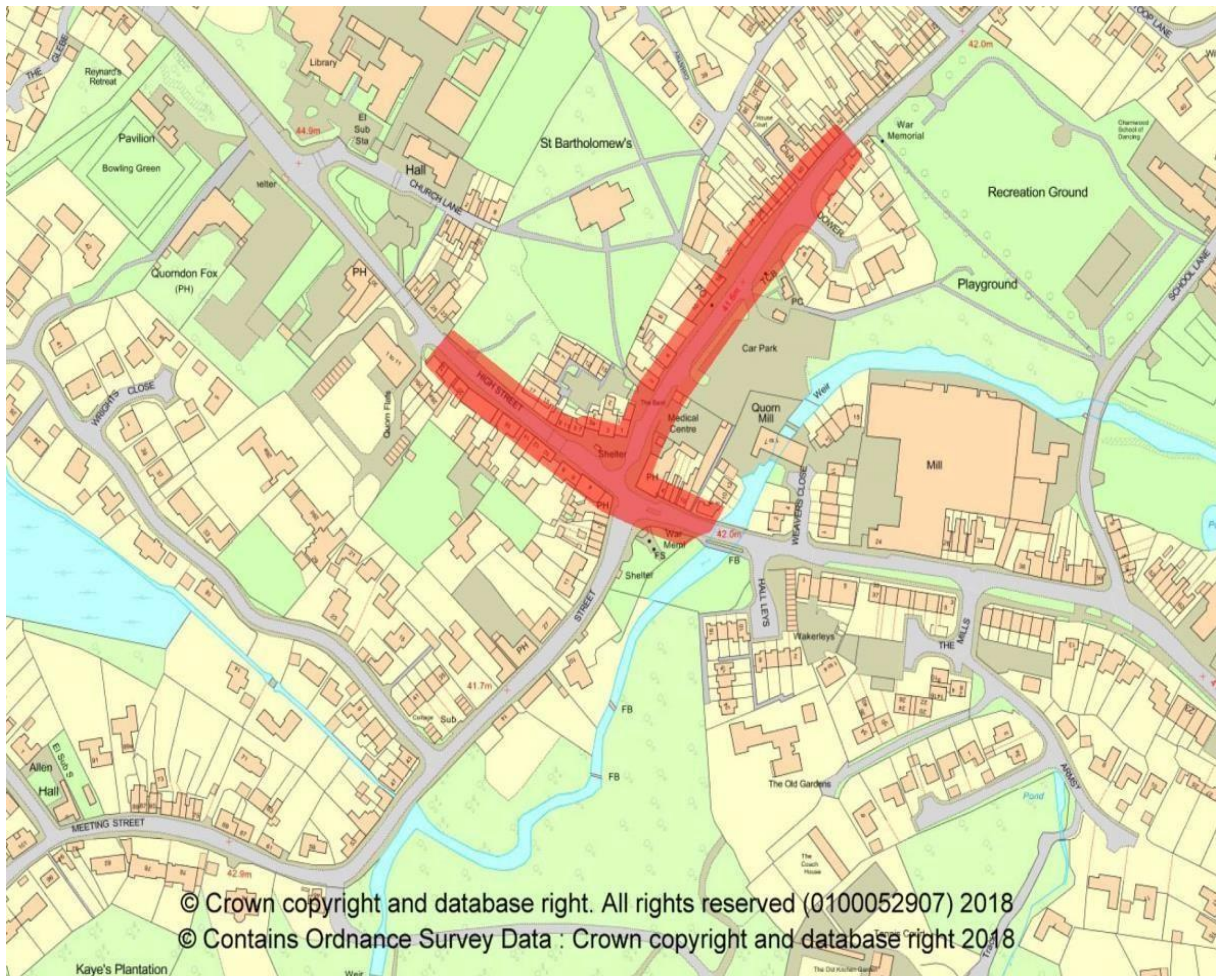
Other appropriate village centre uses will be supported where they could contribute to the role of the Local Centre. Proposals for the change of use of an existing retail (A1) premises to any other use where that change of use results in either a cluster of non-retail uses or retail (A1) use no longer being predominant will not be supported.

Development proposals to alter or replace existing shop frontage, create new shop frontage or to alter the frontages within the Local Shopping Centre will be supported where they conserve and enhance the special qualities and significance of the building and area; and relate well to their context in terms of design, scale and material and colour.

Development proposals that remove, replace or substantially harm shop fronts or the frontages of buildings by poor or inappropriate design will not be supported.

All signage must be designed to fit sympathetically with the local character. Internally illuminated box signs that are fixed externally to a building are not in keeping and will not normally be supported.

Figure 15 – Local shopping centre



7.5 Home working

The benefit of supporting home working is that it helps to promote local employment activities whilst reducing the dependency of the car for long journeys to employment sites outside the Parish. However, people may not have a suitable space within their home from which to run a business, or they may wish to distinctly separate their work and living spaces. The construction of extensions, the conversion of outbuildings, and the development of new freestanding buildings in gardens from which businesses can operate will be supported to maximise the opportunities for entrepreneurial activity and employment in Quorn Parish.

Policy E3 sets out a supporting context for home working proposals. Some proposals for home working will be of a modest nature and are unlikely to require planning permission. As such the policy will apply only to those home working proposals which require planning permission.

The Office for National Statistics confirms the growing trend of people working from home. According to the 2011 Census, 5.7% of Quorn residents in employment, work from home, compared to only 3.2% across Charnwood.

POLICY E3: HOME WORKING - Proposals for the use of part of a dwelling for office and/or light industrial uses, and for small-scale free-standing buildings within its curtilage, extensions to the dwelling or conversion of outbuildings for those uses, will be supported where:

- a) Such development will not result in unacceptable traffic movements and that appropriate parking provision is made;
- b) No significant and adverse impact arises to nearby residents or other sensitive land uses from noise, fumes, light pollution, or other nuisance associated with the work activity; and
- c) Any extension or free-standing building shall be designed having regard to policies in this Plan and should not detract from the quality and character of the building to which they are subservient by reason of height, scale, massing, location or the facing materials used in their construction.

7.6 Farm Diversification

The conversion of former agricultural buildings and well-designed new buildings for commercial use has enabled farm diversification, led to the sustainable re-use of vacant buildings and provided opportunities for the establishment and development of small businesses which generate income and employment opportunities for local people.

This is a trend which the Parish Council would like to see continue. Policy E4 provides a context within which this type of development can proceed in the Plan period. It is likely to apply mainly to traditional rural buildings. However, the policy also includes the potential for the re-use and conversion of well-designed new buildings for commercial use. In this context a well-designed new building would be one which meets the requirements contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, the National Planning Practice Guidance and Policy S2 of this Plan.

However, diversification which results in industrial sized sheds which are out of keeping with their rural location are unwelcome due to the impact on wildlife and the further stress or damage to the road network.

POLICY E4: FARM DIVERSIFICATION - The re-use, conversion and adaptation of rural buildings and well-designed new buildings for commercial use will be supported where:

- a) The use proposed is appropriate to the rural location;
- b) The conversion/adaptation works respect the local character of the surrounding area;

- c) The development will not have an adverse impact on any archaeological, architectural, historic or environmental features;
- d) The local road system is capable of accommodating the traffic generated by the proposed new use and adequate parking can be accommodated within the site;
- e) There is no significant adverse impact on neighbours through noise, light or other pollution, increased traffic levels or increased flood risk.

7.7 Tourism

Quorn has always been a staging post between the cities of Leicester and Nottingham. Hostelries exhibit genuine physical and photographic evidence and artefacts relating to their history. There is no attempt to recreate a faux environment to attract visitors. Interviews with



shops and amenities indicate that much trade and employment in the Parish occurs when people visit Quorn because of the rich heritage, historical connections, footpaths and landscapes.

Quorn is a beautiful rural parish to which walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other visitors are attracted. There are already several hotels, B&Bs and holiday lets available within the Parish and the business survey has identified planned and actual increases, partly through the advent of AirBnB.

The Parish is keen to extend a welcome to visitors whilst ensuring that their visit does not have a negative impact on parishioners - for example, in the context of traffic and parking. The offer to visitors may be enhanced over the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan through the development of activities, places to eat and stay in addition to infrastructure such as signage, seating, parking and other provision to welcome visitors to the Parish.

It is felt that tourism within Quorn, in its broadest sense, should be welcomed and effectively managed.

POLICY E5: TOURISM - Tourism and visitor economy development proposals will be supported where they do not have unacceptable adverse residential or visual amenity impacts.

Proposals that would result in the loss of tourism and leisure facilities will not be supported unless they are no longer viable or alternative provision is made available.

7.8 Broadband infrastructure

The modern economy is changing and increasingly requires a good communications infrastructure to maximise technological advances. High-speed Internet connectivity is driving business innovation and growth, helping people access services, and opening up new opportunities for learning. This is particularly important in rural settings, such as Quorn Parish, where better broadband enables improved access to an increasing number of on-line applications and services, provided by the public and private sector. This can help to significantly reduce social exclusion and create business and employment opportunities.

Quorn village has a fibre broadband cabinet, meaning all businesses and most households in the village have access to superfast broadband.

Communications technology is progressing at pace with new developments over the life of this plan being inevitable. The Parish wishes to take advantage of these developments for the benefit of its Parishioners.

POLICY E6: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE - Proposals to provide increased access to a super-fast broadband service (including future developments at present unforeseen) and improve the mobile telecommunication network that will serve businesses and other properties within the parish will be supported. This may require above ground network installations, which must be sympathetically located and designed to integrate into the landscape and not be located in or near to open landscapes.

All new developments should have access to superfast broadband (of at least 30Mbps) Developers should take active steps to incorporate superfast broadband at the pre-planning phase and should engage with telecoms providers to ensure superfast broadband is available as soon as build on the development is complete.

8 Traffic and Transport

8.1 Introduction:

The Soar valley has been a major transport corridor since Roman times and probably before.

Through the years, improvements in communications have altered its character and the need to widen the road route and to build raised embankments to cope with the regular flooding of the valley has compounded the visual impact in the landscape.

The Soar River and Grand Union Canal have provided links between the industrial areas and the centres of commerce but now are used mainly for recreation.

The Parish saw the arrival of two mainline rail routes linking north to south, the Midland Railway and the Great Central Railway. Although the Midland Main Line route passes through the parish the railway station that serves Quorn is situated in the Parish of Barrow upon Soar.

The Great Central Railway was closed as a commercial railway in 1969 and is now a popular heritage railway with a station 'Quorn and Woodhouse' situated in the village.

The main road through the village was turnpiked in 1726, became the A6 and continued to be the major north-south route, passing through the villages of Quorn, Mountsorrel and Rothley, until the 1990s when the Soar Valley (new A6) bypass was constructed.

8.2 Traffic Management:

For many years Quorn was effectively split into two settlements, divided by heavy traffic using the former A6. Following diversion along the Soar Valley by-pass (new A6), the volume of traffic through the village initially reduced and HGVs (except for loading) have been barred. However, this road still has the appearance of a trunk route and continues to divide the village visually and traffic volumes are now increasing along this route due to the village status as a 'service centre' and new housing developments in Quorn and the surrounding villages. Measures such as sympathetic re-surfacing and widening pavements to accommodate pushchairs, wheelchairs, cycleways and tree planting are needed to create a road which is in keeping with a village setting.

Traffic calming measures along the old road have cut vehicle speeds through the village centre but there is evidence that this has led to increased traffic along alternative minor routes such as Farley Way, Meynell Road, School Lane and Station Road and along Meeting Street and Chaveney Road.

The report on 'Vehicle Flows and Queues in Quorn' 16th and 23rd April 2018 (See supporting information) describes and analyses traffic flow measurements systematically taken by the transport theme group to determine the magnitude of traffic flows, prime routes taken and the length of traffic queues formed at key junctions in Quorn revealed significant pressures on the Parish road transport network, particularly at junctions of

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Loughborough Road, Farley Way and Woodhouse Road, and Loughborough Road and the One Ash roundabout.

At the same time, congestion around Rawlins Academy and St Bartholomew's Primary School has increased as the volume of students continues to rise resulting in increased car use and on street parking.

Within the village, many people have raised concerns about speeding and safety issues in Farley Way, Wood Lane, Woodhouse Road, Loughborough Road and Leicester Road. The Farley Way speed limit was set at 40mph before development with new housing areas and is now out of line with the rest of the village roads where the speed limit is set at 30mph. Residents expressed concerns that there are no pedestrian refuges and crossings on the Leicester Road. ('Road safety concerns at Quorn' see supporting information).



Other safety issues are caused by on-street parking on the village roads both in and out of parking restricted zones and parking on pavements. Also, although shop front parking has been marked out, including disabled provision, this is regularly abused. The level of Enforcement Patrols for parking restrictions does also have an impact on the level of compliance in the area.

Residents mentioned that the high number of road signs, particularly on the approaches to the village, is unsightly and confusing.

The Consultations and Questionnaires highlighted a high level of bus usage.

Our surveys show that people would like to see the current level of service maintained and more frequent bus services in the evenings and at weekends. Some would like to see the bus stops being better located and improved bus shelters and service information.



Quorn is served by the Barrow upon Soar railway station which is located on the Midland Main Line between Leicester and Loughborough. The station is served Monday to Saturday by East Midlands Trains, who operate local services from Leicester to Nottingham and Lincoln via Loughborough

and Newark. There is no Sunday service or late evening service.

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The Midland Main Line railway station serving Quorn is situated in the Parish of Barrow upon Soar and is linked to Quorn by road and two footpath/cycle routes.

POLICY TT1: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - Development proposals that would result in an increase in vehicular traffic on the rural highway network should:

- a) Be designed to minimise additional traffic generation and movement;**
- b) Incorporate sufficient off-road parking;**
- c) Provide any necessary improvements to site access and the highway network either directly or by financial contributions.**
- d) Provide any necessary improvements to site access and the highway network either directly or by financial contributions.**

8.3 Parking:

Quorn has suffered from a shortage of car parking spaces in the village centre for some time.

The problem has been exacerbated in recent times as the village has expanded, and it has become a popular venue for visitors to the many cafes, restaurants and bars and the gift shops that have become established in the village centre. The only public car park in Station Road is constantly near full capacity on weekdays and at weekends. Many residents have been frustrated by this and find it easier to drive to nearby villages to shop rather than to struggle to park in the village car park. The Stafford Orchard Park, Village Medical Centre and Parish Church are also served by this car park. Problems finding parking spaces are particularly bad when there are village functions, weddings or large funerals and during the evenings when people visit Quorn for a night out.

The Consultation Surveys and questionnaires highlighted that the lack of car parking was a major concern to residents. 52% of respondents to the questionnaire considered that an additional car park was required and 65% felt that the existing Station Road car park would be improved if a parking charging regime were introduced.

In 2017 Charnwood Borough Council carried out a 'Car Parking Site Availability and Deliverability Study' in which it identified a requirement for an additional 30 to 40 spaces in Quorn over the next 5 years. This report identified three possible car park sites, two owned by Charnwood Borough Council and the other in private ownership.

The theme group carried out several surveys of car parking in Quorn, the results of which are in the supporting information.

POLICY T2: PUBLIC CAR PARKING - Development proposals that would result in the loss of off-street car parking in the village of Quorn will not be supported unless:

- a) It can be clearly demonstrated that the loss of parking will not have an adverse impact on existing parking issues in the nearby area; or
- b) Adequate and convenient replacement car parking spaces will be provided nearby.

The Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals to:

- a) Develop a new car park at a suitable location in the village centre;
- b) Enhance the management of on-street vehicle parking provision and signage in the village centre.

8.4 Footpaths & cycle ways:

An extensive network of footpaths, bridle ways and jitties link most areas of the village and provides an attractive alternative to using the car for local visits. Some new estates are not connected by footpath and cycle ways to the network and it is important to ensure that the network is extended to embrace all future developments. These paths are well used, they link to open countryside and their flanking hedgerows ‘soften’ the built environment and provide a valuable wildlife habitat.

The Consultation Survey indicated strong support for the encouragement of residents to walk or cycle more around the village rather than the use of a car. A significant number of responses commented about the lack of dedicated cycle-ways and footpaths and wanted protection from traffic. There are four main pedestrian routes radiating from the village centre and these routes are used by residents and are a combination of Public Footpaths, Rights of way, tracks, pavements, etc. As well as serving the village community they are ancient links providing connections to the surrounding villages. The main residential areas of the parish are all within a fifteen-minute walk of the village centre.

The Consultation Events and Survey all indicated strong support for cycle use with over 80% of respondents indicating that they cycle for leisure and 13% to/from work. The ‘Leicestershire Cycle Map 2015’ indicates that there are no dedicated cycleways that lead directly into the village centre. However, Quorn is on the 390-mile National Cycle Route number 6 (Section 5 Milton Keynes to Derby) which does pass through the parish along Leicester Road and Loughborough Road. Secure cycle parking provisions in the village are limited.

Leading into and out of the village there are some cycle lanes which are of the type that are marked on the road. There is a short section of ‘off road’ combined pedestrian and cycleway on the pavement at the side of Meynell Road. All other cycling access is on the roads.

The Consultation Events and Survey all indicated strong support for maintaining/improving footpaths. 35.77% of respondents indicated that they use the footpath network daily and 33.80% weekly.

Outside the village important paths include 'The Slabs' which leads to Barrow and to towpath walks along the canal and River Soar. From Barrow Deep Lock a path crosses the flood plain back to Leicester Road. A footpath from Buddon Lane leads to Woodhouse Eaves and from Chaveney Road around Quorn House to Swithland Reservoir. There is also a path around One Ash towards Woodthorpe. These are valued amenities and contribute to the sense of community.

Some village developments are 'inward looking'; arranged around cul-de-sacs with no through roads or no footpath or cycleway access. Therefore, they are isolated from the wider village which encourages greater car use. The opportunity to link new developments with through routes which bind them into the village and relieve congestion and parking problems elsewhere is supported.

The theme group carried out manual counts and questionnaires the results of which are contained in the report 'Survey of Quorn footpaths and cycleways and their role in providing alternatives to car use' (See supporting information).

POLICY T3: FOOTPATHS - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, the existing network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the public benefit of the development clearly outweighs the harm.

Development proposals should consider, where appropriate, the improvement and where possible the creation of footpaths and cycleways to key village services.

9 Community Actions

During the development of the Plan, a number of Community Actions were identified that would help to improve our community and help satisfy wider community aspirations. They reflect future work activities that it is proposed be undertaken within the Parish which will involve a wide range of third parties alongside the Parish Council to help improve the Parish in line with the outcome of community consultation.

Community Actions are not planning policies and are not subject to Examination.

The Community Actions that have emerged through the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

Transport

TTCA 1: The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to liaise with Leicestershire County Council Highways Authority to assess the benefits and costs of improved traffic, pedestrian and cyclist management schemes at the 'One Ash' roundabout.

TTCA 2: The Parish Council, would welcome the opportunity to work with Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and local businesses to encourage residents and employees to reduce car usage and encourage residents and employees to use public transport, footpaths and cycleways and be proactive in promoting their use.

TTCA 3: The Parish Council will encourage Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council to ensure that public footpaths and pavements are well maintained, have adequate drainage and are well lit.

TTCA 4: The Parish Council in conjunction with Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council will encourage the introduction of directional signage for pedestrian routes to and from the village centre.

TTCA 5: The Parish Council will encourage the County Council Highways Authority to provide safe crossing areas on the School Lane and Leicester Road i.e. refuges, zebra or pelican type crossings.

TTCA 6: The Parish Council will encourage Leicestershire County Council to consider pedestrian and cycle access improvements to Barrow upon Soar including the repair/replacement of the raised footpath, provision of suitable lighting across the 'slabs' and improved cycleway signage/markings.

TTCA 7: The Parish Council will seek to prioritise the use of financial contributions, whether from Community Infrastructure Levy or negotiated obligations, for improvements to and enhancement of footpaths and cycleways including the provision for off-carriageway cycling where possible and cycle parking.

TTCA 8: The Parish Council working with Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council shall provide pavement and cycleway provisions on the northside of Farley Way to service new developments in this area.

TTCA 9: The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to work with Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council, the Primary School and Rawlins Academy to:

- a) minimise on road parking and congestion in the vicinity of the schools' entrances
- b) provide warning signage and establish 20mph speed limits on Loughborough Road in the vicinity of the Rawlins Academy.

TTCA 10: The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to work with with Leicestershire County Council Highways Authority and transport operators to maintain the current level of bus services and to encourage better availability of public transport in the evenings and at weekends.

TTCA 11: Measures to improve and join up pavements, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways into comprehensive networks will be supported by the Parish Council seeking developer contributions to:

- a) improve existing pavements, footpaths cycleways and bridleways, including stiles/gates;
- b) improve the public rights of way, cycle and bridle routes linking Quorn to the neighbouring villages.

TTCA 12: In the interest of road and pedestrian safety the Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to work with Charnwood Borough Council to ensure that:

- a) restricted parking zones are enforced and that
- b) the problem of 'on-pavement parking' is addressed
- c) a promotional campaign be undertaken to educate residents about the potential dangers of inconsiderate parking.

TTCA 13: The Parish Council working with Charnwood Borough Council or Leicestershire County Council as appropriate would encourage any works that:

- a) In the short term, improve the existing car park on Station Road by the introduction of 'pay and display' or similar regulated parking.
- b) Utilise the land alongside Leicester Road (Verge replacement, between Hall leys and The Mills) to provide extra car parking bays
- c) In the longer term and based upon the proposals already developed support additional sites for off road parking at land near to the village centre.

Environment

ENV 1: AREA OF SEPARATION – Quorn Parish Council working with Charnwood Borough Council and the Parish Council of Mountsorrel will cooperate to prevent coalescence of Quorn and Mountsorrel in the remaining undeveloped land in Mountsorrel parish north and south of Leicester Road.

ENV 2: IMPORTANT OPEN SPACE - The Parish Council will support and encourage Charnwood Borough Council, landowners, the community and other partners to secure the protection of the locations and features of the following sites through confirmation as existing, or designation as new, Open Space, Sport and Recreation (OSSR) sites in appropriate categories.

Springfield lake (inventory ref. A, OSSR category: Natural and semi-natural urban green space; Local Wildlife Site)

Quorn Mills Bowling Club greens and facilities (B; outdoor sports facilities)

The Banks (C; parks and gardens, civic space)

Churchyard garden (D; parks and gardens)

Sports fields and tennis courts (043; outdoor sports facilities)

Village allotments, Flesh Hovel Lane (075; allotments gardens etc.)

Rawlins Community College playing fields (091; outdoor sports facilities)

'Sculpture park' south of A6 footbridge (094; parks and gardens)

Riverside Park (094, 096-098, 100; outdoor sports facilities)

St Bartholomew's Primary School field (106; provision for children and young people)

Quorn Cricket Club field (Caves Field) (107; outdoor sports facilities)

Tom Long's Field

(108-110; natural and seminatural urban space, Local Wildlife Site)

Manor Hotel (127, outdoor sports facilities).

St Bartholomew's churchyard (995; cemeteries etc.)

Stafford Orchard Park, war memorial and gardens (800; parks and gardens, civic space)

Quorn war memorial garden (801; civic space)

'Brookside garden' (802, parks and gardens)

Meeting Street / brook-side spinney (803; natural and semi-natural urban green space)

Footpath open space, The Sandhills (804; amenity green space)

Fenny Lane open space and play-park (805; provision for children and young people, amenity green space)

Open space adjacent to Rawlins Community College playing field (806; amenity green space)

Loughborough School playing fields (128,129; provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities)

Wyke's Close play-park and open space (054; provision for children and young people, amenity green space)

'The Slabs' (101; amenity green space)

Baptist Church burial ground (807; cemeteries and burial grounds)

Roadside verges north of Farley Way (808, amenity green space)

Roadside verges south of Farley Way (809, amenity green space)

Footpath open spaces, Deeming Drive (810; amenity green space)

Footpath open spaces off Station Road (811; amenity green space)

Roadside verge and footpath open space off Fenney Lane (812, amenity green space)

Wide roadside verge on A6 slip road (813, amenity green space)

ENV 3: WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – In general conformity with the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network Strategy Vol. 5 (2010) covering the area from Leicester to Loughborough, the Parish Council and residents will endeavour to work with neighbouring parishes and the relevant Authorities to create a more connected and extensive network of wildlife corridors in the Plan Area at local, small scale.

Community Facilities

CA 1: Co-ordination of communication. The Parish Council will work towards rationalising the information available to Quorn villagers and improving communication for residents, welcoming newcomers and supporting enterprise in applying technological developments that aid communication.

CA 2: The Parish Council will support youth development initiatives that protect or enhance existing provision and proposals that open up new opportunities.

CA 3: The Parish Council will encourage and support local interests to form a working group to examine options that will address the shortage of burial spaces within Quorn.

CA 4: The Parish Council will work with the public on the future development of the Old School site taking into account the needs of the village for a community facility with reference to both leisure and commercial activity for all age groups.

CA 5: The Parish Council will encourage local interests to form a working group to examine the potential for the increase of tourism in the Parish.

10 Monitoring and Review

The Plan will last for a period of 18 years. During this time, it is likely that the circumstances which The Plan seeks to address will change.

The Plan will be regularly monitored. This will be led by Quorn Parish Council on at least an annual basis. The policies and measures contained in The Plan will form the core of the monitoring activity, but other data collected and reported at the Parish level relevant to the delivery of the Plan will also be included. The monitoring will have a particular focus on the delivery of new housing development in the neighbourhood area and its relationship to the strategic housing delivery targets set out in Policy CS1 of the Local Plan Core Strategy.

The Parish Council proposes to formally review The Plan on a five-year cycle commencing in 2023 or to coincide with the review of the Charnwood Local Plan if this cycle is different.

