

**Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan  
Submission Version**

**2020 – 2031**

**BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT**

**Appleton with Eaton Parish Council**

January 2021

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P=Planning Issue, I = Information, A = Approval, S = Scheme Design, T = Tender, C = Construction, Ar = Archive, FC = Final Construction

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to explain how the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan (AWENP) has been prepared in accordance with Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, (as amended).

1.2 This Statement addresses each of the five 'basic conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act (as amended).

1.3 The following documents constitute the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents in their entirety, which are being submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council in order to allow for subsequent independent examination, followed by a public referendum in the designated area for the Plan:

- The Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2031 dated December 2020 including Appendices;
- A map of the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area;
- This Basic Conditions Statement (December 2020);
- A Consultation Statement dated December 2020 detailing the extensive consultation with residents and other local stakeholders and statutory bodies throughout the development process;
- A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) carried out by the Vale of White Horse District Council (dated 4th March 2018). The conclusion of this Screening Statement was that the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan does not require either SEA or HRA Appropriate Assessment.

1.4 An evidence base (items 1-4 are appendices to the Neighbourhood Plan) comprising the following documents supports the Neighbourhood Plan and the associated statutorily required documents:

- 1 Village Character Assessment
- 2 Green Spaces Assessment
- 3 Village Facilities
- 4 Community Connectivity Assessment
- 5 Scoping Report and Evidence Base 2019

## 2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 The legal requirements for Neighbourhood Plans, and the related procedural obligations, are set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

2.2 As part of the process of writing this Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has had regard to the various legal requirements contained in the key legislation and following paragraphs of this statement describe those requirements and the compliance assessment.

### **Is Appleton with Eaton Parish Council a ‘Qualifying Body’ authorised to act in relation to the Neighbourhood Area?**

2.3 This requirement is described in Sections 61E(1) / 61E(6) and 61F(1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2.4 Appleton with Eaton Parish Council is a Qualifying Body and is therefore authorised to act in relation to the production of a Neighbourhood Plan covering the Neighbourhood Area.

### **Has the Neighbourhood Area been designated by the Vale of White Horse District Council?**

2.5 This requirement is described in Section 61G(1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2.6 The Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Area application was submitted on 24 February 2016 and was approved by the Vale of White Horse District Council Cabinet Member on 10 June 2016.

### **Does the designation follow an application for designation by the ‘Relevant Body’ (ie Appleton with Eaton Parish Council)?**

2.7 This requirement is described in Section 61G(1a) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

- 2.8 The Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood area application was submitted by Appleton with Eaton Parish Council who are the 'Relevant Body' for the purposes of Section 61G(1a).
- 2.9 The designated Neighbourhood area is indicated below in Figure 1, and the area is contiguous with the Parish boundaries:

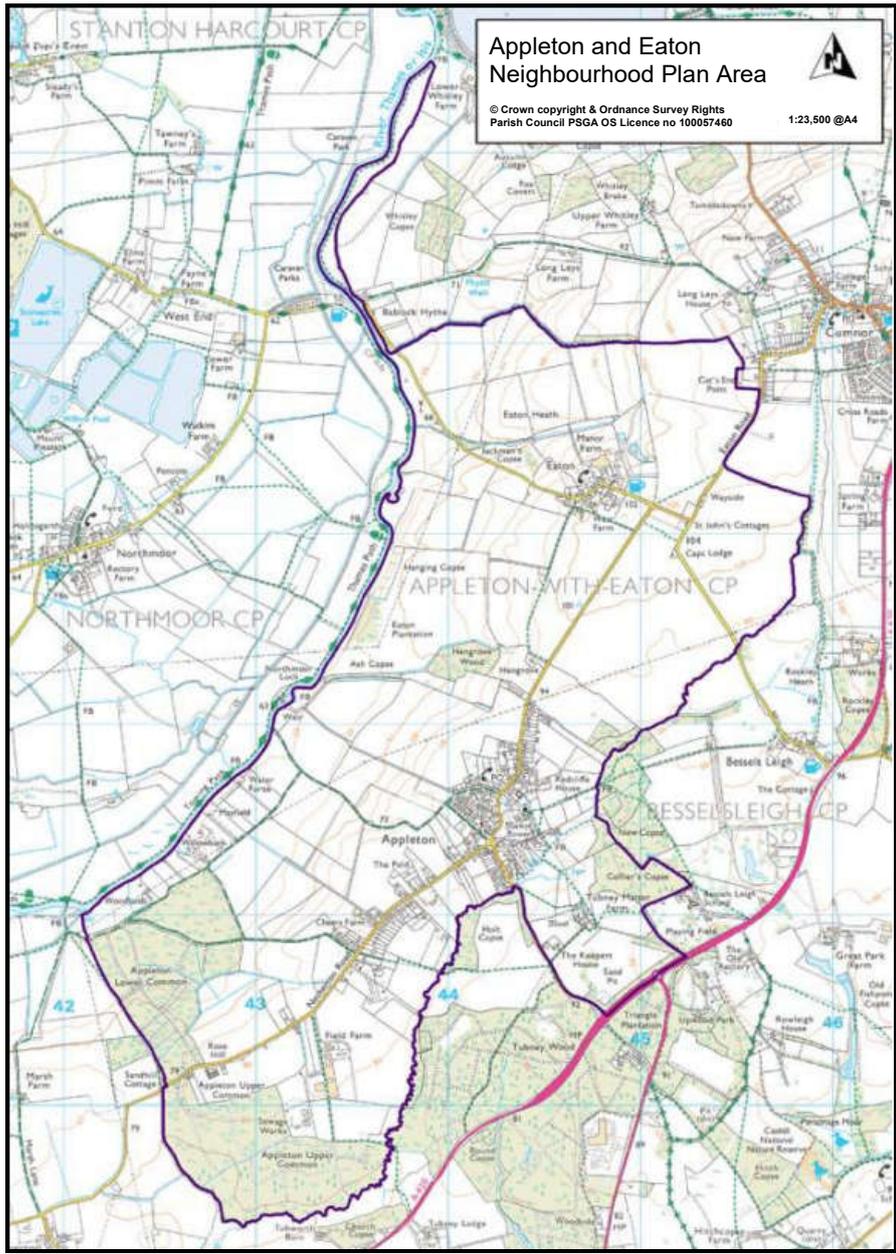


Figure 1: Designated Neighbourhood Area, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Do the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan and Basic Conditions Statement specify the period for which the Plan is to have effect?**

2.10 This requirement is described in Section 38B (1a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2.11 Both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Basic Conditions Statement specify the period over which the Plan is to have effect, namely the period 2020 to 2031. This aligns with the end date of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan Parts 1 & 2.

**Does the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan include provisions about development that is ‘Excluded Development’?**

2.12 This requirement is described in Section 38B (1b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). ‘Excluded Development’ is defined in Section 61K of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) as development that consists of a county matter (ie minerals and waste matters); or the carrying out of prescribed operations / development / development in a prescribed area; development within Annex 1 to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment; or nationally significant infrastructure projects.

2.13 The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain provisions about development that is ‘Excluded Development’.

**Does the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan relate to more than one neighbourhood area?**

2.14 This requirement is described in Section 38B (1c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2.15 The Neighbourhood Plan only related to one neighbourhood area – the details of this are provided above and the area designation letter and map can be found at this link<sup>1</sup>.

**Are there any other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood area?**

2.16 This requirement is described in Section 38B (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2.17 There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the designated Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood area.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/neighbourhood-plans/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/appleton-with-eaton-neighbourhood-plan/>

**Does the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan contain policies that relate to the development and use of land?**

2.18 The Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to the development or use of land and are therefore appropriate for inclusion within a Neighbourhood Plan. The policies relate only to the designated area.

**Does the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan meet the ‘Basic Conditions’?**

2.19 The requirement to meet ‘Basic Conditions’ is set out in Schedule 4B(8(1a)) to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), with the basic conditions themselves being set out in Schedule 4B(8(2a-g)).

2.20 The rest of this Statement is devoted to assessing the degree to which the submission Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4B.

2.21 For the sake of completeness, the basic conditions that are relevant to Neighbourhood Plans such as this are as follows:

- (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan
- (b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- (c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (in this case the Vale of White Horse District Council)
- (d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations
- (e) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites (this is a ‘Prescribed Condition’)

2.22 Basic Conditions (d) and (e) are addressed together in Section 6 of this Statement.

2.23 Schedule 4B (8(6)) also indicates that it is necessary to consider whether the neighbourhood plan is “*compatible with the Convention rights*”. The interpretation section (s.17) in Schedule 4B confirms that “*the Convention rights*” has the same meaning as in the Human Rights Act 1998. This will be considered in Section 6 of this Statement.

### 3 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL POLICY / ADVICE

- 3.1 The Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) dated February 2019. The Plan has also had regard to the guidance set out on the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) website, published by the Government in 2014 and updated on a rolling basis.
- 3.2 The Parish Council believes the Neighbourhood Plan is planning positively for future development in the Parish and that it is consistent with the provisions of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan Parts 1 and 2.
- 3.3 Set out in Table 1 below, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

**Table 1: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan Policies to National Policy and Advice**

| NP Policy Number and Title              | NPPF / NPPG paragraph   | Comment on Conformity  |
|---|---|--|
| ALL POLICIES                            | NPPF Paragraphs 12-14, 18, 21, 29-30, 37, 50, 99, 125, 136, 152 and 216 (neighbourhood planning).<br>NPPG Paragraphs 41-001-20190509-41-107-20200925 (neighbourhood planning).  | The neighbourhood plan has been drafted having regard to the extensive policy and guidance contained in the Government's NPPF and NPPG resources. The policy and guidance has fundamentally informed and shaped the policies in this neighbourhood plan as a result.   |
| Policy 1: Design, Character and Context | NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 124-132 (design), 148-153 (climate change), 170 (landscape), 184-202 (heritage).<br>NPPG paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-037-20190721 (landscape), 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change) and 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-020-20190723. | Although simple in it's wording, this policy draws upon evidence identifying the special qualities (its character and features) of the neighbourhood area to ensure that these qualities are reflected in all development proposals. Associated matters (climate change, landscape and heritage) are also relevant and inform the character of the area. |
| Policy 2: Local Green Spaces            | NPPF paragraphs 8, 99-101 (local green spaces) and NPPG paragraphs 37-005-20140306 to 37-022-20140306   | This policy allocates three sites as local green spaces, following an assessment that accorded with guidance on assessments in the   |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | (local green spaces).  | NPPF and NPPG. The policy ensures that the identified sites will be protected in accordance with national policy and guidance.  |
| Policy 3:<br>Village<br>Facilities                            | NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 83-84 (rural economy), 91-92, 94 (healthy / safe communities), 96-97 (open space / recreation), 182 (pollution) and NPPG paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation); 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs); 53-007-20190722 (delivering sufficient school places) | This policy not only seeks to protect existing village facilities but also to improve them and encourage provision of new facilities. This is central to the Government's theme for supporting a prosperous rural economy and encouraging healthy communities.                                |
| Policy 4:<br>Appleton<br>Community<br>Shop and<br>Post Office | NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 83-84 (rural economy), 91-92 (healthy / safe communities)   | This policy seeks to support the enhancement of the community shop and post office. This echoes the Government's objective of supporting a prosperous rural economy and encouraging healthy communities.  |
| Policy 5:<br>Public<br>Houses                                 | NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 83-84 (rural economy), 91-92 (healthy / safe communities) and NPPG paragraph 2b-007-20190722 (changes of use rights for retail uses)  | This policy seeks to protect the two remaining public houses in the neighbourhood area. This is consistent with the Government's objective of supporting a prosperous rural economy and encouraging healthy communities.  |
| Policy 6:<br>Business   | NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 80-84 (rural economy), 108-111 (transport); 180, 182 (pollution) and NPPG paragraphs 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs)  | The policy seeks to ensure that new / improved business developments avoid harming local amenity and highway safety, and in all other respects accord with the development plan. This approach has regard to the highway safety and rural economy policies and guidance in the NPPF and NPPG. |
| Policy 7:<br>Connectivity                                     | NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 84 (rural economy), 91 (healthy communities), 102-104 and 108-110 (transport), 127 (design).<br><br>NPPG paragraphs 37-004-20140306 (rights of way);  | This policy seeks to ensure that development is sustainably located and that proposals for new development are linked by new cycle and pedestrian routes to existing rights of way where possible.  |

## 4 CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 There are three over-arching objectives to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental (see NPPF paragraph 8). The three objectives are mutually dependent. In addressing the above basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan pays particular regard to NPPF, Paragraph 9, which requires that:

*“Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area”.*

4.2 In considering the economic role, the Plan seeks to retain and enhance local community infrastructure, to support new businesses to locate in the Parish, and to support existing businesses to expand. Together these initiatives will help to support local jobs remaining in the Parish.

4.3 Turning to the social role, the Plan’s policies wholeheartedly support the social element of sustainable development, with six of the seven policies operating to help meet the needs of the community, and at the same time guarding against the loss of valued community facilities.

4.4 In considering the environmental role, the Plan encourages development to respect the local character and features of the Parish, as well as protecting areas that are important to the community as important local green spaces.

4.5 The vision of the Neighbourhood Plan is to

*“... retain and enhance the rural setting and unique character of the Parish of Appleton with Eaton until 2031 and beyond and to ensure sustainable growth and good design which will conserve and enhance the special qualities and features that create this small and thriving community...”*

4.6 This translates through to the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan which are focussed on the environment (objectives 1 to 4), social matters (objectives 5, 6, 8 and 9) and economic matters (objective 7).

4.7 Table 2 below has assessed the Plan’s policies in terms of how it will deliver sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental aspects of

sustainability. It shows that the Plan’s policies address all three objectives in clear and logical ways.

4.8 The degree to which the policies meet key sustainable development objectives is scored in the table below. The scoring is as follows:

| Score     | Commentary   |
|-----------|--|
| <b>++</b> | The policy will result in a very positive effect on the sustainability objective in question |
| <b>+</b>  | The policy will result in a positive effect on the sustainability objective in question      |
| <b>0</b>  | The policy will result in a neutral effect on the sustainability objective in question       |
| <b>-</b>  | The policy will result in a negative effect on the sustainability objective in question      |
| <b>--</b> | The policy will result in a very negative effect on the sustainability objective in question |

**Table 2: Assessment of Sustainability of Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

| NP Policy Number and Title                        | Achievement of Sustainable Development  |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| ALL POLICIES                                      | Taken as a whole, all policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have taken, as their starting point, the instruction in paragraph 9 of the NPPF that “ <i>Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area</i> ”. |                                     |
| Policy 1: Design, Character and Context           | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>+</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>++</b>  |
| Policy 2: Local Green Spaces                      | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>0</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>++</b>  |
| Policy 3: Village Facilities                      | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>++</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>++</b> |
| Policy 4: Appleton Community Shop and Post Office | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>++</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>0</b>  |
| Policy 5: Public Houses                           | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>++</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>0</b>  |
| Policy 6: Business                                | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>++</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>++</b> |
| Policy 7: Connectivity                            | Economic<br>Social<br>Environmental   | <b>+</b><br><b>++</b><br><b>++</b>  |

## 5 CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

5.1 The Development Plan in the Vale of White Horse District area comprises the following:

- a) The Vale of the White Horse Local Plan Part1 2011-2031 (adopted December 2016)
- b) The Vale of the White Horse Local Plan Part 2 2011-2031 (adopted October 2019)

5.2 The policies of the AWENP are shown in Table. 3 below. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is accompanied by a statement describing the ‘general conformity’ with the strategic policies of the Development Plan.

5.3 Any Development Plan strategic policy that is not identified in Table 3 is not considered to be directly relevant to the AWENP.

**Table 3: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan Policies to the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan**

| <b>NP Policy Number and Title</b>       | <b>VWHDC Strategic Policy</b>   | <b>Comment on Conformity</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| Policy 1: Design, Character and Context | LPP1 Core policies CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP39 The Historic Environment, CP40 Sustainable Design and Construction, and CP44 Landscape | This policy is supported by evidence in the Village Character Assessment which forms part of the evidence base. The policy requires development proposals to respect the character and features of the area, in conformity with the policies in Local Plan Part 1.  |
| Policy 2: Local Green Spaces            | LPP1 Core policies CP45 Green Infrastructure and CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity  | This policy is supported by a detailed analysis of a number of potential Local Green Spaces in the Plan area. It draws on this evidence to identify and protect three areas as Local Green Spaces, setting out the approach to development in such locations. This is in conformity with the approach set out in the green infrastructure and biodiversity policies in Local Plan Part 1. |
| Policy 3: Village Facilities            | LPP1 Core policy CP32 Retail Development and Other Main Town Centre Uses and LPP2 Development policy 8 Community Services and Facilities              | This policy is supported by a Village Facilities analysis which forms part of the evidence base. The policy provides clear guidance about the retention or replacement of village facilities and their improvement, matters which are consistent with the policies of Local Plan Parts 1 & 2. Proposals which meet the community's needs whilst safeguarding amenity,                     |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   |   | character and access / traffic characteristics will be supported.   |
| Policy 4:<br>Appleton<br>Community<br>Shop and Post<br>Office | LPP1 Core policy CP32 Retail Development and Other Main Town Centre Uses and LPP2 Development policies 8 Community Services and Facilities, 13 Change of Use of Retail Units to Other Uses and 14 Village and Local Shops | This policy also draws on the Village Facilities analysis and is consistent with the Local Plan Parts 1 & 2 policies in seeking to support the enhancement of the shop as an existing community facility and the improvement of the shop and post office.   |
| Policy 5: Public<br>Houses                                    | LPP2 Development policies 8 Community Services & Facilities and 9 Public Houses   | This policy amplifies and builds upon the Local Plan Part 2 policies to encourage the retention of public houses other than in a limited range of circumstances.  |
| Policy 6:<br>Business   | LPP1 Core policies CP28 New Employment Development on Unallocated Sites, CP31 Development to Support the Visitor Economy and LPP2 Development policy 10 Ancillary Uses on Employment Land                                 | This policy seeks to encourage new business development and the improvement of existing businesses within Appleton, subject to the avoidance of adverse traffic and amenity issues.   |
| Policy 7:<br>Connectivity                                     | LPP1 Core policies CP33 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, CP35 Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking and CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness   | This policy is supported by a detailed analysis of the existing rights of way in the Plan area and the key valued access routes; this analysis forms part of the evidence base. The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals which provide new links are supported, subject to environmental considerations. |

## 6 COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS / PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

6.1 The EU Directives that are of most relevance to the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC
- The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- The Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC

6.2 Other Directives that are not directly relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU
- The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
- The Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)
- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

6.3 The fifth Basic Condition requirement that 'Prescribed Conditions' are met, means – for the purposes of this Neighbourhood Plan – that the making of the neighbourhood plan must not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which sets out the habitat regulations assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

6.4 This requirement was introduced by Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

6.5 Furthermore it is necessary to consider whether the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations which are the same as those set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

### **Human Rights Act 1998**

6.6 Dealing with this last matter first, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, being cognisant of the obligations in relation to Human Rights, have sought to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

6.7 These rights can be summarised as follows:

- The right to life
- The prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment
- Protection against slavery and forced labour
- The right to liberty and freedom
- The right to a fair trial and no punishment without law
- Respect for privacy and family life and the right to marry
- Freedom of thought, religion and belief
- Free speech and peaceful protest
- No discrimination
- Protection of property
- The right to an education
- The right to free elections

6.8 The process of developing this Neighbourhood Plan has involved a significant amount of public consultation, seeking to engage with as full a range of consultees as possible to ensure the greatest opportunity for discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan (see Consultation Statement for details).

6.9 This engagement with the local community (through consultation with a wide array of social, recreational, religious, voluntary, educational and business organisations) has provided many opportunities for the community to feedback and be involved in the process. This has meant that in having the opportunity to consider the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to seek to influence it where appropriate, respondents have been able to ensure, through discussion and feedback, that those rights identified above have been protected throughout the process.

6.10 In addition, as Appendix A demonstrates, an equalities impact assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan has been carried out to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements.

#### **Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment**

6.11 The Neighbourhood Plan steering group, on behalf of Appleton with Eaton Parish Council, submitted a formal request to the Vale of White Horse District Council

concerning the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Appropriate Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan in October 2017.

- 6.12 A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was issued by the Vale of White Horse District Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The conclusion of this Screening Statement was that the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan does not require either a SEA or a HRA Appropriate Assessment.
- 6.13 As a consequence, it is considered that the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and indeed it is compatible with, the SEA, Habitats and Wild Birds Directives, and that the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are met.

#### **Other EU Obligations**

- 6.14 Furthermore, the Plan does not contain policies which would have implications for air quality, water or waste and it is therefore compatible with the EU Directives dealing with those matters.
- 6.15 Finally, the Plan does not propose individual projects or projects of a scale which would trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and therefore the Plan is also compatible with the EIA Directive.

#### **Equality**

- 6.16 Neighbourhood Plans fall within the remit of the Equality Act 2010. This legislation seeks to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements: that policies and decision making do not discriminate either accidentally or deliberately.
- 6.17 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan is provided at in Appendix A to this document. The assessment concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan policies are likely to have a neutral impact.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Having undertaken an analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan in the preceding sections of this Statement, it is concluded that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

## APPENDIX A: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EQIA) FOR THE APPLETON WITH EATON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) transposed into English, Welsh and Scottish law the various European Equal Treatment Directives. It brought several earlier pieces of domestic legislation under a single Act, harmonising the level of protection that is afforded to all characteristics by new policies and programmes.

The Act aims to ensure that groups or individuals are not disadvantaged by decisions that fail to take account of their requirements. It names several 'protected characteristics', which could either accidentally or deliberately be discriminated against during the course of decision making or policy processes:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion and belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation; and
- Gender reassignment.

The EqIA assesses the implications of policies contained within the submission draft of the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan on groups with a protected characteristic. Guidance on the Equality and Human Rights Commission website ([www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)) has been considered. It provides an opportunity for the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council to amend policies that may have an undesirable impact on equality, prior to the submission of the Plan to the Vale of the White Horse District Council. Alternatively, the results, could inform any changes to the Plan that are recommended at a later stage by the independent examiner.

It should be noted that extensive community consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, which aimed to ensure all members of the community were able to contribute, as detailed in the Consultation Statement which accompanies the Plan.

The 7 policies within the Plan are focus on delivering development and land use outcomes on behalf of the whole community, whilst protecting the environment and social-economic well-being of the local area.

The following matrix includes an assesses each of the policies in the Plan for its likely impact on protected characteristics. Where a positive or neutral impact is identified, no change will be made to the policy. If a negative impact is identified, it is graded in terms of its severity:

- High impact, meaning that mitigation is unlikely to overcome the issue;
- Medium impact, meaning that future or existing mitigation could overcome the issue;  
or
- Low impact, meaning that the negative issue is considered insignificant.

### Policy AWE1 - Design, Character and Context

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

### Policy AWE2 - Local Green Spaces

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

### Policy AWE 3 - Village Facilities

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

**Policy AWE 4 - Appleton Community Shop and Post Office**

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

**Policy AWE 5 - Public Houses**

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

**Policy AWE 6 - Business and Employment**

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

**Policy AWE 7 - Connectivity**

| Protected Characteristic      | Positive | Neutral | Neg L | Neg M | Neg H |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Disability                    |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Marriage or civil partnership |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Pregnancy and maternity       |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Race                          |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Religion and belief           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sex                           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Sexual orientation            |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Gender reassignment           |          | x       |       |       |       |
| Comments                      |          | None    |       |       |       |
| Mitigation                    |          | None    |       |       |       |

In conclusion, no changes are required to policies in the Submission Draft of the Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan. The policies have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics. None of the impacts are considered to be negative and therefore no mitigation measures are proposed.