

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan 2012-26

Statement of Conformity - 25th June 2013

Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) [excluding 2b, c, 3 to 5 as required by 38C(5)] sets out that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet some basic conditions.

A draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:

(a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan,

(d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

(e) the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),

(f) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and

(g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood development plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood development plan.

The examiner is to consider whether the draft neighbourhood development plan is compatible with the Convention rights.

The following is a statement from the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee on the situation regarding the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan and is presented to help the Examiner in his consideration.

1. Edith Weston Parish Council is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for its own parish.
2. The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan (EWNDP) expresses policies relating to the development and use of land within the neighbourhood area as designated by Rutland County Council.
3. The period of the EWNDP is up to 2026 or 14 years. This means that the EWNDP aligns with the dates of the Rutland County Core Strategy 2006-2026 (adopted 2011) prepared by Rutland County Council [a more detailed statement on the conformity of the EWNDP is set out below].
4. There is no other Neighbourhood Plan in place in this neighbourhood area.
5. It is not considered that there is any benefit in extending the area for the referendum beyond the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.
6. The EWNDP does not include any provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure or waste matters.
7. Rutland County Council has confirmed that the screening exercise for the EWNDP concluded that there are no European sites that would be affected by the proposals within the EWNDP and it was agreed that an HRA was not necessary.
8. Rutland County Council has also advised that the EWNDP does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment but the EWNDP has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal based on the appraisal methodology used for the Rutland County Core Strategy.

9. A Statement of Public Consultation has been prepared and this sets out the comprehensive process by which the EWNDP has been developed from the views of the community within the Parish. The Statement of Public Consultation addresses how required and statutory consultation bodies for NDPs have been consulted. The Statement demonstrates that the Plan fully accords with the requirements of the Localism Act and meets the requirements of Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 [see Annex D]

Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Rutland County Core Strategy

Neighbourhood Plans must conform to the framework given by higher level planning policy. This means that the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan must be in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local policy, in particular Rutland County Council's Core Strategy.

The objectives and policies in the EWNDP have taken into account the requirements of the NPPF, the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Policies DPD. The EWNDP sets out policies and proposals and links them to the Core Strategy that the Plan aligns with and aims to deliver. The Plan also refers to relevant supplementary guidance that will help interpret the application of the Plan's policies.

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF sets out that, 'Neighbourhood Plans give communities the direct power to plan the areas in which they live through setting planning policies for the development and use of land. Parishes can use neighbourhood planning to set planning policies through neighbourhood plans to determine decisions on planning applications' 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' and 'which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities'.

The community of Edith Weston has responded energetically to the opportunity of creating a Neighbourhood Plan and the Minister for Planning's wish that 'Planning must be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which we live our lives'.

As we show in the Statement of Public Consultation, the views of the community on how the village and parish should develop in the future have become the foundation for the Plan's policies and proposals. We have borne in mind some specific requirements of the NPPF as we have considered the circumstances of the village and parish. Through the Residents Survey we have established an objective assessment of local needs. The information and views obtained has informed the emphasis in the Plan toward an approach which is aimed squarely at meeting local needs at an appropriate scale for the parish and which actively manages development pressures. There has been a clear mandate to the Steering Group from the Residents Survey and other commentary that any development should be limited, at a small scale, in keeping with the character of the village

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has maintained a continuous engagement with Rutland County Council about the Plan's proposals and its conformity with the Core Strategy.

Conclusions on conformity

The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.