

Local Plan

From: Carry Murphy <cMurphy5@anglianwater.co.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2024 11:56
To: Local Plan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Edith Weston NP (Reg 16 consultation) - Anglian Water response
04/06/24

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing regarding the current Regulation 16 consultation on the draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan. I should be grateful if you could save my contact details regarding future notifications on progress of the neighbourhood plan.

Anglian Water supports neighbourhood plans and their role in delivering environmental and social prosperity in the region. Anglian Water is the water and water recycling provider for over 6 million customers. Our operational area spans between the Humber and Thames estuaries and includes around a fifth of the English coastline.

The region is the driest in the UK and the lowest lying, with a quarter of our area below sea level. This makes it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including heightened risks of both drought and flooding, including inundation by the sea. Additionally, parts of the area have the highest rate of housing growth in England.

Anglian Water has amended its Articles of Association to legally enshrine public interest within the constitutional make up of our business – this is our pledge to deliver wider benefits to society, above and beyond the provision of clean, fresh drinking water and effective treatment of used water. Our Purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to Love Every Drop.

Anglian Water wants to proactively engage with the neighbourhood plan process to ensure the plan delivers benefits for residents and visitors to the area, and in doing so protect the environment and water resources. Anglian Water has produced a specific guidance note on the preparation of NPs found using this link under our Strategic Growth and Infrastructure webpage - [Strategic Growth and Infrastructure \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](#). The guidance also has sign posting/ links to obtaining information on relevant assets and infrastructure in map form, where relevant.

As the statutory sewerage provider for the neighbourhood plan area, Anglian Water makes the following comments in relation to ensuring the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to sustainable development and has regard to assets owned and managed by Anglian Water.

Policy EW-DH01 Sustainable Design

Water efficiency

As a region identified as seriously water stressed, we encourage plans to include measures to improve water efficiency of new development through water efficient fixtures and fittings, including through rainwater/storm water harvesting and reuse, and greywater recycling.

Whilst in this instance Anglian Water is only the statutory sewerage undertaker for the neighbourhood plan area, measures to improve water efficiency standards and include opportunities for water re-use and recycling (rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling) also reduces the volume of wastewater needed to be treated by our water recycling centres.

The Defra [Integrated Plan for Water](#) supports the need to improve water efficiency and the Government's [Environment Improvement Plan](#) sets ten actions in the Roadmap to Water Efficiency in new developments including consideration of a new standard for new homes in England of 100 litres per person per day (l/p/d) where there is a clear local need, such as in areas of serious water stress. Given the proposed national approach to water efficiency, Anglian Water encourages this

approach. This will help to reduce customer bills (including for other energy bills) as well as reduce carbon emissions in the supply and recycling of water.

It is noted that there is not a current Local Plan policy covering water efficiency requirements. Anglian Water suggests that further details on water efficiency could be included within Policy EW-DHO1 and/or the examples listed (page 44) of positive design features to help reduce carbon use.

Infrastructure requirements

Anglian Water supports requiring new development to be served by sustainable infrastructure provision and that does not result in a detrimental impact on infrastructure, including sewers and surface water and watercourse flooding.

The last paragraph on page 44 refers to the need for developers to contact Severn Trent Water at an early stage in planning, to ensure that there is sufficient time for a development site to be assessed and, if network reinforcements are required that there is time to develop an appropriate scheme to address the issues. We request reference in terms of contact needing to be made with Anglian Water is also included.

Developers are encouraged to engage in early discussions with our pre-development team [Developing \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk) so that connections or any upgrades to our network are addressed when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority. We will always recommend that SuDS are prioritised to manage surface water on site, to ensure that connections to a surface water sewer are only considered as a last resort, and any modelling and necessary upgrades are undertaken at the developer's expense.

Flooding and Sustainable Drainage

Bullet point 13 (page 44) - *Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be incorporated into the landscape design.*

Anglian Water is supportive of the measures to address surface water run-off, including the preference for this to be managed using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and requiring permeable surfaces for new areas of hardstanding within developments to align with the drainage hierarchy.

Such measures help to avoid surface water run-off from entering our foul drainage network, and connections to a surface water sewer should only be considered where all other options are demonstrated to be impracticable. Any requirements for a surface water connection to our surface water sewer network will require the developer to fund the cost of modelling and any upgrades required to accept the flows from the development.

Anglian Water encourages the use of nature-based solutions for SuDS wherever possible, including retrofitting SuDS to existing urban areas to enhance amenity and biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan area and contribute to green and blue infrastructure.

It is the Government's intention to implement Schedule Three of The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to make SuDS mandatory in all new developments in England. However, we welcome this policy to ensure SuDS measures are incorporated within new developments, until the Schedule is formally implemented and the necessary measures are in place.

Vehicle parking

Bullet point 14 (page 44) - *Hard surfacing should be kept to a minimum area and be water permeable.*

Anglian Water recognises the need to manage parking arrangements within Edith Weston. We recommend that off-street vehicle parking encourages permeable surfaces and green infrastructure to minimise surface water run-off from the introduction of hard-standing areas.

Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments

Anglian Water supports the policy of prioritising the delivery of biodiversity net gains within the neighbourhood planning area to support habitat recovery and enhancements within existing green and blue infrastructure. Anglian Water has made a corporate commitment to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10% against the measured losses of habitats on all AW-owned land.

As the neighbourhood plan progresses, there may also be benefit in referencing the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland [Making Space for Nature | Rutland County Council](#) as this will identify priority actions for nature and map specific areas for improving habitats for nature recovery.

Policy EW-GE02 Local Green Spaces

Anglian Water may have assets forming part of our water recycling network (rising mains and sewers) located with some of the areas designated as Local Green Spaces under EW-GE02. Maps of Anglian Water's assets detailing the location of our water and

