



Consultation Statement

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October 2024

This document has been produced by the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group acting on behalf of the Aston Abbotts Parish Council

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1. Summary

This document provides details of the consultation process adopted up to the publication of the Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for the submission stage for the Regulation 16 Consultation.

The development of the Plan was first discussed at a Parish Council meeting in September 2020. Key milestones and decisions made by the Parish Council over the past four years, which have culminated in the publication of the Plan, are summarised in Section 2.

The primary channels used to keep the community informed about Neighbourhood Plan activities are a local magazine called The Chronicle, an Email Postbox which is a local mailing list, and a village Facebook page. Details about the communication methods are provided in Section 3.

The main public events leading up to the Regulation 14 Consultation included:

- Village Meeting, 14th September 2021
- Parish-wide Survey, 11th April to 7th May 2022
- Annual Parish Meeting, 26th April 2022
- Formation of the Steering Group, 21st November 2022
- Annual Parish Meeting, 26th April 2023
- Display board at the Village Fete, 22nd July 2023
- Showcase Event in the village hall, 7th December 2023
- Annual Parish Meeting, 30th April 2024

Details of these events are provided in Section 4.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was approved for Regulation 14 Consultation at an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th May 2024. The consultation period ran from 1st July to 19th August 2024. All parish residents were notified of the consultation through multiple channels, including a flyer delivered to every household, an announcement via the Email Postbox, and a post on the Aston Abbots Facebook page.

To further encourage participation, two drop-in sessions were held at the Village Hall. During the consultation, 10 comments were submitted by residents – nine through the online feedback form and one via letter from a resident's representative. Additionally, Buckinghamshire Council submitted 25 comments, and statutory bodies provided eight responses.

Details of the Regulation 14 Consultation process can be found in Section 5. The feedback received, along with the Parish Council's responses and subsequent changes to the Plan, are outlined in Section 6.

It should be noted that the development of the Plan was primarily guided by the parish-wide survey conducted in the second quarter of 2022. This survey was distributed to 181 households, of which 85 responded - nearly 50%. This strong response highlights the community's enthusiasm and commitment to shaping the future development of Aston Abbots.

The survey covered the following topics:

- Housing
- Economy
- Communication
- Infrastructure
- Private Transport
- Environment
- History and Ecology

For more details on the questionnaire and the results, please refer to Section 7.

2. Parish Council Meetings and Timeline

All minutes from Parish Council meetings are made available on the Aston Abbotts Parish Council Website. The following summarises the discussions and decisions which instigated and oversaw the programme to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

1st September 2020: A Unitary Councillor *“raised concerns regarding the proposed new planning deregulation consultations which could affect the VALP and Neighbourhood Plans”* and more information would be provided at the next meeting.

20th October 2020: During the Unitary Councillors’ Reports, the following was minuted: *“The Government new planning deregulation is now in effect and local councillors are urged to attend training on this as soon as it is available. The implications are significant, as the Government looks to relax the existing planning policies in favour of Forward Plans and permitted development. Neighbourhood Plans do offer some protection from development within the immediate locality, however Aston Abbotts does not have one.”*

19th January 2021: As an agenda item, the following was minuted: *“[A Councillor] suggested that proposed changes to Planning Regulations may well impact on potential development in and around the village. [A Unitary Councillor] advised the Parish Council to give this careful consideration and research Parishes that have one prepared. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would speak with Parishes who have already completed a Plan to understand the level of work involved, related expense and to establish what support and help may be available”*

13th April 2021: It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan would be carried over for consideration by the new council following the elections scheduled for 6th May 2021.

29th June 2021: It was resolved that the Parish Council would hold a village meeting after 19th July, assuming Covid regulations were sufficiently lifted.

10th August 2021: It was agreed that a village meeting will be held 14th September to brief the community of the role and importance of the Neighbourhood Plan.

22nd September 2021: As a result of good attendance and positive reception of a Neighbourhood Plan at the meeting of 14th September, the Parish Council resolved to undertake a survey within the village.

18th January 2022: The following was minuted: *“Members agreed to form a steering group (the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group) of Cllrs Baylis, Hall & Plested, in order to get this project fully underway. Additional members may be recruited to the group once the village survey is complete & PC members may stand down. Cllr Hall will progress with the survey and the Clerk will complete the grant application”*.

8th March 2022: It was agreed that the survey should be circulated prior to the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26th April 2022. As a result, the survey ran from 11th April to 7th May 2022.

11th October 2022: The survey used a paper-based questionnaire, and the data entry of all 85 responses, along with the subsequent analysis, was conducted between May and September. At the October meeting, the following was minuted *“Cllr Hall is speaking with those who have suggested they may volunteer [for the steering group], he will also publish the results of the survey”*

22nd November 2022: It was reported that *“5 residents and 2 councillors attended the initial Steering Group meeting”*

10th January 2023: It was reported that *“the Terms of Reference have been agreed, the next Steering Group meeting will be a workshop to start to scope out the Plan.”*

21st June 2023: It was reported that *“the Design Code Document is in preparation. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will have a presence at the village Fete.”*

18th October 2023: The Parish Council were advised that *“all green spaces and heritage sites have been defined and the settlement boundary has been agreed. The next step will be to present the plan to date at a public meeting.”*

29th November 2023: It was reported that *“a Neighbourhood Plan Showcase is set for 7th December in the Village Hall”*

6th March 2024: It was reported that *“that the final drafting was with [our consultant]. The final draft would then be circulated within the council for final comment before full consultation in May.”*

24th April 2024: It was agreed to hold an Extra-ordinary meeting on the 17th May for the PC to give the plan it’s full approval and submit the Plan for Regulation 14 Consultation.

17th May 2024 EGM: It was minuted that *“Councillors unanimously RESOLVED to approve and adopt the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the related Evidence Reports.”* It was also agreed that *“the Parish Council would aim to begin the 6-week Consultation period during week commencing 3rd June. The plan will be communicated to local consultees via a household flyer & the Parish Council website which will include the response form.”*

26th June 2024: Technical difficulties with constructing the online feedback form for the consultation meant that the start of the consultation period was delayed. The Parish Council were advised that the flyers announcing the consultation would be distributed over the weekend of 29th/30th June with the consultation starting on the Monday 1st July.

18th September 2024: It was reported that *“a total of 38 comments, and 8 submissions from statutory consultees, were received during the Regulation 14 consultation period and the Steering Group had agreed the required changes to the plan. [Cllr Hall] is proposing to meet with Buckinghamshire Council to discuss the next steps. Cllr Hall proposed an EGM for 2nd October for the PC to sign off the Neighbourhood Plan prior to submission to Buckinghamshire Council for the Reg 16 Consultation process.”*

2nd October 2024 EGM: The Neighbourhood Plan was approved & accepted by the Parish Council and it was unanimously agreed that it be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council for Regulation 16 Consultation.

3. Methods of Communication

The two most widely used methods of communication for the community are the Chronicle magazine, and the Aston Abbotts Postbox.

The Chronicle Magazine is highly valued by the community. It typically runs to 40 plus pages, and unlike many other small parish newsletters, it is not dominated by advertising. Typically, it is largely filled with articles from the residents which normally occupy around 75% of the publication. The Chronicle is hand-delivered throughout the parish every month except for August.

The Aston Abbotts Postbox is a local mailing list for people wanting to share information. Any resident can submit a notice which is then sent to all registered subscribers. There are approximately 200 subscribers.

There is also an Aston Abbotts Community Facebook Group which has about 570 members.

The Parish Council hosts an Annual Parish Meeting, usually scheduled for April or May. During this meeting, the Parish Council, Unitary Councillors, Community Board, and various clubs and associations within the parish provide updates and summaries of their activities over the past year and share information about upcoming events.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been an agenda item on all Parish Council meetings. Notification of all Parish Council meetings are provided using the Parish Council Notice Board, the Email Postbox and the Parish Council Website.

During the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Email Postbox, Facebook and the Chronicle were the main form of communication. At the point the Plan was published for pre-submission consultation, all documents were placed on dedicated pages on the Parish Council website and flyers were distributed to all households.

4. Overview of Activities Prior to Regulation 14 Consultation

4.1. Background

A village plan was produced in 2014, the development of which was well supported by the community. It was produced with guidance from Community Impact Bucks and the ACRE Community Led Planning Toolkit.

The Aston Abbots neighbourhood area was formally designated on 8th July 2015 although work on developing the Neighbourhood Plan was not instigated until late 2021. The topic was first raised at the Parish Council meeting of 1st September 2020.

4.2. Village Meeting 14th September 2021

As a result of further discussion at Parish Council meetings, it was agreed to hold an open village meeting in September 2021 at which a briefing was provided to explain the role and importance of a Neighbourhood Plan. Details of this meeting are provided in Appendix A.

Following positive feedback from the meeting, it was resolved to undertake a detailed survey of all residents within the Parish.

4.3. Parish-wide Survey April 2022

The content of the questionnaire for the parish-wide survey was developed over the last quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. The community were informed of the survey using the Email Postbox and the Chronicle in April 2022 as shown in Appendix B.

The questionnaire was distributed by hand to households within the parish. The information on the outside of the envelope containing the questionnaire was as shown in the figure below:



Shortly after the questionnaire was distributed, the Annual Parish Meeting was held on 26th April at which a further presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan was provided. The response to the survey was discussed at a Parish Council Meeting on 10th May. Information related to these meetings is provided in Appendix C.

For more details on the questionnaire and the results, please refer to Section 7.

4.4. Formation of the Steering Group

A Steering Group was intended to be formed shortly after receiving all responses to the questionnaire. However, due to the paper-based format of the questionnaire and the high response rate of nearly 50% of households, collating the results into a presentable and meaningful format took several months. It was not until November 2022 that the results were fully captured, at which point it was deemed the right time to form the group.

The first meeting of the Steering Group was held on 21st November 2022. Notices related to the formation of the Steering Group are provided in Appendix D.

4.5. Annual Parish Meeting April 2023

The Chair of the Steering Group provided an update at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th April 2022 at which the focus was on the vision for the plan and overview of the topics and aspirations.

Details of the information covered in the presentation are provided in Appendix E.

4.6. Village Fete July 2023

An annual village fete is held on the village green at the end of July. This is a well-attended event attracting people throughout the parish and surrounding areas. Refreshments are provided in the village hall. A roller banner display was placed adjacent to the entrance of the hall.

The content of the display is shown in Appendix F.

4.7. Showcase Event 7th December 2023

A showcase event was organized for 7th December 2023 in the village hall. The community was informed about this event through an article in the December issue of the Chronicle, which detailed the progress of the Plan's development. Notices were also posted on Facebook and the Email Postbox.

A large display panel featuring five A3 posters and three A2 posters was assembled for the event. The event was scheduled for a Thursday to coincide with the weekly coffee group held on Thursday mornings. The display panel was available for coffee group attendees to view, and the main showcase event took place in the evening.

All information related to the showcase event can be found in Appendix G.

Approximately 25 residents attended the coffee group, and a similar number attended the evening showcase event.

4.8. Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

At the time of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting, which was held on 30th April, the pre-submission draft of the plan was nearing completion. As part of the Neighbourhood Plan update, emphasis was placed on the importance of the forthcoming public consultation with a call for all to participate in the public consultations and referendum.

The speaker's notes for the meeting are provided in Appendix H

5. Regulation 14 Consultation Process

5.1. Preparation

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was approved for Regulation 14 Consultation at an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th May 2024. Following this approval, the Plan, along with all associated documents, was made available on dedicated pages of the Aston Abbotts Parish Council website. These pages included detailed information about the Regulation 14 Consultation process and an online feedback form to gather responses. In addition, hard copies of the documents were placed in the Village Hall and the Church, for residents to access.

The content of the web pages is shown in Appendix I.

5.2. Notification

The consultation period ran from 1st July to 19th August 2024. All parish residents were notified of the consultation through multiple channels, including a flyer delivered to every household, an article in The Chronicle, an announcement via the Email Postbox, and a post on the Aston Abbotts Facebook page. These notices are shown in Appendix J.

Statutory Consultees were notified using the email template shown in Appendix K. The list of Statutory Consultees can be found in Section 6.3.

5.3. Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

To ensure the community was well-informed, an eight-page Guide and Summary booklet was produced, designed to serve as a clear and concise introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan. This booklet provided an overview of the Plan's purpose and highlighted its key elements. It was distributed through the village Email Postbox and made available on the Neighbourhood Plan website for easy access. A copy of the notice introducing the booklet, along with the booklet itself, can be found in Appendix L.

5.4. Drop In Sessions July 2024

To further encourage engagement, two drop-in sessions were organized at the Village Hall. The first took place on Sunday, 14th July, from 15:30 to 16:30, but attendance was very low, with only three residents present due to competing events, including the Wimbledon Men's Final and the build-up to the UEFA Euros Final between England and Spain.

The second session, held on Thursday, 25th July, from 19:30 to 20:30, saw a notably higher turnout, with 19 residents in attendance. The atmosphere was positive, with attendees expressing strong support for the Plan. The Steering Group received widespread appreciation for their efforts, with many praising the extensive work that had gone into developing the Plan.

Details of the display boards and photographs are included in Appendix M.

5.5. On completion

On completion of the Regulation 14 Consultation, the community were provided with an update on the response to the consultation and informed that the Plan would soon be submitted for Regulation 16 consultation.

An extract of The Chronicle, showing the article, is provided in Appendix N.

6. Regulation 14 Consultation Comments and Response

During the consultation period, a total of 10 comments were submitted by residents, nine of these were submitted via the online feedback form, and one was received by letter from a resident's representative. Additionally, Buckinghamshire Council provided 25 comments, and eight responses were submitted by statutory bodies.

The feedback received, along with the responses and any necessary amendments, are summarised in the following sections.

6.1. Residents' Feedback

There were nine comments submitted via the online feedback form, and one submission was received by letter from a representative of a resident.

The following table shows the result of the assessment of the ten comments received.

Response type	Qty
No changes to plan required	4
Minor changes to correct typographical errors or minor omissions	4
Comment requiring noteworthy change	1
Comprehensive representation but requiring no change	1

Table 1 on page 10 provides details of both the comment requiring noteworthy change and the comprehensive representation that did not require change.

For completeness, the remaining residents' comments are provided in Table 4 in Appendix O, Section O.1 (Pages 105 to 107).

Table 1 – Noteworthy Residents’ Comments and Reponses

ID	Doc Ref	Page No	Feedback	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
009	Figure 6 Settlement Boundary	37	<p>Comment</p> <p>During the second drop-in session, it was noted that the land to the west of The Old Vicarage, though within the settlement boundary, contains some agricultural land planted as woodland. Consequently, not all of that area should be included in the settlement boundary.</p>	<p>It is a valid observation and has been addressed as part of the response and to comment from Buckinghamshire Council DM Team against Policy SD1, Page 23 which details the changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
010	Policy SD1	24	<p>See Appendix P, Section P.1 of this document for the Walsingham Planning representation in full.</p> <p>The representation, in summary, states that the settlement boundary is overly restrictive and has not been justified.</p> <p>There is no cap on the number of dwellings through VALP or SD1 and the settlement boundary would not allow multiple small-scale sites to come forward. The majority of respondents to the questionnaire agree there is a need for housing in the village.</p> <p>Land owned by their client could provide a residential development and would comply with VALP D4 but is located outside of the proposed settlement boundary which makes the NP unsound.</p> <p>Policy SD1 would restrict affordable housing on exceptions sites and the draft NP is silent on this.</p> <p>The clients did not receive a copy of the questionnaire which raises concerns that the local community have not been properly engaged.</p> <p>The clients did not receive a copy of the questionnaire which raises concerns that the local community have not been properly engaged.</p>	<p>The settlement boundary has been carefully drawn up and is evidenced and justified in the relevant Evidence Paper.</p> <p>There is no requirement either nationally or through VALP for housing development to be allocated within the NP.</p> <p>NPs are not required to be ‘sound’, they have to meet the basic conditions including general conformity with national policy and strategic policies in the relevant Local Plan. The NP meets these tests.</p> <p>‘Exceptions’ affordable housing sites are by exception i.e. they are exceptions to policy, so if a scheme was considered appropriate by BC, the NP would not prevent such a scheme coming forwards for affordable housing although Aston Abbotts is not a sustainable location for such a development due to its lack of facilities.</p> <p>As detailed in this document, the community were informed of the survey using the Email Postbox and the Chronicle. The questionnaires were hand delivered to every household based on the electoral role, including the property in question and the properties of the residents referred to in the letter.</p>	<p>No change to the Neighbourhood Plan</p>

6.2. Buckinghamshire Council Comments

There were 25 comments submitted by Buckinghamshire Council. The following table shows the result of the assessment of the comments.

Response type	Qty
No changes to plan required	7
Minor changes to correct typographical errors or minor omissions	8
Comments requiring noteworthy changes	8
Noteworthy comment but requiring no change	2

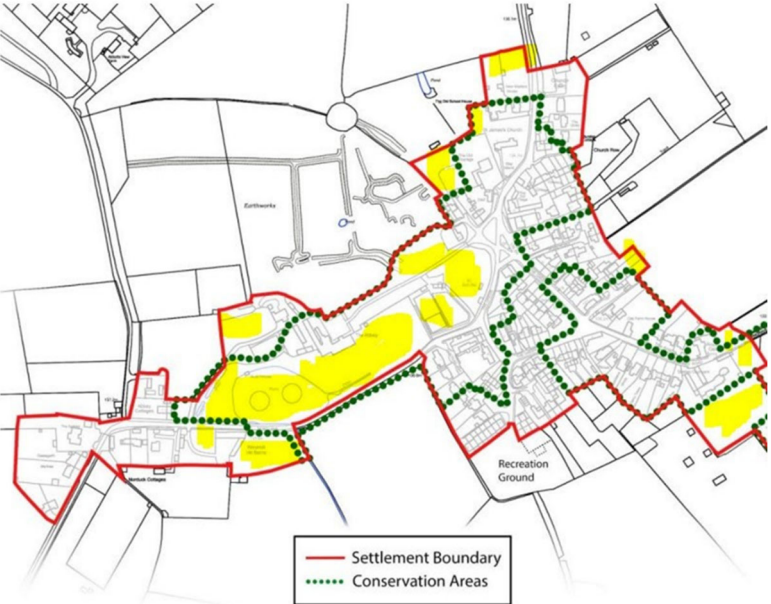



Table 2 on pages 12 to 15 provide details of both the comments requiring noteworthy changes and the two noteworthy comments requiring no change.

For completeness, the remaining Buckinghamshire Council comments are provided in Table 5 in Appendix O, Section O.2 (Pages 108 to 110).

Table 2 – Noteworthy Buckinghamshire Council Comments and Responses

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
Planning Policy	1.5	2	And in the case of Aston Abbots - add that The Council has carried out an SEA HRA Screening consultation during June 2024 and will shortly prepare the screening outcome.	Agree	Added to 1.5: 'The Council carried out SEA HRA Screening and a report was published in July 2024 which confirms that no full Assessment is required.' Add the following subsection to Annex 3 (Supporting Documents): 'Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening report Buckinghamshire Council undertook SEA and HRA screening and produced a report dated 24 July 2024, Version 1.1. This report can be viewed via the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the Aston Abbots Parish Council website (https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk).'
Planning Policy	2.1	4	Please add reference to a Draft NPPF being prepared by the new Government - it will be for consultation in summer-autumn 2024 and so not replace the December 2023 version until it is adopted.	Agree	Added new para: '2.2 As of June 2024, a Draft NPPF is being prepared by the new Government which will be for consultation summer-autumn 2025 and will not replace the December 2023 version until it is adopted.'
Planning Policy	3.7	6	For spatial context, there should be details provided of where the next available facilities are even if it is a settlement outside of Aston Abbots parish.	Agree	Amended final sentence to ' Residents have to travel to nearby towns and villages such as Wingrave, Wing, Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard for shopping, post office, education and health facilities.'
Planning Policy	TT1	33	To be clear on parking standards, these are in the VALP Appendix B. Of course, these are expected to be replaced by more up to date standards for the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire. However, in the interim it would be clearer for the neighbourhood plan to reference which parking standards it is directing the reader to use.	Agree. Add in reference in text, but not the policy, so that if the standards change, the policy remains up to date.	Added to end of para 12.5: '(currently set out within VALP Appendix B).'

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
Development Management (DM)	Policy RC1	17	This policy refers to “boundary treatment and landscaping schemes are carefully designed so as maintain the rural character of the area”. Is there opportunity to link this through to what ‘carefully designed’ may mean in terms of the boundary treatments referred to in the design code	Agreed	Added new sub subparagraph: “7.3 Accompanying the Neighbourhood Plan is a Design Guide which identifies the elements which contribute to the rural character of the Parish. The Design Guide must be adhered to when proposing new development (see Policy SD2).”
DM	Policy HE1	19	The wording of this policy does not currently reflect the terminology in the NPPF used to assess the impacts on designated heritage assets i.e. refer to significance and levels of harm. In addition, the wording “Development should be of an appropriate scale and mass for the immediate area;” what if a development isn’t. Would it more appropriate to word the policy ‘Development shall be supported where the scale and massing responds and reflects the immediate area’? i.e. to make it clear that if a proposal does not, then it shall not be supported. Should Policy HE1 refer to the appropriate map showing the boundary of the conservation area?	Noted. There is no need to reference the Conservation Area in the Policy, it is referenced in the text and is already a formal designation.	Changed first bullet point in Policy HE1 to: ‘Development will be supported where the scale and massing respond to and reflect the immediate area.’
DM	Policy NE2	22	‘New development’ – should this term be defined /clarified as the national requirements have exclusions such as householder scale development proposals. Currently it seems the policy is worded to go beyond national requirements.	All new development in the Parish, including household extensions etc has the potential to affect biodiversity. However, biodiversity net gain will only be applied in certain circumstances.	Changed first sentence of Policy NE2 to: ‘New development will be required to protect and enhance existing natural features of sites and where appropriate provide at least 10% net gain in biodiversity.’

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
DM	Policy SD1	24	<p>Suggest the settlement boundary could be tightened further, including to exclude some of the larger gardens etc. Have highlighted in yellow some areas which could be considered whether these remain included or are excluded in terms of facilitating new development.</p> <p>Settlement Boundary and Conservation Areas</p> 	<p>The settlement boundary has been carefully drawn up taking into account current uses of land as evidenced in the relevant background evidence report which accompanies the NP. It is important that the settlement boundary is not drawn so tightly that it would prevent any type of development taking place within it, this would not support the basic condition that NP's should contribute towards sustainable development.</p> <p>The boundary has been reviewed. Land at the rear of 59, The Green which comprises planted woodland rather than a garden area is to be excluded from the settlement boundary (with support from the landowner).</p> <p><i>The changes to the associated maps were also made in the Housing and Settlement Boundary evidence report (Figs. 1 and 3).</i></p>	<p>Settlement boundary (Figure 6) amended from this:</p>  <p>To this:</p>  <p>PLUS:</p> <p>Page 37, Fig. 7 - Consequential change to the CA1 Character Area to exclude the woodland:</p> 

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
Archaeology	HE2	18/19/20	<p>This policy seeks to protect heritage assets, but refers only to buildings and structures, and does not include archaeological sites. A heritage policy should include all heritage assets.</p> <p>We would suggest that Policy HE2 recommend that development proposals should, as a minimum, consult with the Historic Environment Record (HER) and consider the impact on the whole archaeological resource, and not just buildings and structures. This would be in accordance with paragraph 200 of the NPPF which states that in determining applications “As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.”</p>	Noted. However, this issue was considered at the beginning of the NP process and these archaeological assets are already protected under national and local plan policies	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Archaeology	Figures		We would recommend that one of these maps include the Archaeological Notification Areas within the NP area. These can be found at Map - Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal	See above	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

6.3. Statutory Consultees Submissions

The table below indicates where responses were received from statutory consultees.

Statutory Consultee	Response Received?
Buckinghamshire Council Neighbourhood Planning	No
Cublington Parish Council	No
Wing Parish Council	No
Wingrave Parish Council	No
Whitchurch Parish Council	No
Bierton Parish Council	No
Homes England	No
Natural England	Yes
Historic England	Yes
Environment Agency	No
Network Rail	Yes
National Highways	Yes
National Gas	Yes
National Grid	Yes
UK Power Networks	No
Anglian Water	Yes
Thames Water	Yes
Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce	No
National Health Service	No
South Central Ambulance Service	No
Buckinghamshire Disability Service	No
Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership	No

The responses to the statutory consultee submissions are presented in Table 3 on page 17.

Table 3 – Statutory Consultee Submissions and Responses

Consultee	Submission	Response	Changes to the Plan
Historic England	See Appendix P, Section P.2	Standard response, no specific comments on the Pre-Submission NP	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Natural England	See Appendix P, Section P.3	Standard response, no specific comments on the Pre-Submission NP	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Network Rail	See Appendix P, Section P.4	Standard response, no specific comments on the Pre-Submission NP	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Thames Water	See Appendix P, Section P.5	Standard response, agreeing with the section on sustainable development but also asks for additional detailed policies /text. Given that the potential for large development in the Parish is limited and that any such proposals will require planning permission and Local Plan policies cover the same issues, it is not considered necessary to add the proposed additions into the NP.	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Anglian Water	See Appendix P, Section P.6	Detailed comments have been made on the NP and Anglian Water are generally supportive of the policy ambitions within the NP subject to the proposed amendments to the Design Code. It is not considered necessary to add additional information on such detailed measures in the Design Code. However, a reference to VALP policy should be added to the Plan.	Added to paragraph Page 27, para 10.24 after 'water resources': 'VALP policy I5 sets out the requirements for water resources and wastewater infrastructure including a standard for household water consumption.'
National Gas	See Appendix P, Section P.7	Suggests no changes to the NP, but states there is a Gas Transmission pipeline within the Parish. Noted	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
National Grid	See Appendix P, Section P.8	No National Grid Assets within the Parish	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
National Highways	See Appendix P, Section P.9	No comment	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

7. 2022 Parish-wide Survey

A questionnaire was delivered to 181 households with 85 completed questionnaires being returned. As a result of the good return (nearly 50%), the response to the parish-wide survey has been the main source of information that has guided the development of the Plan.

The collated results were first published as a preliminary report. The preliminary report contained only the consolidate “tick boxes”. A copy of this version is provided in Annex A which also includes a copy of the questionnaire that was distributed.

The full report, which includes all comments provided by respondents, has been published and is available as an evidence report.

Below is a summary of the demographics of the responding households (Section 7.1) and a top-level summary of the results (Section 7.2).

7.1. Demographics

Number of members within the household

	Qty 1	Qty 2	Qty 3	Qty 4	Total
Number of adults?	23	57	2	2	151
Number of school-age children?	8	3			14
Number of pre-school-age infants?	2				2
					167

What is the gender and ages of all members of the household?

	Age not given	Under 12	12 to 17	18 to 29	30 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 75	76+	Total
Gender not given	1	1					2		4
Male	4	7	1	1	13	17	23	12	78
Female	4	3	1	6	13	27	17	12	83
Prefer not to say			1			1			2
	9	11	3	7	26	45	42	24	167

What is the work/education situation for all members of the household?

Employed	48	29%
Self Employed	26	16%
Retired	67	40%
Unemployed	2	1%
In full-time education	14	8%
Other*	10	6%

What is the housing status for the property?

Owned with a mortgage	25	30%
Owned outright	52	62%
Rented from private landlord	2	2%
Housing association	5	6%
Social housing		
Other		

How long have you lived in Aston Abbotts (years)?

	Nil	<=1 yr	2-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	21-30 yrs	>30 yrs
Number in each year range	8	6	11	13	6	4	13	23

7.2. Top-Level Summary

The tables below provide a top-level summary of the tick box responses for each topic showing which option rated the highest. The numbers in parentheses show the number of households that expressed an opinion and the percentage that selected that option.

For example, the following entry indicates that the majority of the households “Agreed” that Aston Abbotts is clean & tidy. It also shows that 82 households expressed an opinion of which 40 chose the option “Agree”, which is 49%.

Is clean & tidy	"Agree" (40 out of 82, 49%)
-----------------	-----------------------------

General Info

How do you feel about living in Aston Abbotts?

Has a nice environment	"Strongly agree" (57 out of 83, 69%)
Is clean & tidy	"Agree" (40 out of 82, 49%)
Is quiet/peaceful	"Strongly agree" (41 out of 82, 50%)
Has strong sense of community	"Agree" (45 out of 81, 56%)
Has good facilities	"Disagree" (42 out of 83, 51%)
Has good public transport	"Neither agree nor disagree" (35 out of 82, 43%)
Is convenient for commuting	"Agree" (46 out of 81, 57%)
Is convenient for cultural activities	"Agree" (32 out of 79, 41%)
Is good for social activities	"Neither agree nor disagree" (32 out of 81, 40%)
Is in good school catchment area	"Neither agree nor disagree" (35 out of 79, 44%)

Housing

New housing

Do you agree that there will be a need for more housing?	"Agree" (31 out of 82, 38%)
How many homes do you think would be appropriate?	"Less than 10" (41 out of 83, 49%)

When new homes have to be built, which type do you think would be most suitable?

Affordable homes	"In favour" (23 out of 78, 29%)
Housing association homes	"Strongly opposed to" (22 out of 74, 30%)
Retirement/sheltered homes	"Don't mind" (26 out of 74, 35%)
Bungalows	"Don't mind" (29 out of 73, 40%)
Small homes (1 bed)	"Don't mind" (30 out of 70, 43%)
Medium size homes (2-3 beds)	"In favour" (39 out of 79, 49%)
Larger homes (4+ beds)	"Don't mind" (20 out of 73, 27%)
Flats	"Strongly opposed to" (31 out of 69, 45%)

New Housing Sustainability and Location

When new homes are built, do you agree they must be built sustainably?	"Strongly agree" (50 out of 84 (60%))
When new homes are built, where do you think they should be located?	"Only within the village" (44 out of 82, 54%)

Economy

Businesses run from home

Do any members of the household run a business from home?	"No" (65 out of 80, 81%)
-----------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------

Business Premises

Does anyone in household own/rent business premises in the parish?	"No" (77 out of 79, 97%)
Do they see the business(es) staying in the parish for the next 10 years?	"Yes" (2 out of 3, 67%)

Business Units

Do you favour development of more Business Units within the Parish?	"Neither agree nor disagree" (23 out of 79, 29%)
---------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------

Communication

Communication General

Community news and information - how important is it to you?	"Very important" (43 out of 83, 52%)
Is it easy to find community news and information for Aston Abbotts?	"Easy" (46 out of 79, 58%)

As sources of community news and information, how would you rate the following?

Parish noticeboards	"Don't use it" (28 out of 80, 35%)
Parish Council website	"Don't use it" (32 out of 76, 42%)
Aston Abbotts website	"Don't use it" (24 out of 76, 32%)
Aston Abbotts Chronicle	"Very Good" (42 out of 82, 51%)
Aston Abbotts Email Post Box	"Very Good" (36 out of 80, 45%)
Local county newspapers	"Don't use it" (52 out of 76, 68%)
BBC Three Counties Radio	"Don't use it" (60 out of 74, 81%)
Facebook	"Don't use it" (36 out of 76, 47%)
Twitter	"Don't use it" (56 out of 74, 76%)

Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Do you have a broadband internet connection within the household?	"Yes" (74 out of 81, 91%)
-------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------

Which of the following facilities do you use and how often do you use them?

Village Hall	"Rarely" (37 out of 82, 45%)
Recreation Ground	"Rarely" (33 out of 80, 41%)
Children's Play Area	"Never" (42 out of 81, 52%)
Church	"Rarely" (36 out of 81, 44%)
The Orchard	"Rarely" (32 out of 80, 40%)

Which of the following do you think will need to be developed in the Parish?

Local shops	"Need more regardless.." (39 out of 76, 51%)
Leisure facilities	"Don't need any more.." (22 out of 73, 30%)
Parks/play area	"Don't need any more.." (32 out of 75, 43%)
Parking spaces	"Need more regardless.." (32 out of 77, 42%)
Road capacity	"Need more if new homes.." (28 out of 74, 38%)
Bus services	"Need more regardless.." (24 out of 77, 31%)

Schools

Were the school(s) the preferred choice for the child(ren)	"Yes" (10 out of 11, 91%)
------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------

Recreational facilities

How do you rate the play and recreational facilities for the village?	"Adequate" (34 out of 83, 41%)
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Allotments

Do any of the members of the household rent or share an allotment?	"No" (74 out of 82, 90%)
If they don't rent or share an allotment, would they like to?	"No" (63 out of 69, 91%)

Private Transport

Parking

Do you rely on on-street parking for your vehicles?	"No" (62 out of 79, 78%)
-----------------------------------------------------	--------------------------

Electric Vehicles

Are you considering getting an electric vehicle in the next 5 years?	"No" (43 out of 76, 57%)
Would lack of an on-street charging stop you getting an electric vehicle?	"No" (52 out of 74, 70%)

Environment

Countryside and landscape

How important is to you is the countryside/landscape around the Parish?	"Very important" (76 out of 82, 93%)
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

History and Ecology

History

How do you feel about our historical past being preserved?	"Very important" (63 out of 82, 77%)
------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Wildlife

How do you feel about our wildlife being preserved?	"Very important" (77 out of 83, 93%)
-----------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

History and Ecology Ideas

Website (Historical and ecological information)	"Yes" (63 out of 77, 82%)
Information signs at points of interest	"Yes" (56 out of 78, 72%)
History display boards	"Yes" (47 out of 77, 61%)
Open History days and Ecology days	"Yes" (40 out of 75, 53%)
Walking guides – what to see where	"Yes" (67 out of 79, 85%)
Guided tours for history/ecology	"Yes" (38 out of 74, 51%)
Living memories website (for people inside and outside the parish)	"Yes" (43 out of 76, 57%)

Other

If we were to encourage alternative energy, which would you support?

Wind power	"Agree" (53 out of 80, 66%)
Solar power	"Agree" (70 out of 80, 88%)

Appendix A. Village Meeting 14th September 2021

A.1. Email Postbox – Calling Notice

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 31 August 2021 11:47
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Planning - Meeting 14th September

Neighbourhood Plan Meeting Tuesday 14th September 7pm in the Village Hall

The Parish Council would like to explore with you all the proposal to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Abbotts. The main objective is to work towards preserving the rural feel of the village by managing the level of development over the coming years. This is not to say we look to prevent all development, but contain it in a way that protects a village life that we have all bought in to.

We have arranged for Sally Chapman, a Consultant with tremendous experience in this capacity (including the Wing Neighbourhood Plan) to give an informative overview of what is involved and answer questions. In order to move the Plan forward we would then need a committee of residents to run with the project, supported by the Parish Council and with funding from Bucks. Please come along and hear what we and Sally have to say and maybe you could become involved in this exciting project.

If you would like to learn a little bit more about a Neighbourhood Plan the following links may prove useful

www.chapmanplanning.co.uk

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/create-neighbourhood-plan-step-by-step-roadmap-guide/>

Kind regards

Liz van Hullen

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Aston Abbotts Parish Council
[REDACTED]

A.2. Email Postbox - Meeting Notes

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 06 October 2021 07:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Plan
Attachments: Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Meeting.pdf

A huge thank you to all parishioners who attended the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 14th September. The turnout was encouraging and the debate was interesting and informative. We have attached a summary of the questions raised.

The next steps will be for the Parish Council to conduct a survey within the village, whilst at the same time beginning the application process for a grant to support this project. Wing is a really good example of how the existence of a Neighbourhood Plan managed the inevitable development process and we would urge you all to consider this.

Involvement from our residents is very much encouraged and to this end we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved in a big way or a small way. Please contact either Liz, our Clerk, ['Clerk' [REDACTED]], or speak to one of the councillors.

Kind regards

Liz van Hullen

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

[REDACTED]

A.3. Meeting Notes

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Held on 21st September 2021 in Aston Abbotts Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Baylis (Chair), Plestead, Lakin, Hall, Langdon, Palmer & Abel Smith. Ms S Chapman – Consultant. The Clerk. Fifteen members of the public.

Introduction: Cllr Baylis gave a brief overview of how the Parish Council had come to initiate the meeting and introduced Sally Chapman; a Planning Consultant, local to Aston Abbotts, who has worked alongside many other local parishes on production of their Neighbourhood Plans.

Presentation: Sally Chapman explained the following –

- A Neighbourhood Plan can enable a local community to have some say over future local development
- It can go beyond what is expected from local housing policy eg detailing materials specified, development design, protection of open spaces
- Residents of the village must be fully consulted and very much involved in the production of the plan.
- Instigation and qualification sits with the Parish Council
- The Plan should relate to historical importance of village assets & features
- The Plan should be based on local surveys, research into demographics, local population, types of housing needs, local and supporting infrastructure.
- The cost is approx. £10k, Government grants are available
- The entire process can take between 18 & 24 months
- An overview of the process from initiation to completion, and the different parties and bodies involved

Q & A

Q: it would appear that Local Authorities can overrule a Neighbourhood Plan after 5 years.

A: This is the case, but the existence of an NP means that the Local Authority would need to take it into account during their Local Plan review and potentially the village could decide the location of any imposed development

Q: Should the village wait for a Local Plan or definite housing allocation for the immediate area before developing an NP.

A: The Plan should be developed in any event. It could not be used to totally block a Local Authority Local Plan Process.

Q: How would the existence of a Plan help decide which land is used for development

A: All land potentially available should be researched and fully assessed prior to allocation with the NP. The NP can be reviewed and amended via a Formal Process if a housing allocation is required by the new Local Plan.

Q: If the NP is contravened and a development is approved even though it did not feature within the Plan, can the local community appeal.

A: No, but it may be in a stronger position to negotiate details of the development

Q: Does an NP protect green space areas bequeathed / donated to the Parish.

A: Yes

Q: Can the Plan include a focus on footpaths, rights of way, cycle routes, improved BB, renewable energy.

A: Yes

Q: Does the NP have to include some development

A: The Plan does not have to include any development

Q: Can the NP manage the affordability of affordable housing and allocate land solely for this use.

A: Yes

Next Steps: Apply for the Grant. Form a Committee. Survey the residents.

The Parish Council will follow up on this meeting at the PC meeting on 22nd September 2021.

Appendix B. Communication for Parish-wide Survey

B.1. Extract from April 2022 Chronicle

The Chronicle

April 2022 Issue 425





Aston
Abbotts
enters
Best Kept
Villages
2022.

Let's try and
retain our
trophy.

Aston Abbotts enters Bucks Best Kept Village 2022

Chris Phillips

After the disruption presented by Covid and the lockdowns we all collectively endured, Bucks Best Kept Villages is being held this year – and Aston Abbotts is competing to retain our trophy and signage!

After the success of 2019, the Best Kept Village sign has stood, pride of place, on the village's green and we are a defending champion we are entered into the Tindall Cup – the Cup Winners Cup, if you like – and we will be up against

Stewkley, Winslow, Hedgerley, Burnham and Chalfont St Giles.

With the judging taking place between 1st June and 14th July, we have ample time to coordinate our village to put on a great show, but we'll need to be ready! The visit will be unannounced, but if we rise to the challenge like we did three years ago we're in with a very good chance. The whole village will be judged so we can all do our little bit.

Extract from April 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

problem. This little bird brightened up many a cold miserable morning.

Sadly this morning I came along our communal back pathway and laid on the path was my little bird, obviously killed by one of the cats. I have buried him or her under my rose bush named Scent From Heaven . I couldn't just leave it on the path after all the mornings it had brightened up for me.

I am going to buy plants that deter cats and plant in my garden so that hopefully my garden will be a cat free safe haven for our precious garden birds.

Thankyou Lyn

Dear Editor, As a reminder to dog walkers, when walking on footpaths across fields, please keep dogs very well under control. Many fields now have sheep with Lambs. There are also ground nesting birds. Also, as we are entering the Best Kept Village Competition again, please ensure your gardens are neat, hedges are well cut, clean bus shelters and beautiful hanging baskets are everywhere.

Colin Higgs



ASTON ABBOTTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND QUESTIONNAIRE



The Parish Council has kicked off the process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This will enable our community to define a vision for the parish for the next 10-15 years and influence any future development.

The Neighbourhood Plan:

- Has legal weight in planning decisions
- Must be supported by the majority of the community
- Is only concerned with land use matters

It is extremely important that the wider community is on board from the start. This makes it easier to achieve the support that is needed to successfully take a Neighbourhood Plan throughout the process.

The first step is to gather information from the residents in the parish. **This will be done using a questionnaire which you will all be receiving shortly.** You are urged to complete the questionnaire as it will be your opportunity to influence the initial steps.

Extract from April 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

What a Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot do?

A Neighbourhood Plan can...

- It can direct appropriate growth to appropriate locations
- It can protect local assets such as important green spaces and local facilities
- It can ensure that new development is sensitively designed
- It can be used to set out a 'wish list' for improvements or new facilities e.g. play facilities
- Include policies, for example, design standards that are more detailed than policies in the Local Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot...

- It can't prevent new development that is included in the Local Plan
- It can't be in direct conflict with Aylesbury Vale's Local Plan
- It can't be in conflict with Government Planning Policy and Guidance

Who is involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan?

Everyone can be involved; it is a plan for the whole community.

The Parish Council will lead the process and oversee the formation of a Steering Group which will develop the Neighbourhood Plan with the aid of volunteers. Any

person can volunteer to be on the steering group.

During the process, the steering group will seek opinions from the whole community. Residents, business owners, landowners, interest groups and developers will be asked for their views regularly.

We will be looking for people who have an interest in planning the future of the Parish and we would welcome help with various aspects of producing the neighbourhood plan including communications and publicity, project management, IT skills, organisational skills and general help such as delivering leaflets.

If you would like to be involved or have skills you think might be useful, please contact the Clerk of the Parish Council:

clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

How are Neighbourhood Plans developed?

Usually, the process can take between 2 and 4 years and includes an independent examination and a referendum. The following principles are adopted:

- It is a 'neighbourhood' led process.
- The community decide on the content.
- It is produced by the Parish Council, on behalf of the community.

Extract from April 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

- It needs to be flexible to address different needs and expectations.
- They are tailored to the neighbourhood so no two plans will be the same.

What happens once the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted?

- The Neighbourhood Plan is a formal planning document and carries real legal weight.
- Planning applications will be assessed against the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Appeals against planning decisions will take them into account.

What is the Local Council's role?

Every local Council has a duty to support Parish Councils in producing Neighbourhood Plans. They carry out and fund the formal parts of the process including examination and referendum.

Who will pay to produce the Neighbourhood Plan?

A government grant is available for every Parish Council.

More information can be found at:

https://neighbourhoodplanning_org/

PLATINUM JUBILEE LUNCH CELEBRATION (SUNDAY 5/6/2022) UPDATE



Following a nice turnout at the initial meeting, just a quick update on what's been discussed so far.

THE LUNCH: (Please be advised that this is strictly for villagers and their friends and family)

Due to COVID we will not be arranging the traditional long tables ordinarily organised, but ask that anyone/families wanting to attend/be involved, bring their own tables, chairs, gazebos (hopefully won't be needed), food and drink. If you want to bring a Gazebo, please do NOT put the sides on as we want everyone to interact and get wonderful photos of the day.



ON THE GREEN:

Due to the space, can anyone who would like to join in, please let us know, in order that we can monitor

B.2. Email Postbox re Questionnaire 13th April 2022

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 13 April 2022 21:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

All residents should now have received a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire – if you have not received one, please contact the Parish Council Clerk [‘Clerk’ [REDACTED]] to request a copy. [And apologies to the handful of residents who may have received more than one copy – it’s just a matter of over-enthusiasm in its distribution (and, rest assured, you only need to complete one of them)!]

Note that it is intended to have one questionnaire completed per household. If there is more than one household (e.g., if there are lodgers), or there are differing views within the household, then please request additional copies from the Clerk.

Please take this Questionnaire seriously and we urge you to participate in providing your views. In all planning decisions, Bucks Council must consult the Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions, so it is an opportunity for our community to influence future developments and protect green spaces, heritage assets, community facilities and our environment. The Questionnaire is the first step in the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan and will help in obtaining a consensus for its content.

Regards,

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Appendix C. Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 2022

C.1. Email Postbox – Calling Notice

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 24 April 2022 09:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday at 7.30pm
Attachments: APM Agenda 2022.pdf; 20190424Draft MinutesAPM_Accessible.pdf

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday at 7.30pm

One final reminder to you all that the Annual Parish Meeting, following a 2 year break, will be taking place on Tuesday (26th) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The last of these meetings was held in April 2019 and the draft minutes are attached.

Amongst the many presentations there will be a short talk on the Neighbourhood Planning Process, delivered by local consultant, Sally Chapman. This is extremely timely as the village Neighbourhood Plan Survey is underway, the results of which will start to shape the way forward for your own Neighbourhood Plan.

We very much look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

Kind regards

Liz van Hullen

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

[REDACTED]

C.2. Agenda

ASTON ABBOTTS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

To be held at the Village Hall, Aston Abbotts
on 26th April, 2022 at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To approve minutes of meeting held on 24th April 2019
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Unitary Council report
5. Annual report from the Parish Council Chairman
6. Neighbourhood Plan Presentation
7. Village Hall Report
8. Chronicle Report
9. Village Orchard Report
- 10 Village Fete Report
- 11 Firework Night Report
- 12 A.O.B.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US.

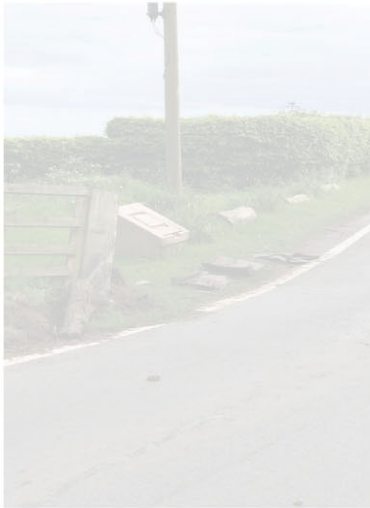
C.3. Extract from June 2022 Chronicle

The Chronicle

June 2022 Issue 427

How much longer are we going to put up with this?

Editor's Comments



All the 'Traffic Calming' signs we pay for and wait months and years for do not calm the traffic or stop the damage being done to our village property, or prevent HGVs thundering through our roads and over our verges. The crash on the main road of The Green in March involving an HGV, a car and a full skip demonstrated

how bad the situation is there. The 'rat run' at the back of The Green is an accident waiting to happen. Then there's the damage being caused to our village which is not fit as a race track or for HGVs.

As a resident and not to undermine the good work of our

Extract from June 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

Aston Abbots Parish Council May.

The Parish Council meets again on 7th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



The past few weeks have seen 2 significant annual meetings run by the Parish Council:

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 26th April

It was hugely gratifying to see so many of you (24 members of the village) in attendance. A full set of minutes is available on the Parish Web Site - In summary the Parish Council and Unitary Councillors gave an annual round up. Sally Chapman gave a brief presentation on the Neighbourhood Planning process, reiterating the importance of securing a Plan, and urging residents to come forward if they would like to be involved (in which case please contact Cllr Trevor Hall).

Representatives from the various bodies /committees within the village delivered brief presentations, specifically updating residents on the financial health of each group, achievements in the past (Covid)

years and more exciting plans for 2022.

It was agreed at the meeting that proceeds from the annual village Fete will go towards supporting the Chronicle, the Church and the village Fireworks.

The meeting welcomed many new volunteers to village committees which means our Fete, Fireworks, Orchard and many other benefits that we all enjoy will continue to run in a well-managed way. The meeting also offered heartfelt thanks to those who have stepped back from committee life after many years of making good things happen within the village.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Tuesday 10th May

At the Annual Meeting the Parish Council appoints its senior officers and areas of responsibility. We are delighted to say that both Jane Baylis and Jane Plested have been re-elected as Chair and Vice- Chair.

Generally the Parish Council work as a team and share many responsibilities, however some key areas are delegated as follows:

MVAS – Richard Lakin, Defibrillator & Pavements / Rights of Way – Sally Palmer, Recreation ground and shed – Jane Plested, Heather Langdon & Trevor Hall, Email/Website & Tech support – Trevor Hall, Safeguarding Officer – Jane Plested, Neighbourhood Planning - Trevor

Extract from June 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

Hall, Jane Baylis & Jane Plested, Community Board – All.

Matters arising included an update on the traffic calming measures that are, following 18 months of negotiation, being put in place by TfB. Additional white lining along Moat Lane has already been completed and we are waiting for some additional signage to warn drivers of other road users and to advise against HGV traffic.

A presentation from a member of the Wingrave PC has set wheels in motion to hopefully refurbish the Wingrave Road bus shelter – a donation from the Czech Government in 1944. Additional grass cutting has been approved and requested in the run up to the Best Kept Village competition, the Jubilee celebrations and the Fete. Defibrillator training was approved and will be organised.

Interest in the Neighbourhood Plan survey has been encouraging, up to 40% of households have submitted a response. We would like to thank you all for taking the time to do this, your responses are hugely important and will help to shape the final document.



For a full set of minutes from each

Parish Council meeting please visit the website
<https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/>

And if you would like to contact us please do so through the Clerk
clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Further on the Village Plan
 There's been an excellent response to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete them.

The questionnaires were delivered to about 180 households and we've had 85 returned – which is close 50%. We believe a typical response is between 30% and 40% so, by getting nearly 50% return is testament to the enthusiasm that many of our community are showing and their desire to influence the way Aston Abbotts will develop over the coming years. What is also notable is that more than 15 residents ticked "Yes" to the all-important question "Would anybody in the household like to help in developing the Neighbourhood Plan?".

Over the next few weeks, we will be capturing the results of the questionnaire and will be drafting the schedule for the work required to develop the Neighbourhood Plan at which point we will be contacting those who have expressed an interest in helping.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Appendix D. Formation of the Steering Group

D.1. Email Postbox notice concerning Steering Group

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 28 June 2022 09:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Plan - Calling Volunteers

Neighbourhood Plan - Calling Volunteers

The next step in developing the Neighbourhood Plan is to form the Steering Committee. It is very much appreciated that, in the response to the questionnaire, sixteen residents expressed an interest in helping.

The Parish Council will soon be organising a meeting of all volunteers at which the Steering Committee will be established. This meeting will include a detailed briefing on what the process entails and the timescales.

To help organise this meeting, please could those of you who expressed an interest in helping send me an email confirming that you are still willing to participate. Please send the email to:

['Trevor Hall' [REDACTED]]

Of course, anybody within the Parish is welcome to volunteer, even if you did not manage to complete the questionnaire - just ping me an email if you'd like to participate.

Regards,

Trevor Hall

D.2. Email Postbox - Calling Notice for Inaugural Meeting.

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 17 November 2022 13:29
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Inaugural Meeting - Volunteers Sought

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Inaugural Meeting - Volunteers Sought

It's been some time since we kicked off the Neighbourhood Plan Village Questionnaire, but now the time has come to set up the Steering Group and we are seeking volunteers to participate in developing the Plan.

An Inaugural Meeting for the Steering Group will be held on Monday 21st November at 7:15 in the Village Hall. The meeting will be supported by Sally Chapman who has a wealth of experience in the development of Neighbourhood Plans. *It should be noted that this is not a public meeting but a meeting of those who wish to participate in the Steering Group.*

The key element of this Inaugural Meeting will be to establish the key roles within the Steering Group. There are two roles for which we will need volunteers:

- **Chair:** the primary task is to chair the meetings, ensuring that the agenda is followed, ensuring everyone can speak and that tasks are defined, assigned, and noted.
- **Secretary:** There needs to be someone who takes notes for every meeting. There is no need for formal minutes, but the notes will need to be published on the PC website. If no one volunteers, this task can be rotated.

Either the Chairman or Secretary would ensure that the agenda is devised and circulated to the Group prior to the meetings. The agendas are often very simple. Meetings are usually arranged at the end of each meeting and are often a month or six weeks apart.

In terms of driving the project forward, it is a team effort and does not fall wholly on the Chair. Usually this evolves and becomes obvious during the early meetings. Various workstreams will be established during the project - sometimes it is up to individuals to pursue tasks, such as evidence gathering, sometimes everyone has to get involved, particularly when organising publicity or an event.

If you can't make the meeting on Monday but are keen to participate in the Steering Group, then please let me know – even more so if you can't make the meeting but are prepared to be considered for the role of either the Chair or Secretary. Please contact me on:

[Trevor Hall [REDACTED]]

Finally, it's worth noting that things did not completely grind to a halt in the intervening period since the questionnaire was circulated, and a fair bit of work has gone into producing a preliminary summary of the results. This summary can be viewed via the following link:

AA Quest Prelim Results v1.1.pdf

There is also a far more detailed version of the Questionnaire Results which has captured all the notes/comments made by the residents and will be a source of information for the Steering Group during the development of the Plan.

Regards,
Trevor

Trevor Hall
Aston Abbotts Parish Council

D.3. Extract from December 2022 Chronicle

The Chronicle

December 2022 Issue 431

Christmas Quiz Night
Saturday 17th December
Aston Abbotts Village Hall
7.30pm

Two hours of fun & frolics
Cash Prizes + others including
Play your cards right

Freshly cooked sourdough pizza
available from 5-7.30pm

Bring your own bottle
(some snacks provided)

£3 per person (max 6 per team)
no booking required

Christmas Dress Optional

Maximum of 6 to a team. A great cheap night out

Extract from December 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

News from in and around Aston Abbotts

I wasn't in the country when I heard of the sad passing of Simon Cowie. (Aston Abbotts resident). Simon was a private person, so I asked his sister, Jackie, to write to me about Simon. I have included it below.

Simon's cause of death was a heart attack.

RIP Simon. Ed!

Hi Pete,

I double checked and Simon moved to Aston Abbotts in 2007. He moved there from his home town of Hemel Hempstead. When he first moved there he was working at the NAWT over in Watford. He loved working with animals and even though he stopped working there he would often go over and walk the dogs, sometimes bringing one home with him for a few days here and there.

More recently he was running fun casinos for work. Those are the ones that people book for events. They use play chips and just bet against the other people there for fun. He had an amazing sense of humour.

Simon was never married. He did have a daughter (Maddison), who is about 25 years old.

Please let me know if you want anything else

Thank you

Jackie

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



LOCAL PLAN for
Buckinghamshire
Shaping the future together



On the 21st November, the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood plan held its first meeting.

Supported by Sally Chapman, a consultant with many years experience of such projects, the team established initial responsibilities, frequency of meeting and briefly discussed goals and intentions for the initiative.

The focus for the initial three months is to set out clear objectives and a timeline for the project, based on inputs including the village questionnaire results, similar examples from other villages and the needs of Aston Abbotts in the years ahead.

For those that missed the notice recently posted on the AA Postie which included a link to view the

Extract from December 2022 Chronicle (cont.)

results of the questionnaire, you can find them at:

<https://tinyurl.com/AAquest2022>

This project is an opportunity for the whole village to express its wishes for the future of our community. We want to make sure everyone is represented and happy with the results. If you think you can bring your skills and experience to the project, please get in touch at:



Police seize two vehicles in Wing.

Thames Valley Police has announced it claimed two cars in Wing on 2 November.

A first vehicle was taken from the village after officers discovered that its road tax had expired six months ago.



A spokesperson for the force said: "A Ford Transit was stopped and searched in Wing under section 1 of the Police and Criminal

Evidence Act as it was linked to a fuel theft in another force area.

"The good news for the driver was we found no stolen items. The bad news was his road tax expired 6 months ago. The van was seized."

The Thames Valley Police spokesperson added: "A second vehicle was seized in Wing as the driver didn't hold the correct licence and had no insurance or road tax. The driver was reported for the offences."

A third vehicle was seized by the same police force in West Berkshire which was linked to illegal poaching activities, Thames Valley Police reports.

What are the chances of seeing a white Christmas?

Forecasters at Accuweather have released their long-range weather prediction, including the expected chance of snow on the big day.

Santa's arrival, and Accuweather has a forecast for the biggest settlements in Buckinghamshire. Accuweather says those living in Aylesbury should expect a cloudy day, with highs of 9C during the daytime.

Appendix E. Annual Parish Meeting 2023

E.1. Agenda

ASTON ABBOTTS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

Village Hall, Aston Abbotts

Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 7.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. To approve minutes of meeting held on 26th April 2022 (circulated)
3. Matter Arising from the minutes.
4. Unitary Council Report
5. To receive updates from:
 - a. The Parish Council
 - b. The Neighbourhood Plan
 - c. The Chronicle/Pop-up Pub/Quiz
 - d. The Village Hall
 - e. The Village Orchard
 - f. The Church
 - g. GNOMES
 - h. Bingo/Whist
 - i. Book Club
 - j. Fireworks
 - k. The Fete
6. Approve change of applying for Fete Funding
7. To discuss and approve allocation of Fete Funds 2023
8. Any other business

Refreshments available

We hope you will be able to join us

E.2. Poster

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan

“RESPECT CHARACTER AND HERITAGE”

The Vision

Aston Abbott’s rural and historic character and hilltop setting will be valued and enhanced. The strong sense of community spirit will be strengthened such that existing and new residents will enjoy good health and wellbeing. The design of all new development will be of the highest quality and respect the character and heritage of the Parish.

Topics and Aspirations

Environment: built & natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment including landscape features, biodiversity and green spaces will be enhanced and protected. • The historic character and heritage assets of the parish will be preserved and enhanced. • High quality design will be secured in all new development reflecting the distinctive character of Aston Abbotts.
Traffic & transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public footpath and bridleway network will be improved and extended to be safe and accessible with additional links. • New development will be accompanied by traffic calming measures and appropriate parking.
Community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing community facilities will be protected. New facilities or improvements to existing facilities will be encouraged to enhance opportunities for community cohesion and wellbeing.
Recreation & green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and informal amenity spaces will be protected and enhanced and Local Green Space designated to protect those spaces of particular community value
Local business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing local businesses, including farms, home-based and rural businesses will be supported. Small scale new businesses will be encouraged in the Parish.
Community aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity improvements (planting etc) • Traffic calming, working with Parish and Buckinghamshire Councils • Additional use of Village Hall, Church

If you would like to help with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, please contact Trevor Hall:



Steering committee: Trevor Hall, Jane Baylis, Jane Plested, Janet Walker, Kate Curry, Mike Coker

E.3. Speaker's Notes

Notices

I'll keep this short and draw your attention to two copies of a notice which I hope you'll have time to look at the end of the meeting.

Steering group

A small steering group has been formed and I'd like to thank those who are taking part - there's six us at the moment and our names are at the bottom of the notice.

Scope/Evidence/Policies

We have defined the scope and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan and the topics we are covering and are now in the processing of collecting information otherwise known as evidence which supports the policies that will be defining in the Neighbourhood Plan

Character and Heritage

These vision and scope of the Neighbourhood Plan are shown on the notices so I won't take up time by reading them out. I will however just pick out a couple of key words within the vision - "Character and Heritage" - the neighbourhood plan will ensure that the Character and Heritage of Aston Abbotts is respected and preserved. This is of particular relevance for any new developments.

New Development - Design Codes

And in relation to new developments, a significant point to note is that the Neighbourhood Plan will not be allocating any areas for new housing. This cannot prevent any future development should anybody raise planning applications. However, something that will be produced as part of neighbourhood plan will be a "Design Codes" document. This document will identify the specific attributes of the parish and its buildings that make up its character and recognise its heritage. Once this document is in place, all decisions for future planning applications will be influenced by the design codes.

Traffic

One point we do need to recognise is the issues around traffic calming and vehicle speed which is a significant concern for most residents. The Neighbourhood Plan unfortunately can have little influence over this since the responsibility for roads and traffic lies with Bucks Council. It will however document these concerns and, as you are all probably aware, the Parish Council is in constant dialogue with Bucks Council in relation to these concerns.

Volunteers


I'll just finish by saying that we would welcome more volunteers to help in the development of the plan - my email details are provided on the two notices if you are interest in taking part and I look forward to hearing from new volunteers.

Questions

Rather than take questions now, I'll be around at the end of the meeting and hope that you can spend a few minutes to look through the vision and topics and I would be more than happy to answer any questions then.

Appendix F. Village Fete 2023

F.1. Roller Banner Display



ASTON ABBOTTS Neighbourhood Plan
RESPECT CHARACTER AND HERITAGE

The Vision: Aston Abbott's rural and historic character and hilltop setting will be valued and enhanced. The strong sense of community spirit will be strengthened such that existing and new residents will enjoy good health and wellbeing. The design of all new development will be of the highest quality and respect the character and heritage of the Parish.

The Steering Group leading the development of the Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan (AANP) has been gathering information about the most important aspects of our community, such as green spaces, historic landmarks, natural features, wildlife, and local amenities. In addition, the AANP Steering Group has commissioned AECOM to create the Design Guide that will influence future development within our village and will form an annex to the AANP. The guide is still in its early stages and the information below explains the process behind its development and shows the proposed content.

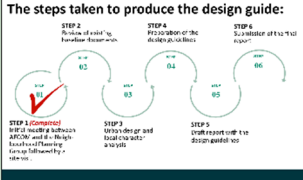
The Parish Council has obtained a grant to fund the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Trevor Hall (trevor.hall@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk)

ASTON ABBOTTS
Design guidance and codes

The context of a parish-wide design guide
Through the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Programme led by Locality, AECOM has been commissioned to provide design support to the Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This design support includes the production of a parish-wide design guide.

What is a parish-wide design guide?
The parish-wide design guide aims to guide future development in the parish, of any scale (house extensions or conversions, infill development and/or larger developments). It is informed and shaped by the local character of Aston Abbots and promotes design that is sensitive to its context.

The steps taken to produce the design guide:



AECOM

About the Aston Abbots Design Guide

ASTON ABBOTTS
Design guidance and codes

Aston Abbots Design Guide contents

1: Introduction
The introduction will include:

- Overview of Aston Abbots
- Signpost to other documents
- How to use the document

2: What is good design in Aston Abbots
This section will outline the positive physical, historic and contextual characteristics of Aston Abbots, as well as setting out area wide codes in order to protect and enhance these characteristics. It will cover:

- Historic character and views
- Attractive natural environment
- Distinct material and colour palette

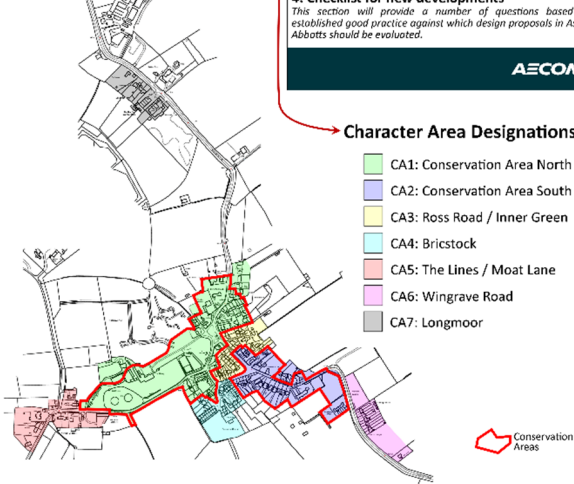
3: Design guidance and codes for Aston Abbots' character areas
This section will provide design guidance and codes which are specific to the individual character areas demarcated across the Parish. These codes will include themes on topics such as: parking, density, scale, architectural details, boundary treatment, etc. The provisional allocation of the character areas is shown in the map below.

4: Checklist for new developments
This section will provide a number of questions based on established good practice against which design proposals in Aston Abbots should be evaluated.

AECOM

Character Area Designations:

- CA1: Conservation Area North
- CA2: Conservation Area South
- CA3: Ross Road / Inner Green
- CA4: Bricstock
- CA5: The Lines / Moat Lane
- CA6: Wingrave Road
- CA7: Longmoor



Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan

“RESPECT CHARACTER AND HERITAGE”



Appendix G. Showcase Event 7th December 2023

G.1. Extract from December 2023 Chronicle



December 2023. Issue 443



Village Hall Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm

Cash prize + Others. Bring your own booze. Christmas Snacks on tables
£3 per person & £1 for interval game. Christmas Wear (Not essential)

SOLD OUT

Extract from December 2023 Chronicle (cont.)

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event

7th December
7:30pm-8:30pm

Village Hall

Wine and nibbles provided

Influence Your Future

It's Your Plan

Your Village



Your Voice

You are invited to have your say. If you believe there are things we have missed, or other aspects we should consider, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts with the steering group.

There's no formal presentation so please drop in anytime.

Extract from December 2023 Chronicle (cont.)



An event is being held in the village hall on 7th of December to showcase key aspects of the work that has been undertaken on the Neighbourhood Plan - in this article, you will find a brief summary of what progress is being made.

More detail will be provided at the showcase event at which you will have the opportunity to ask questions and raise topics that you think should be addressed.

Details of the event are provided at the end of this article.

What's been happening?

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan is being undertaken by a small steering group, established by the Parish Council.

There are a number of threads running through the work being undertaken. Two of these threads focus on safeguarding our

environment and preserving the village's heritage. This involves identifying and protecting green spaces and heritage assets.

A third, and very significant thread, is intended to influence future developments within the village. The aim of this is to ensure that any future developments harmonise with the existing character of the village.

Green Spaces and Views

Located on a hilltop, Aston Abbots offers breathtaking views across Aylesbury Vale which are highly valued by the local community. The neighbourhood plan will explicitly identify these vantage points to discourage any future developments that might compromise the integrity of these wonderful viewpoints.

Green spaces are areas primarily designated for nature conservation, recreation, or aesthetic purposes. They play a vital role in enhancing our environment, promoting biodiversity, providing recreational opportunities, and contributing to the overall well-being of residents within our community.

Maps showing the green spaces and views will be on display at the Showcase event.

Extract from December 2023 Chronicle (cont.)

Heritage Assets

It is proposed to explicitly identify 23 heritage assets. Nine of these are already listed by English Heritage. A further fourteen assets have been identified by the steering group. Consultation with private owners of assets will be undertaken prior to their inclusion in the plan. The full list will be displayed at the showcase event.

Influencing Future Developments

The steering group have commissioned a design guide which will shape future development in the village.

The parish-wide design guide aims to guide future development in the parish, of any scale (house extensions or conversions, infill development and/or larger developments). It is informed and shaped by the local character of Aston Abbotts and promotes design that is sensitive to its context.

A key part of the development of the design guide has been the definition of “character areas” within the parish. The design guide provides design guidance and codes which are specific to the individual character areas.

A map of the character areas will be on display at the Showcase

event and a draft copy of the design guide will be available for people to view.

How much is this costing?

The Parish Council has obtained grants to fund the development of the design guide and other consultations.

Showcase Event

Please come along for a showcase of key elements of the neighbourhood plan on **Thursday 7th December**.

The information will be presented on display boards and members of the steering group will be there to answer questions.

The village hall will be open between **7:30pm and 8:30pm**. There's no formal presentation so please drop in anytime.

You are more than welcome to enjoy a complementary glass of wine and some nibbles while taking in the information.

Those attending the coffee morning (10:00 to 11:30) will also have the opportunity to view the display boards.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Trevor Hall

████████████████████████████████████████

G.2. Email Postbox - Calling Notice

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 December 2023 09:02
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event - Thurs 7th Dec
Attachments: NP Showcase Notice.pdf

Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event - Thurs 7th Dec

We hope you can come along to the Village Hall this Thursday (7th) evening, between 19:30 and 20:30 for our Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event. No formality, just drop in anytime.

The Parish Council's small, but dedicated, steering group have been developing our Neighbourhood Plan. The work they have undertaken so far has several threads running through it. Two of these threads focus on safeguarding our environment and preserving the village's heritage. A third, and very significant thread, is intended to influence future developments within the village.

A snapshot of this work will be on display, and you'll have the opportunity to meet members of the steering committee.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Trevor Hall

['Trevor Hall' [REDACTED]]

Chair, Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

Email Postbox calling Notice - Attachment

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event

Thurs 7th December
7:30pm-8:30pm
Village Hall

Wine and nibbles provided

Influence Your Future

It's Your Plan

Your Village

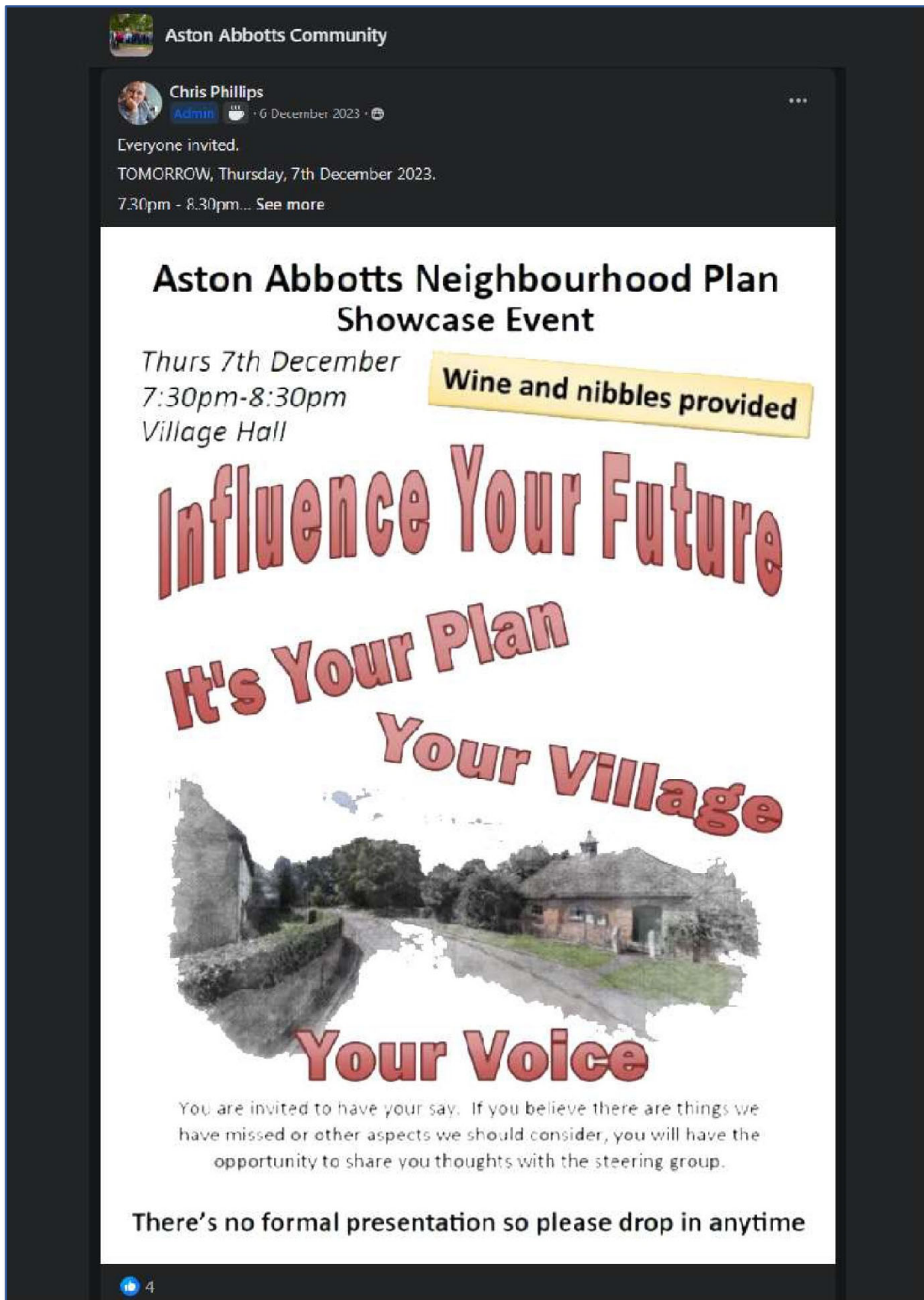


Your Voice

You are invited to have your say. If you believe there are things we have missed or other aspects we should consider, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts with the steering group.

There's no formal presentation so please drop in anytime

G.3. Facebook Post



G.4. Display Panel

The Vision: Aston Abbotts' rural and historic character and village setting will be valued and enhanced. The strong sense of community spirit will be strengthened such that existing and new residents will enjoy good health and wellbeing. The design of all new development will be of the highest quality and respect the character and heritage of the parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan: is a community-led framework that allows residents and stakeholders to have a say in the development of Aston Abbotts. It essentially empowers our community to shape how our neighbourhood evolves over time.

Its purpose is to outline the vision and priorities of our community, addressing aspects like housing, infrastructure, environment and local facilities. By setting out policies and guidelines, it helps guide and influence future development and land use in the area.

A small Steering Group, established by the Parish Council, has been developing the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan (AANP), focusing on vital community elements: green spaces, history, nature, wildlife and local facilities. They've also commissioned a Design Guide, which will shape future development in the village. The information provided here gives an overview of key elements, inviting your thoughts to ensure nothing essential is missed.

The Steering Group: Trevor Hall (Chair), Jane Baylis, Jane Priestley, Kate Curry, Janet Walker and Neil Redding. Thank you to the Parish Council for commissioning a group to lead the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Topics and Aspirations

Character Areas and Settlement Boundary

The settlement boundary is used to designate where development is appropriate and where it is not. It helps to control and guide development to ensure that it is focused within existing settlements and that the surrounding countryside is protected.

Character Areas define specific zones within the village that have distinct visual, architectural, or cultural characteristics. They are defined to help maintain and enhance the unique identity and character of different parts of the village.

Within the Neighbourhood Plan's Design Guide, design guidance and codes are provided for each Character Area. These codes include themes on topics such as parking, identity, scale, architectural details, boundary treatment, etc.

Character Areas:

- CA1: Conservation Area North
- CA2: Conservation Area South
- CA3: Rose Road / Inner Green
- CA4: Broucock
- CA5: The Lines / Mool Lane
- CA6: Wingrave Road
- CA7: Longmoor

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are those buildings, structures, objects, places, areas, or landscapes that are of special interest because of their historic, scientific, or cultural value. They are identified and recorded in the Neighbourhood Plan's Design Guide.

Green Spaces - Views

Green Spaces are areas primarily designated for recreation or aesthetic enjoyment. They play a key role in the Neighbourhood Plan's Design Guide, providing a framework for the management and enhancement of these spaces.

About the Aston Abbotts Design Guide

The context of a parish-wide design guide is provided by the Neighbourhood Plan's Design Guide. This design guide includes the provision of a parish-wide design guide.

What is a parish-wide design guide?

The parish-wide design guide sets out the design standards for development in the parish. It sets out the standards of design, including the design of buildings, streets, and public spaces. It also sets out the standards for the design of the built environment, including the design of buildings, streets, and public spaces.

Aston Abbotts Design Guide contents

- Introduction**
 - Context of Aston Abbotts
 - Plan to use the document
- What is good design in Aston Abbotts?**
 - Design standards for buildings, streets, and public spaces
 - Design standards for buildings, streets, and public spaces
 - Design standards for buildings, streets, and public spaces
- Design guidance and codes for Aston Abbotts' character areas**
 - Design standards for buildings, streets, and public spaces
 - Design standards for buildings, streets, and public spaces
 - Design standards for buildings, streets, and public spaces
- Checklist for new developments**

Influence Your Future
It's Your Plan

Your Village
Your Voice

Beyond producing the Design Guide, the steering group has been identifying the essential elements that define the character of our village. The details presented here are just a snapshot and you are invited to have your say.

If you believe there are things we have missed or other aspects we should consider, please share your thoughts with us.

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

Trevor Hall (Chair) trevor.hall@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
 Jane Baylis jane.baylis@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
 Jane Priestley jane.priestley@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
 Kate Curry
 Janet Walker
 Neil Redding

What have we missed?

G.5. Photographs of Display Panel in Village Hall



Location of panel for the Coffee Group



Location of panel for evening Showcase Event

Appendix H. Annual Parish Meeting September 2024

H.1. Speaker's Notes

- It's been quite a journey since we undertook the parish-wide survey two years ago, but I'm pleased to announce that the first draft of our neighbourhood plan is nearing completion with the aim of publishing it around the end of May.
- However, there are still several stages to be navigate before the plan is adopted and I'll briefly walk you through them.
- The first stage is the pre-submission consultation, which is organized by the parish council and will start when the draft plan is published next month.
- This consultation, lasting six weeks, invites all residents, and other stakeholders to review the plan and provide valuable feedback. This also includes statutory consultees such as environment agencies and service providers
- We will review all feedback and refine the document, leading to the submission of a second draft to the Buckinghamshire Council planning authority.
- From then onwards, Buckinghamshire Council assumes control, initiating a second consultation.
- Following the second consultation, an independent examiner will consider all representations received and will assess the plan to ensure its compliance with legal requirements and it follows valid planning principles.
- The fourth stage involves a local referendum, allowing residents to vote on the plan's adoption, which will require a simple majority for approval.
- Assuming it receives majority support, Buckinghamshire Council will formally adopt it as part of the statutory development plan, granting it legal status and weight in planning decisions.
- While the exact timescales for Buckinghamshire Council's stages are difficult to estimate, we hope we can achieve adoption before the year's end.
- There's one other point I'd like to mention, the Neighbourhood Plan comprises several components.
- Upon adoption, there will be two primary reference documents: the Neighbourhood Plan itself and the Aston Abbotts Design Guide, which is a document providing design codes and checklists for developers to adhere to.
- And, throughout the planning process, we have produced more than ten background Evidence Reports which have informed our decisions.
- All documents will be provided on the parish council website at the start of the public consultation, and we will organise some open sessions in the village hall for those that cannot access them online.
- Your participation and feedback are important in getting the plan adopted. Without a neighbourhood plan, we risk losing control over our community's development, leaving us vulnerable to decisions that may not align with our values.
- Please can I ask you all to participate during the consultations and support the plan's adoption.

Thank you

Appendix I. Parish Council Website

I.1. Homepage for the Neighbourhood Plan

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Home Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan News Diary Contact Useful Links

Neighbourhood Plan

NOTICE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNDER REGULATION 14

The Parish Council has been developing the Neighbourhood Plan since conducting a comprehensive parish-wide survey in 2022. The plan and its supporting documents are now complete and are being published for a formal six-week public consultation.

The consultation opens at **12 noon on Monday 1st July 2024, ending at 5pm on Monday 19th August 2024.**

For full details on the consultation process and how you can participate please click on [Pre-submission Public Consultation](#). For further information on the subsequent stages necessary for the Plan's full adoption, please click on [Next Steps](#).

What is the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan is a way for our community to influence the planning and development of the area in which we live and work. It will:

- Provide a shared vision for the village.
- Influence the design and scope of any future developments.
- Influence the development of any new infrastructure and leisure facilities.
- Identify and protect important local green spaces or other treasured assets.
- Define aspirations for the parish.

It provides a range of local policies aimed at protecting the character of the Parish and ensuring that any development is appropriate and sustainable, and accompanied by the necessary infrastructure.

[Next Steps](#)

[Pre-Submission Public Consultation](#)

[Consultation Feedback Form](#)

[Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide](#)

[Consultation Statement](#)

[Evidence Reports](#)

Homepage for the Neighbourhood Plan (cont.)

Understanding the Plan

The 'Neighbourhood Plan' has more than one component. When the Plan is finally adopted, there are two documents that will be the main reference for planners and developers. These are:

- **The Neighbourhood Plan Document**
- **Aston Abbotts Design Guide**

The Design Guide is known as a technical document accompanying the Plan. Its purpose is to provide design codes and checklists that property developers should adhere to.

In producing the Plan, numerous background **Evidence Reports** have been produced which have informed the Plan and explain how decisions were made.

Finally, there is another background report which is the **Consultation Statement** which outlines the engagement with the local community and other stakeholders during the development of the plan.

We can influence development, not stop it altogether

The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for housing development, but it must comply with Buckinghamshire Council's Aylesbury Vale Area Local Plan (VALP) and the government's wider policy of sustainable development. This means that it is inevitable that some new housing will have to be built in the future. Hence its importance.

Once adopted, the Plan will have legal force in setting out what development is acceptable in our parish and for what reasons. Developers and local authority planners will have to take notice of it. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, we as a village will have little control over any development that takes place and will receive less community funds from those developments.

I.2. Next Steps page

Neighbourhood Plan Next Steps

What is the process?

Before our Neighbourhood Plan can be adopted, we must complete the following stages:

- Pre-submission Consultation
- Submission Consultation
- Examination
- Referendum
- Adoption

Pre-submission Consultation

This stage is formally called Regulation 14 Consultation and is a major milestone for any Neighbourhood Plan's journey. It is a statutory consultation that must run for a minimum of six weeks. Notification of the consultation will be provided shortly.

For this stage, the draft plan is presented to the community and other consultees for their feedback before it is formally submitted to the local planning authority. This consultation enables residents, stakeholders, and statutory consultees to review the plan and provide their input, ensuring that their views are incorporated into the final version. Statutory consultees include environmental agencies, historical preservation organisations, and infrastructure providers.

Submission Consultation

This stage is formally called Regulation 16 Consultation. It occurs after the neighbourhood plan has been finalized by the community and formally submitted to the Buckinghamshire Council planning authority. During this stage, the authority conducts a further consultation with residents, stakeholders, and statutory consultees. The submission consultation period must run for a minimum of six weeks.

Examination

Following the submission consultation, an independent examiner assesses the plan, considering the representations received during the Submission Consultation, to ensure it meets legal requirements and is sound in terms of planning principles.

Next Steps

Pre-Submission Public Consultation

Consultation Feedback Form

Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide

Consultation Statement

Evidence Reports

Next Steps page (cont.)

Referendum

The plan is then subject to a local referendum, where residents in the area covered by the plan vote on its adoption. The referendum requires a simple majority of those who vote.

Adoption

If the plan receives majority support in the referendum, Buckinghamshire Council planning authority formally adopts it as part of the statutory development plan for the area, providing it with legal status and weight in planning decisions.

The term "Made" is the formal term for when the Plan is adopted.

I.3. Pre-Submission Public Consultation page

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Home Parish Council ▾ Neighbourhood Plan News Diary Contact Useful Links

Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Public Consultation

Publication of Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Submission)

Aston Abbotts Parish Council, as the qualifying body, has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for the period to 2039 for the Parish of Aston Abbotts. The Plan sets out a vision for the future of the parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning proposals locally.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council is now inviting comments on the proposals in this Pre-Submission version of the Plan before it is submitted to Buckinghamshire Council for formal consideration and wider consultation.

THE CONSULTATION OPENS AT 12 NOON ON MONDAY 1st JULY 2024, ENDING AT 5pm ON MONDAY 19th AUGUST 2024.

Where to view the Plan

Click on the following links to view the Plan and its associated documents:

- [Neighbourhood Plan and Design Guide](#)
- [Evidence Reports](#)
- [Consultation Statement](#)

Copies of the Plan and supporting documentation will also be placed in the Village Hall and in St James's Church.

Village Hall Drop-in Sessions

There will be two drop-in sessions at the Village Hall on **Sunday 14th July, between 15:30 and 16:30**, and on **Thursday 25th July between 19:30 and 20:30**, at which representatives of the Parish Council will be available to answer questions.

Next Steps

Pre-Submission Public Consultation

Consultation Feedback Form

Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide

Consultation Statement

Evidence Reports

Pre-Submission Public Consultation page (cont.)

Providing your views

We urge you to take the time to read the Plan. This is your opportunity to provide feedback, including any concerns, suggestions, or omissions. You can submit feedback via the online [Consultation Feedback Form](#) or using paper forms available with the Plan at the Village Hall and St James's Church.

Who can participate?

Any resident, property owner, landowner or person who runs a business in Aston Abbotts can provide feedback on the Plan.

If you are a tenant, please can you make your landlord aware of the consultation.

Contacting us

If you have questions but can't attend a drop-in session, please submit a feedback form with your question in the comment box.

I.4. Feedback Form



The screenshot shows the website for Aston Abbotts Parish Council. At the top left is a circular logo for the Domesday 1086-1986 commemorative coin. The main header features a photograph of a church with the text "Aston Abbotts Parish Council" overlaid. A navigation menu includes "Home", "Parish Council", "Neighbourhood Plan", "News", "Diary", "Contact", and "Useful Links". The main content area is titled "Neighbourhood Plan Feedback Form" and contains the following text:

Please complete one form for every section, page or paragraph you wish to comment on.

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE CLOSING DEADLINE OF 5pm ON MONDAY 19th AUGUST 2024.

When providing feedback, please complete one form for every section, page or paragraph you wish to comment on.

Please be aware that we will not accept comments that are anonymous, irrelevant to the content of the Neighbourhood Plan, racist, abusive, or libellous.

Your comments will be made publicly available however your personal details will not be and will only be used for reference purposes. Please refer to our [Privacy Statement](#).

Consultation Feedback Form

Your Name (required)

Your Email (required)

On the right side of the page, there is a vertical column of six blue buttons with white text: "Next Steps", "Pre-Submission Public Consultation", "Consultation Feedback Form", "Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide", "Consultation Statement", and "Evidence Reports".

Feedback Form (cont.)

Your Address (required)

Which section, page or paragraph of the Plan* are you commenting on?
*If commenting on an evidence report, please include the name of the report (required)

Please state your comments or concerns.(required)

3000


Feedback Form (cont.)

Please tell us what alternative approach would help alleviate your concerns.

3000

Is there anything missing from the Plan?

3000

I'm not a robot  [Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

Send

I.5. Plan and Design Guide page



The screenshot shows the website for Aston Abbotts Parish Council. At the top left is a circular logo celebrating 900 years of Norman heritage, mentioning the Domesday Book of 1086. The main header features a photograph of a church and the text 'Aston Abbotts Parish Council'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Parish Council', 'Neighbourhood Plan', 'News', 'Diary', 'Contact', and 'Useful Links'. The main content area is titled 'Neighbourhood Plan and Design Guide' and contains three paragraphs of text. To the right of the text are five blue buttons: 'Next Steps', 'Pre-Submission Public Consultation', 'Consultation Feedback Form', 'Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide', and 'Consultation Statement'. Below the text is a list of three PDF documents with their respective file sizes and download options.

Neighbourhood Plan and Design Guide

When the Plan is finally adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan document and the Aston Abbotts Design Guide are the two documents that will be the main reference for planners and developers.

A booklet has been produced to introduce the Plan. It serves as a simple guide to the Plan's role and provides a summary of its content.

The Neighbourhood Plan, Summary Document and Design Guide can be viewed or downloaded using the links below:

- [Next Steps](#)
- [Pre-Submission Public Consultation](#)
- [Consultation Feedback Form](#)
- [Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide](#)
- [Consultation Statement](#)
- [Evidence Reports](#)


	NP Guide and Summary - pdf.pdf	473.35 KB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Aston Abbotts Design Guide 2024.pdf	3.37 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan 2024.pdf	4.94 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link

I.6. Consultation Statement page



The screenshot shows the website for Aston Abbotts Parish Council. At the top left is a circular logo celebrating 900 years of Norman heritage (1086-1986) with the text 'This Community is recorded in the DOMESDAY BOOK 1086'. The main header features a photograph of a church and the text 'Aston Abbotts Parish Council'. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan, News, Diary, Contact, and Useful Links. The main content area is titled 'Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement' and contains a paragraph explaining the consultation process. To the right of the text is a vertical column of six blue buttons: 'Next Steps', 'Pre-Submission Public Consultation', 'Consultation Feedback Form', 'Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide', 'Consultation Statement', and 'Evidence Reports'. Below the text is a file upload interface for 'Consultation Statement.pdf' (5.04 MB) with 'Open', 'Download', and 'Copy Link' options.


I.7. Evidence Reports page



The screenshot shows the website for Aston Abbotts Parish Council. At the top left is a circular logo celebrating 900 years of Norman heritage (1086-1986) with the text 'This Community is recorded in the DOMESDAY BOOK 1086'. To the right is a photograph of a stone church. The main heading is 'Aston Abbotts Parish Council'. Below this is a navigation menu with links: Home, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan, News, Diary, Contact, and Useful Links. The main content area is titled 'Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Reports'. It includes a section 'What is an Evidence Report?' explaining that these reports serve as a factual basis for decision-making. A list of evidence reports includes '2022 Survey Results' and '2021 Census Data'. A list of topics covered by the main evidence reports includes 'Community and Facilities', 'Footpaths and Bridleways', 'Heritage Assets', 'Housing and Settlement Boundary', 'Local Business', 'Local Green Spaces', 'Natural Environment', 'Protected Views', and 'Traffic Calming and Parking'. A final section mentions a report on 'Issues, Aspirations and Parish Council Actions'. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical column of six blue buttons: 'Next Steps', 'Pre-Submission Public Consultation', 'Consultation Feedback Form', 'Neighbourhood Plan & Design Guide', 'Consultation Statement', and 'Evidence Reports'.

Evidence Reports page (cont.)

All evidence reports can be viewed or downloaded using the links below:

	Housing and Settlement Boundary.pdf	1.6 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Issues Aspirations Actions.pdf	1.42 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Local Business.pdf	907.06 KB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Natural Environment.pdf	5.35 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	2022 Survey Results.pdf	8.38 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	2021 Census Data.pdf	268.32 KB
Open	Download	Copy Link

Evidence Reports page (cont.)

	Community and Facilities.pdf	515.18 KB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Footpaths and Bridleways.pdf	1.66 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Heritage Assets.pdf	4.05 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Local Green Spaces.pdf	2.86 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Protected Views.pdf	2.78 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link
	Traffic Calming and Parking.pdf	3.96 MB
Open	Download	Copy Link

Appendix J. Regulation 14 Consultation Notification to Residents

J.1. Extract from July 2024 Chronicle

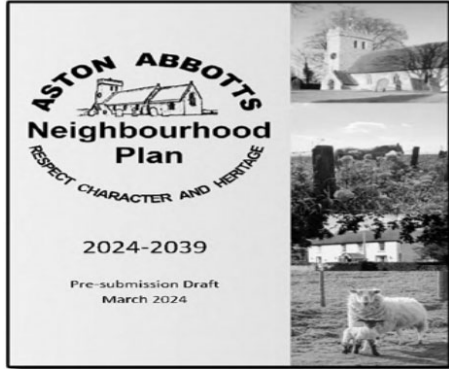
Aston Abbotts Chronicle

July 2024 Issue 450



Extract from December 2023 Chronicle (cont.)

**THE ASTON ABBOTTS
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**



The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan is now published for the first round of public consultation. The Plan is available on the Parish Council website: astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Simply click on “Neighbourhood Plan” on the menu bar.

The Plan will now undergo a six-week public consultation. Full details of the consultation are provided on the website.

For those who cannot access the documents online, copies will be placed on display in the Village Hall and the Church. There will also be two drop-in sessions at the Village Hall where representatives of the Parish Council will be available to answer questions. You will be notified of the dates of these sessions shortly.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a way for our community to influence the

planning and development of our parish.

We urge you to take the time to read the Plan. This will be your opportunity to provide feedback, including any concerns, suggestions or omissions. You can submit feedback via an online form or using paper forms available with the Plan at the Village Hall and the Church.

Any resident, property owner, landowner or person who runs a business in the parish can provide feedback on the Plan.

Following this first consultation, the Plan will undergo a second consultation after which it will then be subject to independent examination to ensure it meets legal requirements and is sound in terms of planning principles. Finally, it will be subject to a local referendum, where residents in the parish vote on its adoption. Remember, this is your chance to influence the future of Aston Abbots.



"I GOT LUCKY. THEY DIDNT NOTICE I PUT IN TWO PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SAME SITE"

J.2. Flyer



Aston Abbotts Parish Council
IMPORTANT
Notice of Neighbourhood Plan
Public Consultation under Regulation 14

Publication of Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-Submission)

Aston Abbotts Parish Council, as the qualifying body, has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for the period to 2039 for the Parish of Aston Abbotts. The Plan sets out a vision for the future of the parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning proposals locally.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council is now inviting comments on the proposals in this Pre-Submission version of the Plan before it is submitted to Buckinghamshire Council for formal consideration and wider consultation.

The consultation opens at 12 noon on Monday 1st July 2024,
for a period of six weeks, ending at 5pm on Monday 19th August 2024.

Where to view the Plan

The Plan is available online on the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the Parish Council's website at astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/

Copies of the Plan and supporting documentation will also be placed in the Village Hall and in St James's Church.

Village Hall Drop-in Sessions

There will be two drop-in sessions at the Village Hall on **Sunday 14th July, between 15:30 and 16:30**, and on **Thursday 25th July between 19:30 and 20:30**, at which representatives of the Parish Council will be available to answer questions.

Providing your views

We urge you to take the time to read the Plan. This is your opportunity to provide feedback, including any concerns, suggestions, or omissions. You can submit feedback via the online form on the Neighbourhood Plan pages of the Parish Council's website or using paper forms available with the Plan at the Village Hall and St James's Church.

Who can participate?

Any resident, property owner, landowner or person who runs a business in Aston Abbotts can provide feedback on the Plan.

If you are a tenant, please can you make your landlord aware of the consultation.

Contact details

If you can't access the Plan or have questions but can't attend a drop-in session, please contact us at ourplan@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk or approach a member of the Parish Council. You can also contact the Clerk, Liz van Hullen, on [REDACTED].

Flyer (cont.)

What is the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Planning was initiated through the Localism Act (2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). These were part of the Government's vision to provide local communities with the opportunity to engage and have a say in what goes on in their area.

The Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan is a way for our community to influence the planning and development of the area in which we live and work. It will:

- Provide a shared vision for the village.
- Influence the design and scope of any future developments.
- Influence the development of any new infrastructure and leisure facilities.
- Identify and protect important local green spaces or other treasured assets.
- Define aspirations for the parish.

It provides a range of local policies aimed at protecting the character of the parish and ensuring that any development is appropriate, sustainable, and accompanied by the necessary infrastructure.

We can influence development, not stop it altogether

The Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for housing development, but it must comply with Buckinghamshire Council's Aylesbury Vale Area Local Plan (VALP) and the government's wider policy of sustainable development. This means that it is inevitable that some new housing will have to be built in the future, hence its importance.

Once adopted, the Plan will have legal force in setting out what development is acceptable in our parish and for what reasons. Developers and local authority planners will have to take notice of it. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, we as a village will have little control over any development that takes place and will receive less community funds from those developments.

What is Regulation 14?

Regulation 14 is a major milestone for any Neighbourhood Plan's journey. It is a statutory consultation period that must be run for a minimum of six weeks, and it gives local residents and other statutory consultees the opportunity to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. All comments must be taken into consideration.

Why should I submit feedback?

Feedback is very important and is actively encouraged as every comment will be read and carefully considered.

What happens next?

After the Regulation 14 consultation, feedback will be addressed and the Plan revised. It will then be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council for a further period of consultation. An independent examiner will then review the Plan to ensure its compliance with regulations. The final stage will be a local referendum and, upon achieving a simple majority, it will be adopted by Buckinghamshire Council.

J.3. Email Postbox Notice

From: postbox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 June 2024 15:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan - Public Consultation

For the small, dedicated steering group, it has been quite a journey since the parish-wide survey two years ago. Their hard work has culminated in the publication of the first draft of the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan and the initiation of the first round of public consultation.

The Plan and its associated documents are now available online on the Parish Council website at astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/. The website also provides details of the consultation process, which runs from 12 noon on Monday, 1st July 2024, for a period of six weeks, ending at 5 pm on Monday, 12th August 2024.

If you are a resident, property owner, landowner or person who runs a business in Aston Abbotts, you are invited to participate in the consultation and provide feedback, including any concerns, suggestions, or omissions. Feedback is a crucial aspect of the process and is actively encouraged, as every comment will be read and carefully considered.

Throughout the consultation period, copies of the Plan and supporting documentation can be viewed in the Village Hall and in St James's Church. There will be two drop-in sessions at the Village Hall on Sunday 14th July, from 15:30 to 16:30, and on Thursday 25th July from 19:30 to 20:30. Representatives of the Parish Council will be present at these sessions to answer any questions.

If you are unable to access the Plan or have questions but cannot attend a drop-in session, please contact us at [ourplan@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk] or approach a member of the Parish Council. You can also contact the Clerk, Liz van Hullen, on [REDACTED].

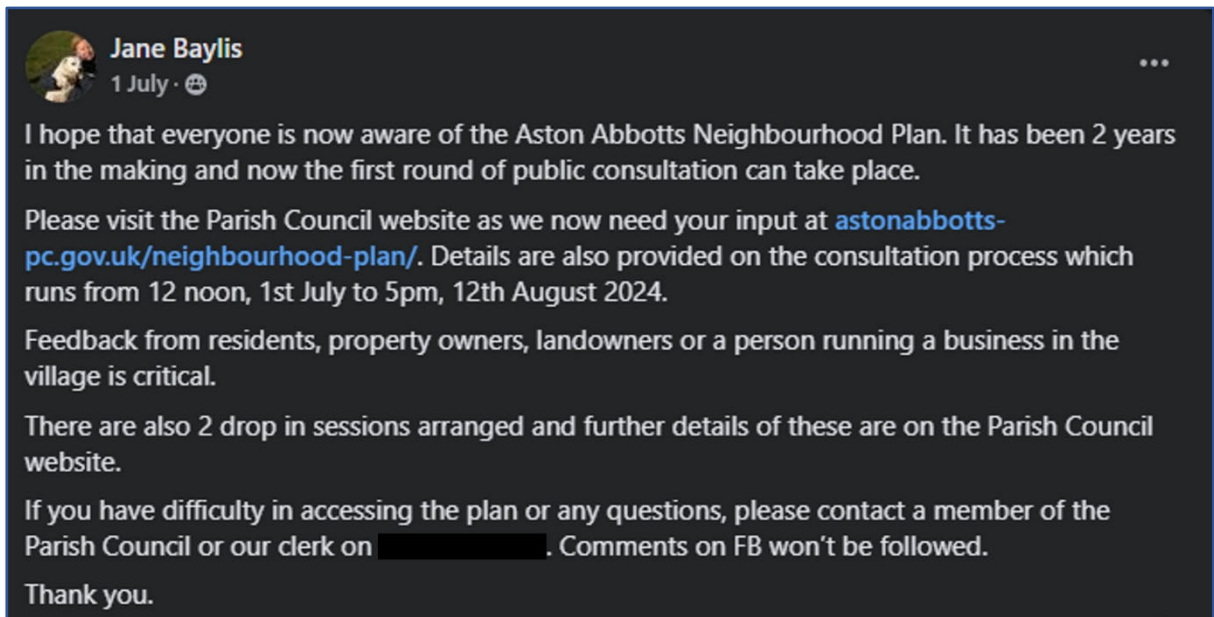
I would like to extend my gratitude to the volunteers of the steering group for their dedication and effort in reaching this milestone.

Trevor Hall

Parish Councillor and Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

If you want to unsubscribe from this (groupname) Group click [here](#)
To file a complaint please send an eMail to: [[Complaints](#) [[Complaints](#) [REDACTED]]]

J.4. Facebook Post



Appendix K. Regulation 14 Consultation Notification to Statutory Consultees

K.1. Email Template used for Notifying Statutory Consultees

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject: Aston Abbotts Statutory Consultees Notice

STATUTORY CONSULTTEES NOTICE:

Aston Abbotts Parish Council (HP22 4LY) is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan covering the whole Parish.

In accordance with the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (Regulation 14), the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is **out to formal consultation from 12:00 midday 1st July to 17:00 19th August 2024.**

In addition to engaging local people, community organisations and businesses in the Parish, the Parish Council wishes to obtain the views of statutory bodies and other interested organisations at each stage of the Plan. Your comments are, therefore, invited. Should you have no comment to offer please indicate this in your response; and if this email have been addressed incorrectly within your organisation please either forward it on or advise us of the correct person to send it to.

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents are on the Neighbourhood Plan pages of the Parish Council website:
<https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

The website offers an online feedback form, which is the recommended way to submit comments. Alternatively, you can email your feedback to the following address:

['Ourplan' [REDACTED]]

If you have any queries, please contact the parish clerk, Liz van Hullen, who is managing the process on behalf of the Parish Council. Her contact details are:

E-mail: ['Clerk' [REDACTED]]

Post: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Parish Council looks forward to receiving any comment by the close of the consultation.

Kind regards

Liz van Hullen
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Aston Abbotts Parish Council
[REDACTED]

The Parish Council is committed to maintaining your privacy – [Please see our Privacy Policy](#)

Appendix L. Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

L.1. Postbox Email

From: postbox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 03 July 2024 15:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan
Attachments: AANP Guide and Summary.pdf

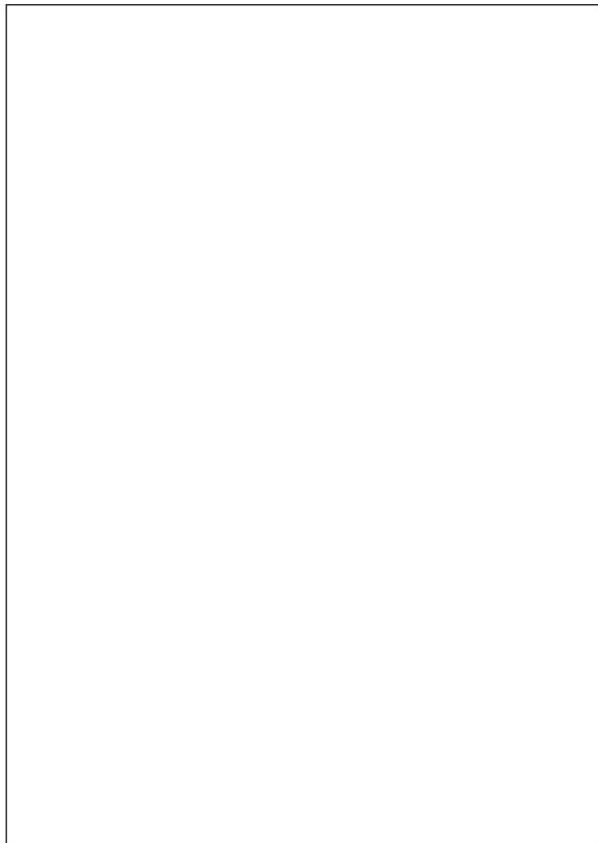
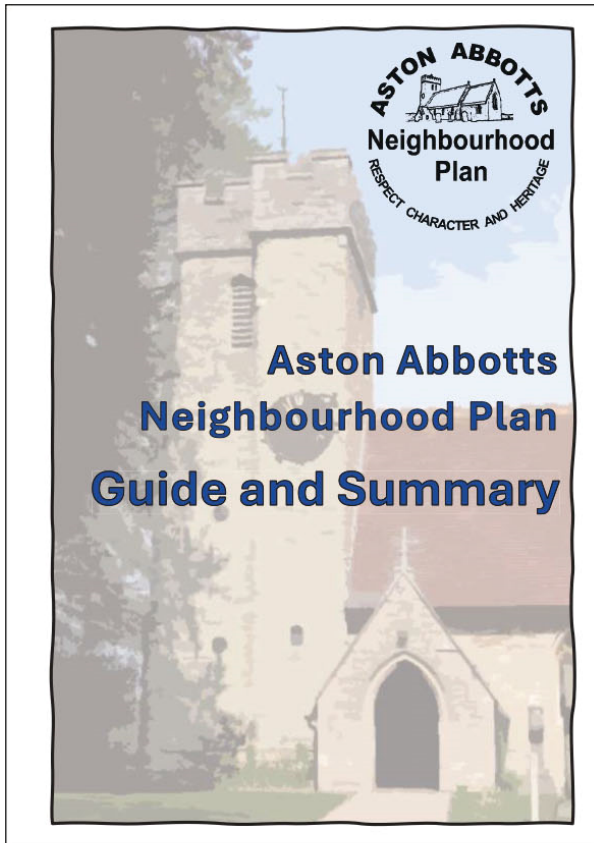
To accompany the Neighbourhood Plan published at the weekend, we have created a booklet as a concise introduction to the Plan. It serves as a simple guide to the Plan's role and provides a summary of its content. The booklet is attached and will soon be uploaded to the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the Parish Council Website.

Trevor Hall

Parish Councillor and Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

If you want to unsubscribe from this {groupname} Group click [here](#)
To file a complaint please send an eMail to: [Complaints [REDACTED]]

L.2. Booklet Content



Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Contents

Purpose of this booklet 1

Overview 1

Role of the Plan..... 2

Vision and Aims 2

Who is covered by the Plan..... 4

Design Guide 5

Evidence Reports 5

Noteworthy features 5

Other topics..... 7

Issues and Aspirations 8

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Purpose of this booklet

This booklet provides an overview of the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan). It serves solely as a guide to explain the role of the Plan and summarise its content.

Please note that this document has no statutory significance and is not part of the formal consultation process. To participate in the public consultation, it is essential to read the full Plan.

Overview

The Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and conservation of the parish. It defines policies that influence planning decisions, ensuring that future development reflects the specific needs and priorities of the community. Once the plan is adopted, any future planning application will have to take account of policies contained within the Plan.

Sitting above the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan is Buckinghamshire Council's "Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan" (VALP). The VALP sets out the long-term vision and strategic context for managing and accommodating growth within Aylesbury Vale until 2033.

Within the latest VALP, Aston Abbotts is classified as a 'smaller village' with no future housing requirement allocated. Consequently, the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan does not designate any sites for housing development. However, it is acknowledged that changing council and government policies may necessitate some new housing in the future. Additionally, even without a housing allocation, applications for alterations to existing properties and small-scale developments could still be submitted.

To ensure that new housing development aligns with the character of the village, a Design Guide has been produced that defines design codes and provides a checklist against which design proposals should be evaluated. Additionally, a settlement boundary has been defined to prevent outward expansion of the village, thereby protecting the surrounding countryside. The plan also defines sustainable development policies.

Equally important, the Plan defines policies to protect features that are valued by the community including local green spaces, heritage assets, and countryside views.

1

Booklet Content (cont.)

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Role of the Plan

The Plan deals with the important land use and environmental qualities of the parish that have been identified by the residents during various consultation events.

- It sets out a clear vision for the parish over the plan period, from 2024 to 2039.
- It refers to the issues raised and suggests how they can be approached through planning policies and aspirations.
- It contains policies to protect the parish and to enable appropriate development, to meet local needs for houses and jobs.
- It acknowledges that some development might be appropriate, provided it meets the policies in this plan and the current strategic plan for the whole district.
- It contains detailed maps of the parish and village showing the protected and important features.

Vision and Aims

The development of the Plan has been guided by the vision that:

Aston Abbots' rural and historic character and hilltop setting will be valued and enhanced. The strong sense of community spirit will be strengthened such that existing and new residents will enjoy good health and wellbeing. The design of all new development will be of the highest quality and respect the character and heritage of the Parish.

At the outset of the plan's development, eight aims were established. The table overleaf shows these aims, their corresponding policies, and the page references within the Plan where the policies are detailed.

2

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

	Neighbourhood Plan Aims	Policies	Plan page number
1	The rural character and natural environment of the Parish including landscape features, biodiversity and green spaces will be enhanced and protected.	RC1: Rural Character NE1: Protecting the Landscape NE2: Biodiversity SD1: Development within the Settlement Boundary	16 20 21 23
2	The historic character and heritage assets of the parish will be preserved and enhanced.	HE1: Conservation Area and its Setting HE2: Protecting and enhancing local heritage assets	18 19
3	High quality design will be secured in all new development reflecting the distinctive character of Aston Abbots.	SD2: High Quality Design SD3: Provision of energy and water efficient buildings	25 26
4	Existing community facilities will be protected. New facilities or improvements to existing facilities will be encouraged to enhance opportunities for community cohesion and wellbeing.	C1: Community facilities	28
5	Formal and informal amenity spaces will be protected and enhanced, and Local Green Space designated to protect those spaces of particular community value.	C2: Local Green Spaces	29
6	Existing local businesses, including farms, home-based and rural businesses will be supported. Small scale new businesses will be encouraged in the Parish.	C3: Supporting Local Business and Agriculture	30
7	New development will be accompanied by traffic calming measures and appropriate parking.	TT1: Transport	32
8	The public footpath and bridleway network will be improved and extended to be safe and accessible with additional links.	TT2: Public Rights of Way	32

3

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Who is covered by the Plan

The Plan covers residents, property owners, landowners or people who run a business in the Parish of Aston Abbots, the boundary of which is shown below.

4

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Design Guide

It is very important that the design of any development respects the unique character of the village. To ensure this, a Design Guide has been created as a standalone technical document accompanying the Plan. The Design Guide aims to shape future development in the parish, regardless of scale (house extensions or conversions, infill development and/or larger developments). Informed and shaped by the local character of Aston Abbots, the Design Guide provides design codes and a checklist for evaluating design proposals.

Evidence Reports

During the development of the Plan, evidence was gathered which was used to inform its content and policies. This evidence has been documented in several evidence reports which detail the source of information, methodologies used to assess the information, and conclusions. Whilst the evidence reports do not form part of the final Plan, they have been made available for reference.

The full list of evidence reports is:

- 2021 Census Data
- 2022 Survey Results
- Community and Facilities
- Footpaths and Bridleways
- Heritage Assets
- Housing and Settlement Boundary
- Local Businesses
- Local Green Spaces
- Natural Environment
- Parish Issues, Aspirations and Parish Council Actions
- Protected Views
- Traffic Calming, Heavy Vehicles and Parking

Noteworthy features

The parish-wide survey identified many features that the community values highly and that significantly contribute to the distinctive character of the village and its surroundings. These features have been given specific designations within the Plan as shown opposite.

5

Booklet Content (cont.)

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Local Green Spaces

- Recreation Ground
- Churchyard
- The Village Green
- Vic Scott Memorial Orchard
- Allotments

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- Tomb of Rear Admiral Sir James Clark Ross
- War Memorial
- The Village Pump
- The Village Hall
- Lime tree on the village green
- Finger signpost on the village green
- Methodist Chapel
- Overstone Cottages (four terraces)
- Ordnance Survey Trig Pillar located in the Village Orchard
- Lines Hill Gates
- Bells in St James the Great Church

Countryside Protected Views

- Whitchurch North footpath by Freemasons Wood looking north
- North Bridleway looking northwest
- Cublington Footpath near Badgers Oak Farm looking west
- Lines Hill, wide panorama over the Vale of Aylesbury
- The Grove looking across earthworks towards village green
- Footpath by Chapmans Lea looking northeast towards Wing
- Recreation Ground looking south
- Footpath to Wing looking east towards Chiltern Hills

Village Protected Views

- The Village Green (three views)
- The Green towards Old Cottage
- Moat Lane, on entering the village
- Cublington Road, on entering the village
- Wingrave Road, on entering the village

6

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Other topics

The following summarises other topics covered in the Plan

Protection of the Landscape and Biodiversity

The plan seeks to protect and enhance the historic and natural landscape of the Parish, including field ponds, mature trees and hedgerows. New developments will be required to protect and enhance existing natural features of sites and provide at least 10% net gain in biodiversity.

Community

The provision of new community facilities will be encouraged. The following community facilities will be retained and planning applications which result in either the loss of or significant harm to the facilities will be resisted:

- Village Hall
- Recreation Ground
- Allotments
- Orchard

Business

Proposals for the development of new small businesses and for the expansion or diversification of existing businesses, including farm-based operations, will be encouraged, providing that they meet specific conditions.

Traffic and Transport

It is recognised that issues around traffic calming and vehicle speed is a significant concern for most residents. New development should include measures that that keep traffic speeds low and improve the provision of pavements and access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders. Additionally, new developments must provide off-street parking.

Public Rights of Way

The rights of way network will be retained and enhanced. New footpath and bridleway links will be encouraged, within the village, extending the Village Circular Walk and to the wider countryside.

7

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Guide and Summary

Issues and Aspirations

The 'Parish Issues, Aspirations and Parish Council Actions' evidence report examines the comments made by the residents in response to the 2022 parish-wide survey, many of which raised issues or made suggestions.

The evidence report provides responses to the issues raised and the following aspirations have been included in the Plan:

- Improvements to the Recreation Ground Play Area
- Lobby for inclusion of Aston Abbots within the Buckinghamshire Council's Freight Strategy to reduce the volume of heavy goods vehicle traffic through the village
- Installation of adult exercise equipment on the recreation ground
- Extend the footpath network to add additional circular walks

8

Issue 2 0220-PLN

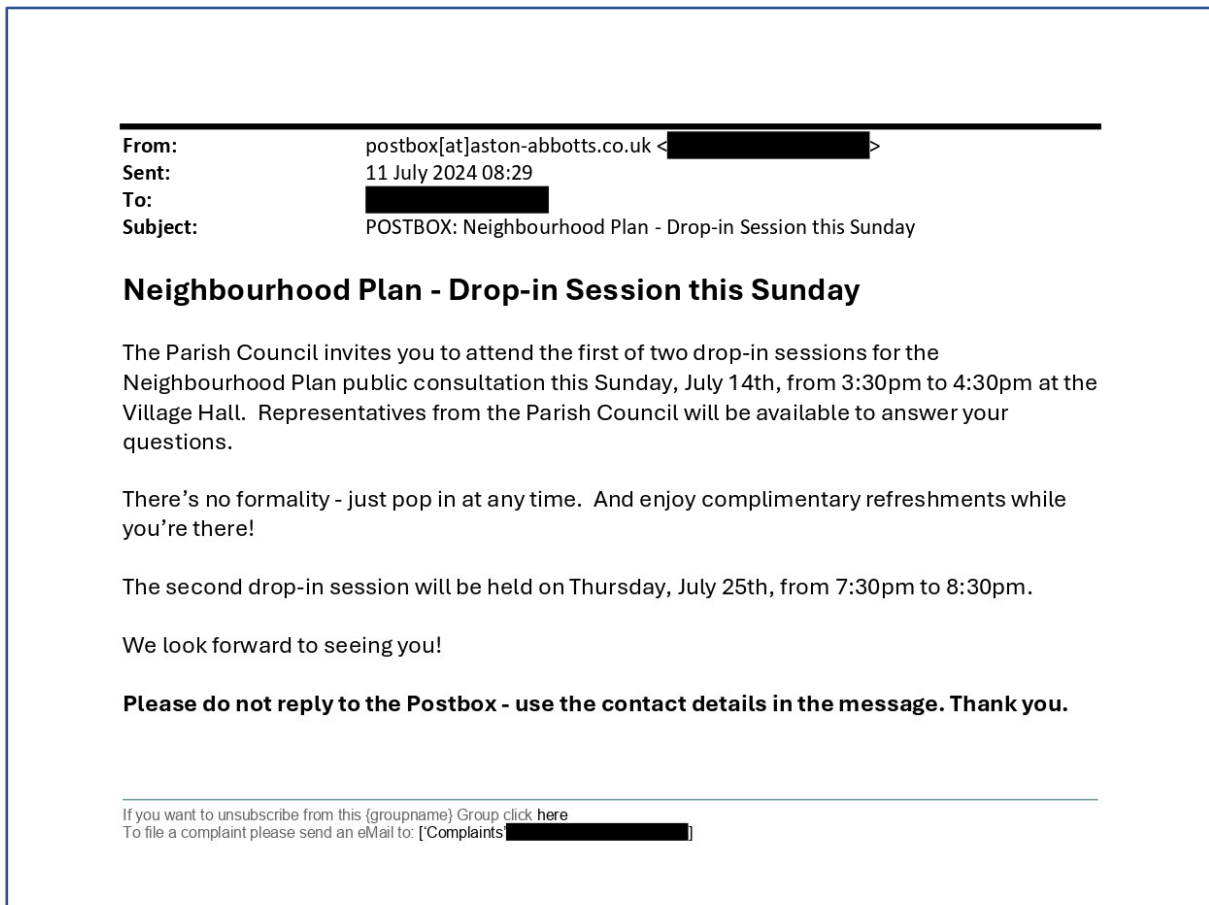
Appendix M. Regulation 14 Consultation - Drop-in Sessions

M.1. Display Boards

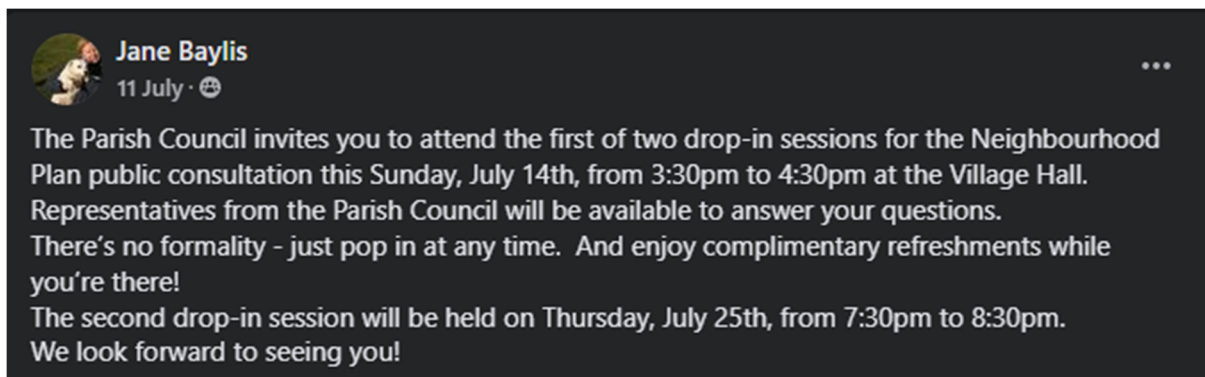
The image displays six informational display boards for the Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan, arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each board has a blue border and contains specific content:

- Top Left Board:** Titled "Local Heritage Assets", it features a map of the area with various heritage sites marked and a list of assets including: 1. Church of St. Andrew, 2. Church of St. James, 3. Church of St. Mary, 4. Church of St. Peter, 5. Church of St. Paul, 6. Church of St. Vincent, 7. Church of St. George, 8. Church of St. John, 9. Church of St. Michael, 10. Church of St. Nicholas, 11. Church of St. Oswald, 12. Church of St. Peter and Paul, 13. Church of St. Stephen, 14. Church of St. Thomas, 15. Church of St. Ursula, 16. Church of St. Veronica, 17. Church of St. Wenefreda, 18. Church of St. Wilfrid, 19. Church of St. Winifred, 20. Church of St. Zenobius.
- Top Middle Board:** Titled "Character Areas and Settlement Boundary", it includes a map showing different colored zones and a legend for "Character Areas" (CA1: Conservation Area North, CA2: Conservation Area South, CA3: Green Road / Inner Green, CA4: Woodcock, CA5: The Limes / Wood Lane, CA6: Wignote Road, CA7: Lingmoor) and "Settlement Boundary" and "Conservation Areas".
- Top Right Board:** Titled "Countryside Protected Views", it shows a map with numbered view corridors (P1001 to P1007) and a legend for "Countryside Protected Views".
- Middle Left Board:** Titled "Local Green Spaces", it features a map with green spaces highlighted and a legend for "Local Green Spaces" (LGS1: Church Green, LGS2: Church Lane, LGS3: Church Road, LGS4: Church Street, LGS5: Church Way, LGS6: Church Yard, LGS7: Church Walk, LGS8: Church Lane, LGS9: Church Road, LGS10: Church Street, LGS11: Church Way, LGS12: Church Yard, LGS13: Church Walk).
- Middle Right Board:** Titled "Village Protected Views", it shows a map with numbered view corridors (P1001 to P1007) and a legend for "Village Protected Views".
- Bottom Left Board:** Titled "Aston Abbots Design Guide", it contains text and images related to the design guide, including a section on "What is a parish wide design guide?" and "Aston Abbots Design Guide contests".
- Bottom Right Board:** This board contains a notice: "PLEASE NOTE EXTENSION OF PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION PERIOD", "CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS IS 5pm Monday 19th August 2024", the "ASTON ABBOTS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN" logo, and the slogan "Your feedback is important".

M.2. Email Postbox Notice of First Drop-In Session



M.3. Facebook Post for First Drop-In Session



M.4. Email Postbox Notice of Second Drop-In Session

From: postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 23 July 2024 16:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: POSTBOX: Neighbourhood Plan - Drop-in Session this Thursday evening

Neighbourhood Plan - Drop-in Session this Thursday evening

The Parish Council invites you to attend the second and final drop-in session for the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation this Thursday, July 25th, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at the Village Hall. Representatives from the Parish Council will be available to answer your questions.

There's no formality - just pop in at any time. And enjoy complimentary refreshments while you're there!

We look forward to seeing you!

Please do not reply to the Postbox - use the contact details in the message. Thank you.

If you want to unsubscribe from this {groupname} Group click [here](#)
To file a complaint please send an eMail to: [Complaints: [REDACTED]]

M.5. Facebook Post for Second Drop-In Session

Jane Baylis
23 July · 🌐

The Parish Council invites you to attend the second and final drop-in session for the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation this Thursday, July 25th, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at the Village Hall. Representatives from the Parish Council will be available to answer your questions. There's no formality - just pop in at any time. And enjoy complimentary refreshments while you're there!
We look forward to seeing you!

4 likes · 13 comments

Like Comment Send

Top comments ▾

James Dell
Thanks Jane, Is this different to the last drop in?
8w Like Reply
Jane Baylis replied · 4 replies

Peter Lucas
I'm afraid I won't be there on Thursday for the drop in session.
Can I ask a question though? It's probably been asked already but, Will the new Labour Government's Housing development policies have any major Impact on our Village Plan?
8w Like Reply
Neil Redding replied · 2 replies

Reg Mayhew
Attended the drop-in session for the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan this evening. Thanks and compliments to all those who've put in such hard work to achieve this for our village.
8w Like Reply
Jane Baylis replied · 1 reply

Caroline Lane
Good to see all this set out this evening at the drop-in. Thanks!
8w Like Reply 2 likes

Chris Phillips Admin
@everyone if you can drop in, please do
8w Like Reply 1 like

Jane Baylis Author
Yes, please support our Neighbourhood Plan as this has been a lot of work and is for the future of Aston Abbotts.
8w Like Reply 1 like

M.6. Attendance Record for First Drop-In Session



Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Drop-in session

14th July 2024

Attendance Record

Name	Address (optional)
L3 Hill	
COLIN HIGGS	
BOB PROUTING	

M.7. Attendance Record for Second Drop-In Session



Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan Drop-in session

25th July 2024

Attendance Record

Name	Address (optional)
SAWY CHARK E	[Redacted]
MR+MRS D LEWIS	[Redacted]
PETER KNIGHT	[Redacted]
Mr. + Ms BARNSTER	[Redacted]
Helen + Roy Mather.	[Redacted]
Mr. + Mrs. Humble	[Redacted]
CAROLINE LANE	[Redacted]
GORDON SMITH	[Redacted]
RO KNIGHT	[Redacted]
CAROLINE ABB-SMITH	[Redacted]
MICHAEL GUILD	[Redacted]
SONDRA BAR RICHMAN	[Redacted]
ANDREW KING	[Redacted]
CHRIS PHILLIPS	[Redacted]
RICHARD PLESTED	[Redacted]

M.8. Photographs



Village hall display arrangement



Three hardcopies of the complete document suite were available to view

Photographs (cont.)



Evening of Thursday 25th July

Appendix N. Notification of the Outcome of Regulation 14 Consultation

N.1. Extract from October 2024 Chronicle

Aston Abbotts Chronicle

October 2024 Issue 452

Happy Birthday Cate

Cate Waite celebrated her 102nd birthday on Tuesday 25th September.

Still sharp as a button, Cate celebrated early with a party held for her at the coffee morning in the Village Hall on Thursday 19th.



Phil' Spooner told the Chronicle, "Cate is a regular attendee at the coffee mornings and the party was organised by her daughter Jacqueline, along with many of the

village coffee morning regulars."



Phil' continued, "Cate was presented with two birthday cakes. Will she get three cakes on her 103rd, we wonder?"



**Happy birthday Cate.
You are loved.**

Extract from October 2024 Chronicle (Cont.)

Your Emails & Posts

Hi Ed

I recently read the draft of the Aston Abbotts neighbourhood plan, with interest. In my opinion, I thought the document was really well constructed, detailed and articulate in reflecting my own views, for sure, to retain and protect the core characteristics of our Village and surrounding areas and views. I hope it achieves an outcome of the Village avoiding any eyesore identikit mass produced soulless dwellings that would diminish our community; the like of which are located on the southern side of Aylesbury. I congratulate the author(s) of the document on a job very well done!

Rgds. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Thanks for your email Mark. I fear that the excellent plan soon to be submitted to the Council will be weakened by the Secretary of State's plans to override councils building planning. See Editors Comments on page 3 and Martin Tett's message on page 6. Ed!

Dear Pete,

on Wednesday 18th September I did my much awaited Wingwalk at Cirencester. It was to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease

charity in memory of my late partner Anita Parker of The Cloisters who sadly succumbed to the disease last November. It was an amazing and exhilarating experience to stand on the top wing of a Boeing Stearman biplane flying over the airfield. Many of the villagers have already sponsored me and very generously donated through JustGiving. Once again I would just like to thank them all. You are stars. To date over £3000 has been raised for MND. If anyone would like to donate it can be done through www.justgiving.com/page/anitaianmnd.

Many Thanks

Hi. Can anyone tell me why/where the signs saying road unsuitable for HGVS have gone please?

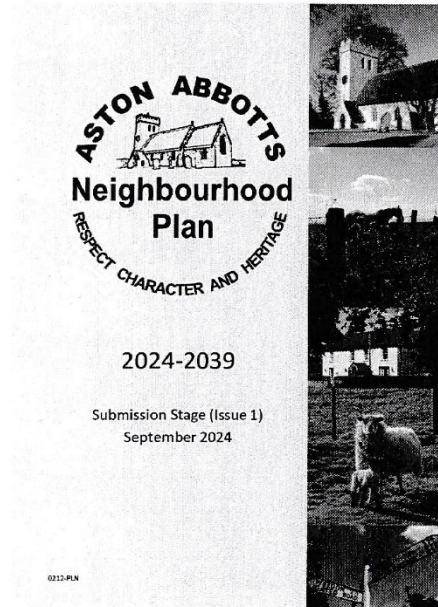
It belonged to the Water Company I'm told and they took it back. I'm trying to obtain another. Ed!

Ed.

After the recent cut back of verge and hedge clearing on Wingrave Road a litter pick was organised.

Extract from October 2024 Chronicle (Cont.)

**Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Update**



The first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, known as the Regulation 14 Consultation, took place from 1st July to 19th August 2024. During this period, two drop-in events were held at the village hall, allowing residents to ask questions and share their feedback. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who participated and to those who submitted comments.

The consultation wasn't just limited to residents of Aston Abbots. Buckinghamshire Council and various statutory consultees,

such as service providers and Historic England, were also invited to provide input. In total, we received 10 comments from residents, 25 from Buckinghamshire Council, and 8 responses from statutory consultees.

Based on the feedback gathered, the Neighbourhood Plan has been revised. The next step will be an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Parish Council on 2nd October, where the proposal will be made to submit the revised Plan to Buckinghamshire Council. It will then be Buckinghamshire Council's responsibility to undertake the next stage of consultation, referred to as Regulation 16 Consultation.

The Neighbourhood Plan pages on the Aston Abbott Parish Council website will soon be updated to include the revised documents and details of the remaining steps to get the Plan officially adopted.



Appendix O. Regulation 14 Comments Requiring Minor or No Change

O.1. Residents' Comments

Table 4 – Residents' Comments requiring minor or no change

ID	Doc Ref	Page No	Feedback	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
001	General		<p><u>Comment</u></p> <p>Firstly, thanks are due to Trevor Hall and the other members of the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for the time and effort they have put in to producing this plan.</p> <p>Sadly, their efforts are entirely wasted. The new government has announced that it intended to build hundreds of thousands of houses each year for the next five years. If, as would seem probable today, they should win the next general election, this development will continue well into the next decade. They have already declared that Green Belt land is not sacrosanct. Whilst it is unlikely that their targets will be met, it is clear that they will simply drive a coach and horses through any neighbourhood plan that is at odds with their objectives.</p> <p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <p>If we are not to see the fields of Aston Abbotts covered with concrete and tarmac, the only solution when the time comes is militant nimbyism. It worked fifty years ago to prevent Wing-Cublington becoming London's third airport; it can work again.</p>	Noted	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

ID	Doc Ref	Page No	Feedback	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
002	Para 12.7 (Traffic and Transport)	32	<p>Comment</p> <p>I would prefer to see the addition of horse riders and carriage drivers in 12.7</p> <p>So it would read:</p> <p>A partnership approach between the Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council will be required to improve highway safety and minimise conflicts between road traffic, cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and carriage drivers.</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>See above</p>	Agree with the suggestion	Changed para 12.7 to read: 'A partnership approach between the Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council will be required to improve highway safety and minimise conflicts between road traffic, cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and carriage drivers.'
003	Policy HE2	20	<p>Comment</p> <p>Church Bells are not included as a heritage asset</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Add Church Bells to policy</p>	This was an omission from the plan, it was included in the relevant evidence report.	Added additional bullet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church Bells housed in the bell tower'
004	Policy HE2	20	<p>Comment</p> <p>Name incorrect: Sir Kames Clark Ross</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Change name</p>	Typographical error	Changed 'Sir James Clark' to 'Sir James Clark Ross'
005	Figure 11 – Policy Map Non-Designated Heritage Assets	42	<p>Comment</p> <p>Number 1 spells Sir James Clark Ross' name incorrectly</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Correct spelling of name</p>	Typographical error	Changed 'Sir James Clark' to 'Sir James Clark Ross'

ID	Doc Ref	Page No	Feedback	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
006	Design guide	25	<p>Comment</p> <p>CA1.4, windows should be sash on facades or dormer on rooflines – actually the dominant window style in conservation area north is hinged (casement) windows, not sash windows – for example Church Row, Church Farm House, around the north area of the Green. I think only Home Farm, a different style of building, has sash windows.</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Just correct the guidelines</p> <p>Omissions</p> <p>I don't think so</p>	<p>It is a valid observation.</p> <p><i>Design Guide, Page 25, bullet CA1.4: “sash” has been changed to “casement”</i></p>	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
007	Design guide	35	<p>Comment</p> <p>3.8 CA6 Wingrave Road, described as having no pavements. This is incorrect as there is now a pavement all the way to the Wingrave crossroads.</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Just correct the text</p>	<p>It is a valid observation.</p> <p><i>Design Guide, Page 35, first para of column 2: The sentence “The combination... for pedestrians” has been deleted</i></p>	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
008	Section 13 Aspirations, 13.5	34	<p>Comment</p> <p>Very much in favour of additional circular walks and happy to see the specific suggestions, although I understand these are dependent on the consent and collaboration of landowners.</p>	Comment noted.	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

O.2. Buckinghamshire Council Comments

Table 5 – Buckinghamshire Council comments requiring minor or no change

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
Planning Policy	1.2	1	The front cover says the plan period is 15 years (to 2039) but 1.2 says the vision will just be to 2035. The plan vision should be for the whole plan period.	Agree	Changed '2035' to '2039' in 1.2 and Page 36, Para 13.14, Corrected header to 'Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2039'
Planning Policy	Fig 2	3	Please add a north arrow, scale bar, scale text and any ordnance survey license number for the map	Noted	Pages 3 and 37: Scale and north arrow added to Fig. 2 and Fig. 6 (Parish Boundary and Settlement Boundary). Scale and north arrow not considered necessary for other maps which identify features or areas. Maps have been obtained from Parish Online and copyright information has been added to all maps (Fig 2 and Figs 6 thru 14).
Planning Policy	3.2	5	For 'Henry VIII' please do 'l's rather than '1's	Agree	Typo corrected
Planning Policy	5.1	13	Rather than opening with "The vision is..." within the 'Vision' it would be better to say "By 2039, Aston Abbotts rural and historic..."	Agree	Changed first sentence of Vision to 'By 2039, Aston Abbotts rural and historic...'
Planning Policy	7.2	15	Typo should be 'respondents'	Noted	Typo corrected
Planning Policy	HE2	20	The plan should show in it or any heritage evidence base what the extent of the curtilage is of each heritage asset so it is clear to the decision taker on planning applications	Noted but the majority of the assets have no curtilage and those that do (the cottages and the hall) have obvious curtilages which form part of the planning unit.	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Planning Policy	NE1	21	To see what this policy adds in difference to the VALP policy NE4, the important ponds, mature trees and hedgerows should be shown in the plan or any landscape evidence base	Noted, but this is not considered necessary as the policy will be applied for planning applications within a specified site. To map all of these features across the Parish would not be proportionate.	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
Planning Policy	SD3	27	The policy needs a full stop after 'carbon emissions'. Just to note the VALP provides a water efficiency standard (in policy I5) of 110 litres per person per day though it is possible for plans being prepared now to justify a more ambitious standard.	Noted.	Typo corrected
Planning Policy	C1	29	The plan needs to show the extent of the curtilage of these community facilities affected by the policy so as and when a planning application comes forward on land nearby it is clear if it includes buildings, gardens, parking areas, play areas, enclosures, outbuildings etc.	Noted. This is not considered necessary as there is either no curtilage, or the curtilage is obvious. However, it has been noted that the Church of St James has been omitted from the list of community facilities.	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan is required in relation to curtilage but the Church of St James has been added to the list of community facilities.
DM	Policy RC1	17	Views of particular importance – it would be helpful if where these are shown on the policy map, it could be referenced why these views are important / what is important about them specifically that proposals should seek to protect. i.e. why are these views of importance? On entering the village, what is it that developments are seeking to protect in terms of these views? Key: PV09 The Village Green (three views) PV10 The Green towards Old Cottage PV11 Moat Lane, on entering the village PV12 Cublington Road, on entering the village PV13 Wingrave Road, on entering the village	Agreed, however this information is already set out in the background Evidence Report 'Protected Views' which accompanies the Neighbourhood Plan referred to in 7.5	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
DM	Policy HE2	20	This policy does not appear to cover designated heritage assets, rather only non-designated heritage assets. Is this intentional? Should the policy be tweaked to refer to Listed Buildings as per The National Heritage List for England? Or this form a separate policy?	Designated heritage assets are already protected at national and Local Plan level, so there is no need to repeat, see paragraph 8.8	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
DM			Noting Aston Abbotts is a smaller village in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP), therefore policy D4 of the VALP is applicable where no neighbourhood plan is in place. It is highlighted that Policy D4 of the VALP supports new development where it "is of a small scale (normally five dwellings or fewer) (net) and in a location that is in keeping with the existing form of the settlement and would not adversely affect its character and appearance". Would the neighbourhood plan wish to place a similar figure on the quantum of new development it envisages?	Noted, however, it is not considered necessary to place a figure on potential future housing development in the Parish as it could be construed as a target figure rather than a repetition of a Local Plan policy.	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

Comment from team	Policy or Para	Page	Comment	Response	Changes to the Neighbourhood Plan
Highways DM	Policy TT1: Transport	33	Whilst Highways DM is supportive that new development should include measures that keep traffic speeds low and improve access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders, we must be realistic regarding financial contributions and works that we can secure based on the amount of development proposed. It appears that only relatively small developments would be acceptable, therefore only relatively minor financial contributions and improvement works would be justifiable.	Noted	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan
Archaeology	Fig 10	41	Historic England not English Heritage This figure should be expanded to show the location of the Scheduled Monument.	Noted, however, this is a designation already in place and does not need to be shown on a Policies Map for the NP.	'English Heritage' replaced with 'Historic England'
Lead Local Flood Authority (SuDS team)	General	N/A	Please find below some general guidance on information that may be useful to communities preparing neighbourhood plans in relation to flood risk matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local knowledge about historic local flooding experienced within the neighbourhood plan area. Including the year, location and source of flooding (e.g. river flooding, surface water, groundwater or sewer flooding) • Use of publicly available tools to assess potential development sites in relation to flood risk. This can include the LPA's Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, the Flood map for Planning and the Longterm flood risk service. • Ensure that any flood risk policies steer future development to areas of lower flood risk in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. • Ensure that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are prioritised to mitigate surface water runoff generated by new development. • Ensure that developers and the community are aware of their riparian responsibilities in relation to any watercourses located within the neighbourhood plan area. Further guidance on riparian responsibilities can be found on Buckinghamshire Council's website. 	Noted	No change to the Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix P. Regulation 14 Comments and Submissions

P.1. Comments from Walsingham Planning



Bourne House, Cores End Road
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, SL8 5AR
Tel: 01628 532244
Email: bourne.end@walsingplan.co.uk
Web: www.walsinghamplanning.co.uk

Our Ref: MW/B0058/24

5th August 2024

Aston Abbots Parish Council
c/o Elizabeth van Hullen
Tankards Dene
Hawridge Vale
Chesham
HP5 2UG

via email

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Regulation 14 Consultation - Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan

I am writing on behalf of my client, [REDACTED] in response to the above Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan (AANP) Regulation 14 Consultation.

My client owns land within the village of Aston Abbots which is within the Parish Boundary and Neighbourhood Area set out within the draft plan. Part of this land was submitted to Buckinghamshire Council's 'Call for Sites' in June 2024 as part of the preparation of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan, as it is considered it would be a suitable site for a sustainable, proportionate addition to the village for residential development.

This letter provides comments on the policies contained within the draft Neighbourhood Plan, specifically those relating to new housing development. Upon reviewing the draft Plan, it is refreshing to see that the majority of residents agree that there is a need for more housing in the village, and that the majority of respondents are in favour of the provision of affordable homes. Given this consensus, it is surprising to see that no proposed housing allocations are made within the draft plan, and it is expected that any housing will be permitted through 'windfall' applications.

Draft Policy SD1 is the only policy that relates to the location of new housing development, and specifically relates to development within the defined settlement boundary, which is outlined at Annex I of the AANP. The draft policy states that:

'New buildings, including housing, will be supported on infill or redevelopment sites inside the Settlement Boundary as shown on the Policies Map, where there is no adverse impact on existing residential, employment and community uses.'



Walsingham Planning Limited, Company Reg No. 09402985 VAT No. 245 9002 16
Registered Office: Bourne House, Cores End Road, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5AR
Also, offices in Knutsford and Bristol

Comments from Walsingham Planning (cont.)

All development proposed should have no significant adverse impact on the amenity of the occupiers of neighbouring properties through loss of privacy, overshadowing, overbearing by a building or structure, car parking, removal of mature vegetation or landscaping and additional traffic resulting from the development'.

We feel that the designation of the settlement boundary is overly restrictive and has not been evidenced or justified throughout the process. We do not consider that the settlement boundary will enable sites to come forward under Policy SD1 to deliver the new homes that the local community have stated are needed.

The 'Housing and Settlement Boundary Evidence Report' states that the settlement boundary has been defined which separates the village from the surrounding countryside, and this has been drawn carefully, acknowledging existing land uses and boundaries on the ground. This ultimately forms the justification for the designation of this boundary, which is insufficient.

From reviewing the proposed settlement boundary, we feel there are extremely limited opportunities for any growth to be accommodated, given the boundary has been drawn tightly around existing residential properties and given the nature and form of the village, there are extremely limited opportunities for any infill development to come forward.

Where there are opportunities, these parcels are heavily restricted by other constraints such as proximity to heritage assets and designated Local Green Spaces, and therefore the development of these areas would conflict with other draft policies within the plan.

Furthermore, there is no cap on the number of new dwellings that could come forward within the village through Policy SD1 or the adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, and therefore, the restrictive settlement boundary would not allow for multiple, small-scale sites to come forward.

This document also discusses the results of the parish wide survey, and how these results have inputted into the formation of this policy. It states that the majority of respondents agree there is a need for more housing in the village, especially affordable housing, and that these should be medium sized homes with 2-3 beds. It is therefore considered that an allocation for a modest housing development, adjacent to and that relates closely with the built form of the village, would align with the results of the survey. My client's site is a suitable, available and deliverable site that could accommodate a modest housing development.

Paragraph 10.6 of the Plan states that *'to ensure new housing development is in keeping with the village, it is considered that a settlement boundary preventing extending the village outwards would ensure protection of the surrounding countryside'*. If the Parish Council feel a NP Settlement boundary is necessary, we do not agree that the current draft settlement boundary is appropriate, and request that this is amended to include land which could actually deliver small-scale growth in line with Policy SD1.

The land owned by my client could accommodate proportionate growth to the settlement, that would contribute towards local facilities and help sustain the vitality of the village and community.



Comments from Walsingham Planning (cont.)

It is considered that a modest residential development on this land would comply with Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) policy D4 (discussed further below) given it is enclosed by built development within the settlement, however, should the AANP as drafted be adopted, then the development of this land would not comply with draft policy SDI as it is largely located outside of the defined settlement boundary. This therefore results in a clear conflict between policy SDI and policy D4 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan making the Neighbourhood Plan unsound.

It is a requirement that a Neighbourhood Plan should conform with policies contained within the Local Plan. At paragraph 13 of the NPPF, it states that 'Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans'. We do not believe this is the case. We consider that a more appropriate way to assess whether new buildings are acceptable would be to consider land within or adjacent to the built-up area of the village, or that which is enclosed by existing built development. This would make Policy SDI consistent with relevant VALP policies.

Aston Abbots is identified as a 'smaller village' within the Settlement Hierarchy set out within the VALP. Whilst these are described as less sustainable villages which have relatively poor access to services and facilities, it does state that smaller villages can accommodate some small-scale development without causing unreasonable harm, and that this development will help maintain existing communities. It then says that no allocations are made within the VALP within smaller villages, sites will come forward either through neighbourhood plans or by windfall planning applications. Policy D4 then goes on to discuss where new housing development at smaller villages will be supported, stating a number of criteria regarding its scale, siting and impact. It is more specific that draft policy SDI on what is acceptable, however offers some flexibility on location as development is not confined to any strict boundaries and each application is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

As we are sure members of the Parish Council are aware, we are in the midst of a housing crisis and therefore there is an urgent need for both market and affordable homes across the country. The Aylesbury Vale area of Buckinghamshire is not delivering enough homes to meet prescribed targets and therefore it is necessary that emerging Local and Neighbourhood Plans plan for additional homes.

As aforementioned, no allocations are proposed within the draft plan, and therefore it is necessary that the draft policies do not restrict sustainable, modest development, in order for the village to accommodate new homes as the local community have highlighted as being needed, to accommodate its share of growth and to allow for investment into the local economy and community.

As set out above, we feel that the restrictive nature of draft policy SDI would restrict the implementation of VALP policy D4. We do not agree that the draft plan contains policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement, or an indicative figure as set out within NPPF paragraphs 67 and 68, and as such, should not be found sound in this respect.

There is no policy proposed for what sort of development is acceptable outside of the settlement boundary, and therefore, according to the draft plan, new buildings will only be acceptable when located within the settlement boundary. This is not consistent with the VALP or the NPPF.



Comments from Walsingham Planning (cont.)

Policy SD1 would also restrict affordable housing schemes coming forward on rural exception sites, and land that would not usually be considered acceptable for housing development. Policy H2 of the VALP sets out a number of criteria for the acceptability of such schemes, whereas the draft Neighbourhood Plan is silent on this. Policy H2 accepts that small-scale affordable housing schemes can be acceptable on land adjoining the existing developed footprint of a settlement, however the AANP does not reference this. As such, the plan would not be consistent with VALP policy H2, or NPPF paragraph 82.

The land owned by my client is not identified as a draft Local Green Space or a Community Facility and therefore would not conflict with draft policies C1 or C2. The land is partly located within the Conservation Area and a small area lies within Village Protected View PV13 (to which there is no associated policy), however it is considered the site could be sensitively developed so there would be no adverse harm to the historic character or landscape, with high quality design and form and appropriate landscaping.

We have no comments on other draft policies contained within the Plan.

In light of the above, we consider that policy SD1 within the draft Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan is not consistent with the relevant housing policies within the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan or the NPPF and are far too restrictive in respect of housing delivery. Furthermore, we feel that the proposed settlement boundary has not been adequately justified.

In addition to the above, we wish to highlight that neither [REDACTED] who both live in the village received a copy of the questionnaire for completion, which informed and guided the development of the plan. As such, we raise concerns as to whether the local community have been properly engaged and consulted throughout the process.

We hope to see the important points raised within this letter addressed prior to the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to Buckinghamshire Council and would welcome a discussion with the Parish Council regarding land within my client's ownership.

Yours faithfully,



Megan Wright AssocRTPI

Senior Planner

megan.wright@walsingplan.co.uk

07551 586771



Walsingham Planning Limited, Company Reg No. 09402985 VAT No. 245 9002 16
Registered Office: Bourne House, Cores End Road, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5AR

Also, offices in Knutsford and Bristol

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P.2. Submission from Historic England



Historic England

By e-mail to: clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Our ref: PL00792948

Your ref:

Date: 08/07/2024

Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Abbots

Thank you for consulting Historic England about your Neighbourhood Plan. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully considered at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

Neighbourhood Plans are an important opportunity for local communities to set the agenda for their places, setting out what is important and why about different aspects of their parish or other area within the neighbourhood area boundary, and providing clear policy and guidance to readers – be they interested members of the public, planners or developers – regarding how the place should develop over the course of the plan period.

We welcome the production of this neighbourhood plan and are pleased to see that the historic environment of your parish features throughout.

Although your neighbourhood area does contain a number of designated heritage assets, at this point we don't consider there is a need for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the strategy for your area, but we offer some general advice and guidance below, which may be of assistance. The conservation officer at your local Council will be the best placed person to assist you in the development of the Plan with respect to the historic environment and can help you to consider and clearly articulate how a strategy can address the area's heritage assets. Paragraph 190 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) sets out that Plans, including Neighbourhood Plans, should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In particular, this strategy needs to take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of all types of heritage asset where possible, the need for new development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and ensure that it considers opportunities to use the existing historic environment to help reinforce this character of a place.



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Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001
HistoricEngland.org.uk



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Submission from Historic England (cont.)

It is important that, as a minimum, the strategy you put together for your area safeguards those elements of your neighbourhood area that contribute to the significance of those assets. This will ensure that they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area and make sure your plan is in line with the requirements of national planning policy, as found in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The government's [National Planning Practice Guidance](#) on neighbourhood planning is clear that, where relevant, Neighbourhood Plans need to include enough information about local heritage to guide local authority planning decisions and to put broader strategic heritage policies from the local authority's local plan into action but at a neighbourhood scale. Your Neighbourhood Plan is therefore an important opportunity for a community to develop a positive strategy for the area's locally important heritage assets that aren't recognised at a national level through listing or scheduling. If appropriate this should include enough information about local non-designated heritage assets, including sites of archaeological interest, locally listed buildings, or identified areas of historic landscape character. Your plan could, for instance, include a list of locally important neighbourhood heritage assets, (e.g. historic buildings, sites, views or places of importance to the local community) setting out what factors make them special. These elements can then be afforded a level of protection from inappropriate change through an appropriately worded policy in the plan. We refer you to our guidance on local heritage listing for further information: HE Advice Note 7 - local listing: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7>

The plan could also include consideration of any Grade II listed buildings or locally designated heritage assets which are at risk or in poor condition, and which could then be the focus of specific policies aimed at facilitating their enhancement. We would refer you to our guidance on writing effective neighbourhood plan policies, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/policy-writing/>

If you have not already done so, we would recommend that you speak to the staff at local authority archaeological advisory service who look after the Historic Environment Record and give advice on archaeological matters. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also non-designated locally important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may be available to view on-line via the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk). It may also be useful to involve local voluntary groups such as a local Civic Society, local history groups, building preservation trusts, etc. in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan, particularly in the early evidence gathering stages.

Your local authority might also be able to provide you with more general support in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan, including the provision of appropriate maps, data, and supporting documentation. There are also funding opportunities available from Locality that could allow the community to hire appropriate expertise to



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Submission from Historic England (cont.)

assist in such an undertaking. This could involve hiring a consultant to help in the production of the plan itself, or to undertake work that could form the evidence base for the plan. More information on this can be found on the My Community website here: <http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/neighbourhood-planning/>.

The Conservation Area may have an appraisal document that would ordinarily set out what the character and appearance of the area is that should be preserved or enhanced. The neighbourhood plan is an opportunity for the community to clearly set out which elements of the character and appearance of the neighbourhood area as a whole are considered important, as well as provide specific policies that protect the positive elements, and address any areas that negatively affect that character and appearance. An historic environment section of your plan could include policies to achieve this and, if your Conservation Area does not have an up to date appraisal, these policies could be underpinned by a local character study or historic area assessment. This could be included as an appendix to your plan. Historic England's guidance notes for this process can be found here: [HE Advice Note 1 - Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management](#), and here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-place-historic-area-assessments/>. The funding opportunities available from Locality discussed above could also assist with having this work undertaken.

The NPPF (paragraphs 124 - 127) emphasises the importance placed by the government on good design, and this section sets out that planning (including Neighbourhood Plans) should, amongst other things, be based on clear objectives and a robust evidence base that shows an understanding and evaluation of an area, in this case the Parish of Aston Abbots. The policies of neighbourhood plans should also ensure that developments in the area establish a strong sense of place and respond to local character and history by reflecting the local identity of the place – for instance through the use of appropriate materials, and attractive design.

Your neighbourhood plan is also an opportunity for the community to designate Local Green Spaces, as encouraged by national planning policy. Green spaces are often integral to the character of place for any given area, and your plan could include policies that identified any deficiencies with existing green spaces or access to them or aimed at managing development around them. Locality has produced helpful guidance on this, which is available here: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-local-green-spaces>.

You can also use the neighbourhood plan process to identify any potential Assets of Community Value in the neighbourhood area. Assets of Community Value (ACV) can include things like local public houses, community facilities such as libraries and museums, or again green open spaces. Often these can be important elements of the local historic environment, and whether or not they are protected in other ways, designating them as an ACV can offer an additional level of control to the community with regard to how they are conserved. There is useful information on this process on



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Submission from Historic England (cont.)

Locality's website here: <http://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/land-and-building-assets/assets-of-community-value-right-to-bid/>

Communities that have a neighbourhood plan in force are entitled to claim 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds raised from development in their area.

The Localism Act 2011 allows this CIL money to be used for the maintenance and on-going costs associated with a range of heritage assets including, for example, transport infrastructure such as historic bridges, green and social infrastructure such as historic parks and gardens, civic spaces, and public places. As a Qualifying Body, your neighbourhood forum can either have access to this money or influence how it is spent through the neighbourhood plan process, setting out a schedule of appropriate works for the money to be spent on. Historic England strongly recommends that the community therefore identifies the ways in which CIL can be used to facilitate the conservation of the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting, and sets this out in the neighbourhood plan. More information and guidance on this is available from Locality, here:

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/community-infrastructure-levy-neighbourhood-planning-toolkit/>

If you are concerned about the impact of high levels of traffic through your area, particularly in rural areas, the "Traffic in Villages" toolkit developed by Hamilton-Baillie Associates in conjunction with Dorset AONB Partnership may be a useful resource to you.

Further information and guidance on how heritage can best be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plans has been produced by Historic England, including on evidence gathering, design advice and policy writing. Our webpage contains links to a number of other documents which your forum might find useful. These can help you to identify what it is about your area which makes it distinctive, and how you might go about ensuring that the character of the area is protected or improved through appropriate policy wording and a robust evidence base. This can be found here:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

Historic England Advice Note 11- Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment, which is freely available to download, also provides useful links to exemplar neighbourhood plans that may provide you with inspiration and assistance for your own. This can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

The following general guidance also published by Historic England may also be useful to the plan forum in preparing the neighbourhood plan or considering how best to develop a strategy for the conservation and management of heritage assets in the area. It may also be useful to provide links to some of these documents in the plan:



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Submission from Historic England (cont.)

HE Advice Note 2 - making changes to heritage assets:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/making-changes-heritage-assets-advice-note-2/>

HE Good Practice Advice in Planning 3 - the setting of heritage assets:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

If you are considering including Site Allocations for housing or other land use purposes in your neighbourhood plan, we would recommend you review the following two guidance documents, which may be of use:

HE Advice Note 3 - site allocations in local plans:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans>

HE Advice Note 8 - Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

We recommend the inclusion of a glossary containing relevant historic environment terminology contained in the NPPF, in addition to details about the additional legislative and policy protections that heritage assets and the historic environment in general enjoys.

Finally, we should like to stress that this advice is based on the information provided by Aston Abbotts Parish Council in their correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed neighbourhood plan, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Louise

Louise.Dandy@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic Places Advisor



Historic England, 4th Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA
Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001
HistoricEngland.org.uk



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P.3. Submission from Natural England

Date: 22 July 2024
Our ref: 478206
Your ref: Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan

Ms Liz van Hullen
Aston Abbots Parish Council

BY EMAIL ONLY
clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk



Dear Ms van Hullen

Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan - Pre-submission Regulation 14 Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 03 June 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely
Sally Wintle
Consultations Team

Submission from Natural England (cont.)

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

Natural environment information sources

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

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

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

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

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

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](#)⁴ website and also from the [LandIS website](#)⁵, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Natural environment issues to consider

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

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

Landscape

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

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

¹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

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

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

⁴ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

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

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

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

Submission from Natural England (cont.)

Wildlife habitats

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

Priority and protected species

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

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

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

Improving your natural environment

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

Opportunities for environmental enhancement might include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submission from Natural England (cont.)

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

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

P.4. Submission from Network Rail

From: Diane Clarke <Diane.CLARKE@networkrail.co.uk> On Behalf Of Town Planning NW
Sent: 15 July 2024 13:31
Subject: FW: Neighbourhood plans - Network Rail

OFFICIAL

Please ensure that from now on ALL planning applications & ALL planning policy notifications are issued to this new address ONLY:

TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk

Please update all the relevant council planning policy & planning applications contact databases including all personal contact emailing lists.

Network Rail response on Neighbourhood Plans.

Network Rail is a statutory consultee for any planning applications within 10 metres of relevant railway land (as the Rail Infrastructure Managers for the railway, set out in Article 16 of the Development Management Procedure Order) and for any development likely to result in a material increase in the volume or a material change in the character of traffic using a level crossing over a railway (as the Rail Network Operators, set out in Schedule 4 (J) of the Development Management Procedure Order).

Network Rail is also a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure and associated estate. It owns, operates and develops the main rail network. Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure, therefore any proposed development which is in close proximity to the railway line or could potentially affect Network Rail's specific land interests will need to be carefully considered.

Network Rail – railway specific advice notice to LPAs/Developers

Please note that whilst Network Rail (NR) is submitting responses via the planning application process, it should be born in mind by the LPA/developer that the operational railway presents risks/issues that are different/unique to the risks posed by works taking place adjacent to non-railway undertaker land. Works on this site therefore must be undertaken with the supervision of NR via the ASPRO (asset protection) team to ensure that the works on site do not impact the safe operation, stability, integrity of the railway & its boundary. The LPA/developer are advised that unauthorised works adjacent to the railway boundary could impact the operation of nationally significant infrastructure & the applicant would be liable for any and all damages & costs caused by any works undertaken in this scenario. Therefore, the developer is requested to ensure that the development meets with NR requirements for works/developments adjacent to the railway boundary which include planning material considerations as well as obligations specific to the railway undertaker. The interface is via a NR BAPA (basic asset protection agreement) – the

Submission from Network Rail (cont.)

developer is advised that the works must not commence on site (even if planning permission is granted) until agreed with NR. The applicant will be liable for all costs incurred by NR in facilitating, reviewing this proposal.

Asset Protection Comments:

Developments in the policy area should be notified to Network Rail to ensure that:

- (a) Access points / rights of way belonging to Network Rail are not impacted by developments within the area.
- (b) That any proposal does not impact upon the railway infrastructure / Network Rail land e.g.
 - Drainage works / water features
 - Encroachment of land or air-space
 - Excavation works
 - Siting of structures/buildings less than 2m from the Network Rail boundary / Party Wall Act issues
 - Lighting impacting upon train drivers' ability to perceive signals
 - Landscaping that could impact upon overhead lines or Network Rail boundary treatments
 - Any piling works
 - Any scaffolding works
 - Any public open spaces and proposals where minors and young children may be likely to use a site which could result in trespass upon the railway (which we would remind the council is a criminal offence under s55 British Transport Commission Act 1949)
 - Any use of crane or plant
 - Any fencing works
 - Any demolition works
 - Any hard standing areas

For any proposal adjacent to the railway, Network Rail would request that a developer constructs (at their own expense) a suitable steel palisade trespass proof fence of at least 1.8m in height.

All initial proposals and plans should be flagged up to the Network Rail Town Planning at the following address:

Email: TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk

Railway Station

Consideration should be given in Transport Assessments to the potential for increased footfall at Railway Stations as a result of proposals for residential development / employment areas within the neighbourhood area. Location of the proposal, accessibility and density of the development, trip generation data should be considered in relation to the station. Where proposals are likely to increase footfall and the need for car parking, the

Submission from Network Rail (cont.)

council should include developer contributions (either via CIL, S106) to provide funding for enhancements as part of planning decisions.

Level Crossings

Developments within the neighbourhood area should be accompanied by a TS/TA which includes consideration of the impact of proposals upon any level crossings with mitigation implemented as required. We would encourage the Council to adopt specific policy wording to ensure that the impact of proposed new development (including cumulative impact) on the risk at existing level crossings is assessed by the developer(s), and suitable mitigation incorporated within the development proposals and funded by the developer(s). TS/TAs should be undertaken in conjunction with the local highways authority with advice from Network Rail. Contributions will be sought where proposals impact on level crossings to mitigate the impacts of those developments. Where level crossing closure is the only option, the applicant is advised that closure would be via s257 of the T&CPA, and that closure would be required before the occupation of any dwellings.

Network Rail – railway specific advice notice to LPAs/Developers

Please note that whilst Network Rail (NR) is submitting responses via the planning application process, it should be born in mind by the LPA/developer that the operational railway presents risks/issues that are different/unique to the risks posed by works taking place adjacent to non-railway undertaker land. Works on this site therefore must be undertaken with the supervision of NR via the ASPRO (asset protection) team to ensure that the works on site do not impact the safe operation, stability, integrity of the railway & its boundary. The LPA/developer are advised that unauthorised works adjacent to the railway boundary could impact the operation of nationally significant infrastructure & the applicant would be liable for any and all damages & costs caused by any works undertaken in this scenario. Therefore, the developer is requested to ensure that the development meets with NR requirements for works/developments adjacent to the railway boundary which include planning material considerations as well as obligations specific to the railway undertaker. The interface is via a NR BAPA (basic asset protection agreement) – the developer is advised that the works must not commence on site (even if planning permission is granted) until agreed with NR. The applicant will be liable for all costs incurred by NR in facilitating, reviewing this proposal.

From

Diane Clarke
Town Planning Technician NW&C
AssocRTPI
Network Rail
Email: TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk

Submission from Network Rail (cont.)

The content of this email (and any attachment) is confidential. It may also be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure.

This email should not be used by anyone who is not an original intended recipient, nor may it be copied or disclosed to anyone who is not an original intended recipient.

If you have received this email by mistake, please notify us by emailing the sender, and then delete the email and any copies from your system.

Liability cannot be accepted for statements made which are clearly the sender's own and not made on behalf of Network Rail.

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited registered in England and Wales No. 2904587, registered office Network Rail, Waterloo General Office, London, SE1 8SW.

4

P.5. Submission from Thames Water



David Wilson
E: david.wilson@thamewater.co.uk

Aston Abbots Parish Council

Issued via email: clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

neighbourhoodplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

1st Floor West
Clearwater Court
Vastern Road
Reading
RG1 8DB

24 July 2024

Buckinghamshire – Aston Abbots Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 Pre Submission Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for allowing Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water) to comment upon the above.

As you will be aware, Thames Water are the statutory water supply and sewerage undertaker for the majority of Buckinghamshire and are hence a “**specific consultation body**” in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.

We have the following comments on the consultation in relation to our water supply and sewerage undertakings:

Sustainable Development Principles – Page 13 **General Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Comments**

We support the Sustainable development Principle to not *Overloading existing utilities and services (water, drainage, sewage and waste)*, but consider that further information/policy is required.

A key sustainability objective for the preparation of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans should be for new development to be co-ordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. Paragraph 20 of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021, states: “*Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for... infrastructure for waste management, water supply, wastewater...*”

Paragraph 11 states: “*Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making this means that:*

a) all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects”

Submission from Thames Water (cont.)

Paragraph 28 relates to non-strategic policies and states: *“Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development. This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure...”*

Paragraph 26 of the revised NPPF goes on to state: *“Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary...”*

The web based National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) includes a section on ‘water supply, wastewater and water quality’ and sets out that Local Plans should be the focus for ensuring that investment plans of water and sewerage/wastewater companies align with development needs. The introduction to this section also sets out that *“Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development”* (Paragraph: 001, Reference ID: 34-001-20140306).

Thames Water therefore recommends that developers engage with them at the earliest opportunity (in line with paragraph 26 of the revised NPPF) to establish the following:

- The developments demand for water supply infrastructure;
- The developments demand for Sewage/Wastewater Treatment and network infrastructure both on and off site and can it be met; and
- The surface water drainage requirements and flood risk of the development both on and off site and can it be met.

Thames Water offer a free Pre-Planning service which confirms if capacity exists to serve the development or if upgrades are required for potable water, waste water and surface water requirements. Details on Thames Water’s free pre planning service are available at: <https://developers.thameswater.co.uk/Developing-a-large-site/Planning-your-development/Water-and-wastewater-capacity>

In light of the above comments and Government guidance we agree that the Neighbourhood Plan should include a specific reference to the key issue of the provision of wastewater/sewerage and water supply infrastructure to service development proposed in a policy. This is necessary because it will not be possible to identify all of the water/sewerage infrastructure required over the plan period due to the way water companies are regulated and plan in 5 year periods (Asset Management Plans or AMPs). We recommend that the Neighbourhood Plan include the following policy/supporting text:

“Where appropriate, planning permission for developments which result in the need for off-site upgrades, will be subject to conditions to ensure the occupation is aligned with the delivery of necessary infrastructure upgrades.”

“The Local Planning Authority will seek to ensure that there is adequate water and wastewater infrastructure to serve all new developments. Developers are encouraged to contact the water/waste water company as early as possible to discuss their development proposals and intended delivery programme to assist with identifying any potential water and wastewater network reinforcement requirements. Where there is a capacity constraint the Local Planning Authority will, where appropriate, apply phasing conditions to any approval to ensure that any necessary infrastructure upgrades are delivered ahead of the occupation of the relevant phase of development.”

Water Efficiency/Sustainable Design

Submission from Thames Water (cont.)

The Environment Agency has designated the Thames Water region to be “seriously water stressed” which reflects the extent to which available water resources are used. Future pressures on water resources will continue to increase and key factors are population growth and climate change.

Water conservation and climate change is a vitally important issue to the water industry. Not only is it expected to have an impact on the availability of raw water for treatment but also the demand from customers for potable (drinking) water. Therefore, Thames Water support the mains water consumption target of 110 litres per head per day (105 litres per head per day plus an allowance of 5 litres per head per day for gardens) as set out in the NPPG (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 56-014-20150327) and support the inclusion of this requirement in the Policy.

Thames Water promote water efficiency and have a number of water efficiency campaigns which aim to encourage their customers to save water at local levels. Further details are available on the our website via the following link:
<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/Be-water-smart>

It is our understanding that the water efficiency standards of 105 litres per person per day is only applied through the building regulations where there is a planning condition requiring this standard (as set out at paragraph 2.8 of Part G2 of the Building Regulations). As the Thames Water area is defined as water stressed it is considered that such a condition should be attached as standard to all planning approvals for new residential development in order to help ensure that the standard is effectively delivered through the building regulations.

Within Part G of Building Regulations, the 110 litres/person/day level can be achieved through either the ‘Calculation Method’ or the ‘Fittings Approach’ (Table 2.2). The Fittings Approach provides clear flow-rate and volume performance metrics for each water using device / fitting in new dwellings. Thames Water considers the Fittings Approach, as outlined in Table 2.2 of Part G, increases the confidence that water efficient devices will be installed in the new dwelling. Insight from our smart water metering programme shows that household built to the 110 litres/person/day level using the Calculation Method, did not achieve the intended water performance levels.

Proposed policy text:

“Development must be designed to be water efficient and reduce water consumption. Refurbishments and other non-domestic development will be expected to meet BREEAM water-efficiency credits. Residential development must not exceed a maximum water use of 105 litres per head per day (excluding the allowance of up to 5 litres for external water consumption) using the ‘Fittings Approach’ in Table 2.2 of Part G of Building Regulations. Planning conditions will be applied to new residential development to ensure that the water efficiency standards are met.”

Comments in Relation to Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage Systems

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that a sequential approach should be used by local planning authorities in areas known to be at risk from forms of flooding other than from river and sea, which includes “Flooding from Sewers”.

Flood risk sustainability objectives and policies should also make reference to ‘sewer flooding’ and an acceptance that flooding can occur away from the flood plain as a result of development where off site sewerage infrastructure and capacity is not in place ahead of development.

Submission from Thames Water (cont.)

With regard to surface water drainage it is the responsibility of the developer to make proper provision for drainage to ground, watercourses or surface water sewer. It is important to reduce the quantity of surface water entering the sewerage system in order to maximise the capacity for foul sewage to reduce the risk of sewer flooding.

Limiting the opportunity for surface water entering the foul and combined sewer networks is of critical importance to Thames Water. Thames Water have advocated an approach to SuDS that limits as far as possible the volume of and rate at which surface water enters the public sewer system. By doing this, SuDS have the potential to play an important role in helping to ensure the sewerage network has the capacity to cater for population growth and the effects of climate change.

SuDS not only help to mitigate flooding, they can also help to: improve water quality; provide opportunities for water efficiency; provide enhanced landscape and visual features; support wildlife; and provide amenity and recreational benefits.

With regard to surface water drainage, Thames Water request that the following paragraph should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan "***It is the responsibility of a developer to make proper provision for surface water drainage to ground, water courses or surface water sewer. It must not be allowed to drain to the foul sewer, as this is the major contributor to sewer flooding.***"

Site Allocations

There are no new allocations in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the level of information does not enable Thames Water to make an assessment of the impact the proposed development will have on the waste water/sewerage network infrastructure and sewage treatment works. To enable us to provide more specific comments we require details of the type and scale of development together with the anticipated phasing.

We recommend Developers contact Thames Water to discuss their development proposals by using our pre app service via the following link: <https://developers.thameswater.co.uk/Developing-a-large-site/Planning-your-development/Water-and-wastewater-capacity>

It should be noted that in the event of an upgrade to our sewerage network assets being required, up to three years lead in time is usual to enable for the planning and delivery of the upgrade. As a developer has the automatic right to connect to our sewer network under the Water Industry Act we may also request a drainage planning condition if a network upgrade is required to ensure the infrastructure is in place ahead of occupation of the development. This will avoid adverse environmental impacts such as sewer flooding and / or water pollution.

We recommend developers attach the information we provide to their planning applications so that the Council and the wider public are assured wastewater and water supply matters for the development are being addressed.

We trust the above is satisfactory, but please do not hesitate to contact David Wilson on the above number if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

David Wilson
Thames Water Property Town Planner

P.6. Submission from Anglian Water

From: Carry Murphy <cMurphy5@anglianwater.co.uk>
Sent: 15 August 2024 17:21
To: ourplan@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
Subject: Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan (Reg 14 consultation) - Anglian Water response 15/08/24

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for consulting Anglian Water on the draft Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan (Reg 14 consultation). Anglian Water is the statutory water and sewerage undertaker within parts of the designated area – further details provided below.

Anglian Water is identified as a consultation body under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and we support neighbourhood plans and their role in delivering environmental and social prosperity in the region. Overall, Anglian Water is the water supply 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, 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 \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk). The guidance also has sign posting/ links to obtaining information on relevant assets and infrastructure in map form, where relevant.

The comments set out below are made 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.

Sections 6 and 10 re. Sustainable Development

We note that no new sites are allocated, such as for housing development, in the neighbourhood plan. However, the overarching sustainable development principles requires development to follow a number of criteria. Of note, are the 2 following bullet points.

- Bullet point “*Meeting contemporary construction, energy efficiency and water management standards*” and
- Bullet point “*Overloading existing utilities and services (water, drainage, sewage and waste)*”

These matters are also covered under Policies SD2: High Quality Design and Policy and SD3: Provision of energy and water efficient buildings.

Paragraph 10.24 helpfully sets out that the area is served by both Anglian Water and Thames Water. The extent of Anglian Water’s statutory water boundary is for the whole area whilst for sewerage we only cover some parts including the village of Aston Abbotts and the area in close vicinity. The local sewer catchment area is served

Submission from Anglian Water (cont.)

by the Aston Abbots Water Recycling Centre, located off Cublington Road. It is possible to find your supplier via a postcode check via Water UK: [Find Your Supplier | Water UK](#) .

Anglian Water supports requiring new development to be served by sustainable infrastructure provision and that does not result in a detrimental impact on water infrastructure, including sewers and surface water and watercourse flooding. Developers are encouraged to engage in early discussions with our pre-development team [Developing \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](#) so that connections or any upgrades to our network are addressed when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority.

Our revised draft water resources management plan (WRMP) for 2025-2050 identifies key challenges of population growth, climate change, and the need to protect sensitive environments by reducing abstraction. Managing the demand for water is therefore an important aspect of maintaining future supplies. See [Water resources management plan \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](#)

In terms of water resources, the region is identified as seriously water stressed, we encourage neighbourhood plans to include measures to improve water efficiency of new development through a fixtures and fittings approach, including through rainwater/storm water harvesting and reuse, and greywater recycling.

Such measures to improve water efficiency standards and include opportunities for water reuse and recycling also reduces the volume of wastewater needed to be treated by our water recycling centres. This will also help to reduce customer bills (including for other energy bills) as well as reduce carbon emissions in the supply and recycling of water.

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.

Anglian Water welcomes the inclusion within the neighbourhood plan Policy SD3 regarding new development proposals meeting water management standards. As a suggestion there may be some merit including some further details within the Design Codes of examples that can be introduced, such as that set out in paragraph 10.24, about practical ways of reducing water consumption. The checklists within Section 4 could give further reference to water efficiency measures.

Parking - Anglian Water recognises the need to manage parking arrangements within the area. It is suggested that the neighbourhood plan could specify that permeable surfaces (pavements and other areas of hard standing such as vehicle parking areas) are used in the design of new developments to reduce surface water run-off from the introduction of hard-standing areas.

Surface water flooding - In terms of flood risk management it is important to address surface water run-off, including the preference for this to be managed using SuDS in accordance 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 and as a last resort. 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 has been 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. We would welcome an interim local policy approach to ensure SuDS measures are incorporated within new developments, until such time the Schedule is formally implemented and the necessary measures are in place.

Submission from Anglian Water (cont.)

It is, therefore, suggested reference could be added with some further detail on important aspects of flood risk management or cross reference to the relevant current Aylesbury Local Plan Policy I4 Flooding (or its replacement).

Section G. Natural Environment

Policy C2: Local Green Spaces

The policy designates a number of areas of Local Green Spaces (LGS) within the neighbourhood plan area. The policy is explicit that managing development within a LGS should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts. Anglian Water has assets forming part of our water and water recycling network (e.g. rising mains and sewers) located within or in the vicinity of these designated areas of local green space.

We agree the policy provides scope for Anglian Water to undertake operational development to maintain and repair any underground network assets that may be within these areas, such as mains water pipes, which would be consistent with the policy tests.

For information, maps of Anglian Water's assets detailing the location of our water and water recycling infrastructure are available at: www.utilities.digdat.co.uk

Section 11. Community and Business

Policy NE2: Biodiversity

Anglian Water supports the policy and prioritising the delivery of biodiversity net gains within the neighbourhood planning area to support habitat recovery and enhancements within existing green infrastructure. We would also support opportunities to maximise green infrastructure connectivity including through opportunities to minimise surface water run-off from existing urban areas through the creation of raingardens for example. As the neighbourhood plan progresses, there may also be benefit in referencing the emerging Buckinghamshire and Milton Local Nature Recovery Strategy [Local Nature Recovery Strategy Overview – Buckinghamshire C Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership \(bucksmknep.co.uk\)](http://www.bucksmknep.co.uk), which will identify priority actions for nature and map specific areas for improving habitats for nature recovery.

Overall, we are supportive of the policy ambitions within the neighbourhood plan, subject to the proposed amendments.

If you have any questions about this response or wish to discuss anything I have raised, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I should be grateful if you could please acknowledge receipt of this representation and save the email strategicgrowth@anglianwater.co.uk regarding sending future notifications on progress of the neighbourhood plan. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Carry Murphy

Chartered Town Planner - MRTPI

**Spatial and Strategic Planning Manager – Sustainable Growth
Quality G Environment**

Tel. 07929 395354



Web: www.anglianwater.co.uk

Submission from Anglian Water (cont.)

Anglian Water Services Limited

Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE29 6XU

From: clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk <clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, July 4, 2024 4:22 PM

To: clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Subject: Aston Abbotts Statutory Consultees Notice

You don't often get email from clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MAIL - Please be aware this mail is from an external sender - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

STATUTORY CONSULTEES NOTICE:

Aston Abbotts Parish Council (HP22 4LY) is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan covering the whole Parish.

In accordance with the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (Regulation 14), the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is **out to formal consultation from 12:00 midday 1st July to 17:00 19th August 2024.**

In addition to engaging local people, community organisations and businesses in the Parish, the Parish Council wishes to obtain the views of statutory bodies and other interested organisations at each stage of the Plan. Your comments are, therefore, invited. Should you have no comment to offer please indicate this in your response; and if this email have been addressed incorrectly within your organisation please either forward it on or advise us of the correct person to send it to.

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents are on the Neighbourhood Plan pages of the Parish Council website:

<https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

The website offers an online feedback form, which is the recommended way to submit comments. Alternatively, you can email your feedback to the following address:

ourplan@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

If you have any queries, please contact the parish clerk, Liz van Hullen, who is managing the process on behalf of the Parish Council. Her contact details are:

E-mail: clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Post: Tankards Dene,
Hawridge Vale,
Chesham,
HP5 2UG

The Parish Council looks forward to receiving any comment by the close of the consultation.

Kind regards

Liz van Hullen
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Aston Abbotts Parish Council
01494 758800

The Parish Council is committed to maintaining your privacy – [Please see our Privacy Policy](#)

P.7. Submission from National Gas



Central Square
Forth Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3PJ

T: +44 (0)191 261 2361
F: +44 (0)191 269 0076

avisonyoung.co.uk

Our Ref: MV/15B901605

14 August 2024

Aston Abbotts Parish Council
clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
via email only

Dear Sir / Madam

**Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation
July – August 2024
Representations on behalf of National Gas Transmission**

National Gas Transmission has appointed Avison Young to review and respond to Neighbourhood Plan consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regard to the current consultation on the above document.

About National Gas Transmission

National Gas Transmission owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use.

Proposed sites crossed by or in close proximity to National Gas Transmission Assets

Following a review of the above document we have identified the following National Gas Transmission assets as falling within the Neighbourhood area boundary:

Asset Description

Gas Transmission Pipeline, route: OLD WARDEN TO CHALGROVE

A plan showing details of National Gas Transmission's assets is attached to this letter. Please note that this plan is illustrative only.

National Gas Transmission also provides information in relation to its assets at the website below.

- <https://www.nationalgas.com/land-and-assets/network-route-maps>

Please see attached information outlining guidance on development close to National Gas Transmission infrastructure.

Distribution Networks

Information regarding the gas distribution network is available by contacting:
plantprotection@cadentgas.com

Further Advice

Avison Young (UK) Limited registered in England and Wales number 6382509.
Registered office, 3 Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB. Regulated by RICS

Submission from National Gas (cont.)



Please remember to consult National Gas Transmission on any Neighbourhood Plan Documents or site-specific proposals that could affect our assets.

We would be grateful if you could add our details shown below to your consultation database, if they are not already included:

Matt Verlander, Director

nationalgas.uk@avisonyoung.com

Avison Young
Central Square
Forth Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3PJ

Kam Liddar, Asset Protection Lead

box.assetprotection@nationalgas.com

National Gas Transmission
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick, CV34 6DA

If you require any further information in respect of this letter, then please contact us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Verlander".

Matt Verlander MRTPI
Director
0191 269 0094
matt.verlander@avisonyoung.com
For and on behalf of Avison Young

Avison Young (UK) Limited registered in England and Wales number 6382509.
Registered office, 3 Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB. Regulated by RICS

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Submission from National Gas (cont.)



National Gas Transmission is able to provide advice and guidance to the Council concerning their networks and encourages high quality and well-planned development in the vicinity of its assets.

Gas assets

High-Pressure Gas Pipelines form an essential part of the national gas transmission system and National Gas Transmission's approach is always to seek to leave their existing transmission pipelines in situ. Contact should be made with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in respect of sites affected by High-Pressure Gas Pipelines.

National Gas Transmission have land rights for each asset which prevents the erection of permanent/ temporary buildings, or structures, changes to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc. Additionally, written permission will be required before any works commence within the National Gas Transmission's 12.2m building proximity distance, and a deed of consent is required for any crossing of the easement.

National Gas Transmission's '*Guidelines when working near National Gas Transmission assets*' can be downloaded here: <https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82951/download>

How to contact National Gas Transmission

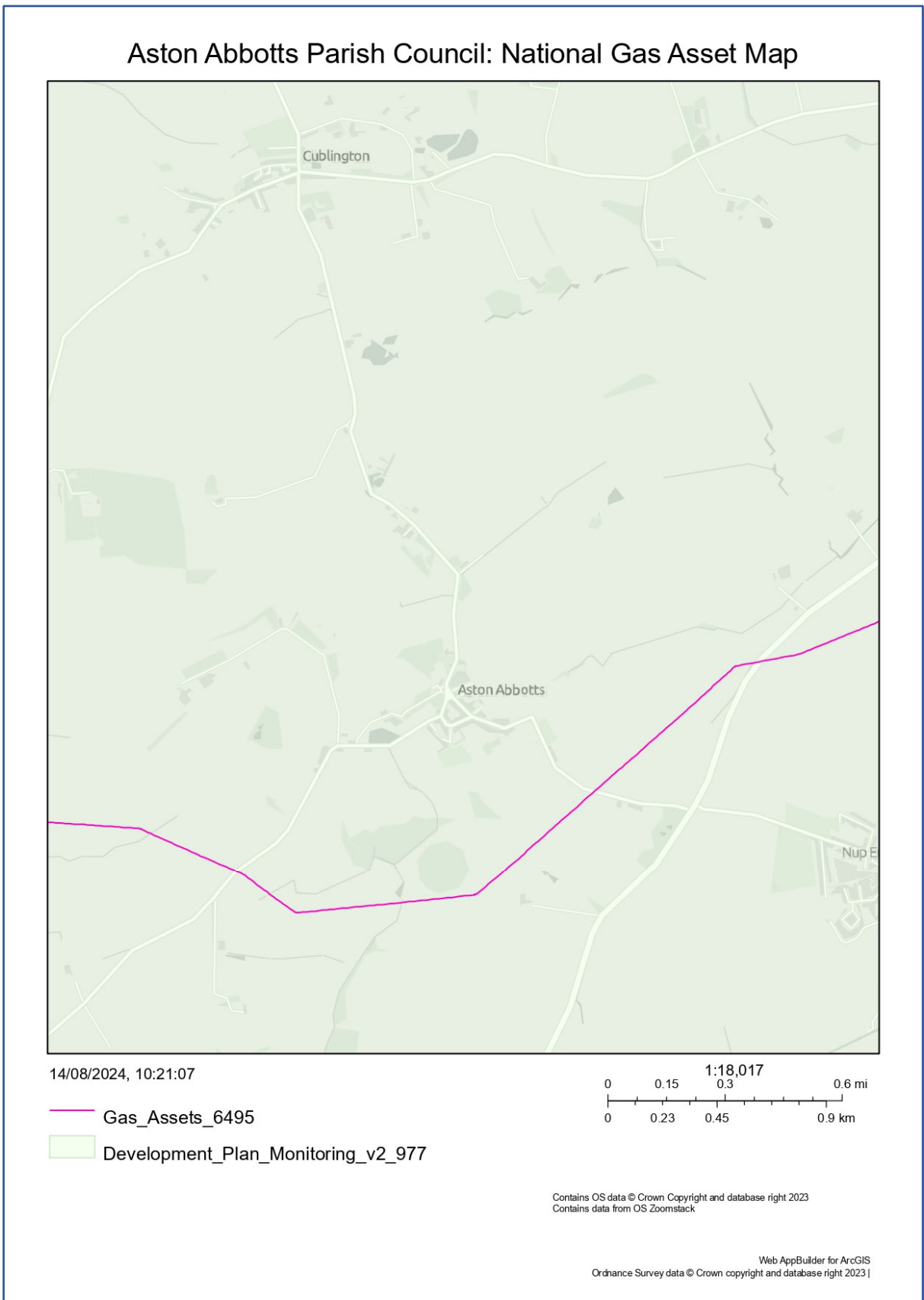
If you require any further information in relation to the above and/or if you would like to check if National Gas Transmission's transmission networks may be affected by a proposed development, please visit the website: <https://lsbud.co.uk/>

For local planning policy queries, please contact: nationalgas.uk@avisonyoung.com

Avison Young (UK) Limited registered in England and Wales number 6382509.
Registered office, 3 Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB. Regulated by RICS

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Submission from National Gas (cont.)



P.8. Submission from National Grid



Central Square
Forth Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3PJ

T: +44 (0)191 261 2361
F: +44 (0)191 269 0076

avisonyoung.co.uk

Our Ref: MV/ 15B901605

14 August 2024

Aston Abbotts Parish Council
clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
via email only



Dear Sir / Madam

**Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation
July – August 2024
Representations on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission**

National Grid Electricity Transmission has appointed Avison Young to review and respond to local planning authority Development Plan Document consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regard to the current consultation on the above document.

About National Grid Electricity Transmission

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and Wales. The energy is then distributed to the electricity distribution network operators, so it can reach homes and businesses.

National Grid no longer owns or operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. This is the responsibility of National Gas Transmission, which is a separate entity and must be consulted independently.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) develop, operate and invest in energy projects, technologies, and partnerships to help accelerate the development of a clean energy future for consumers across the UK, Europe and the United States. NGV is separate from National Grid's core regulated businesses. Please also consult with NGV separately from NGET.

Proposed development sites crossed or in close proximity to NGET assets:

An assessment has been carried out with respect to NGET's assets which include high voltage electricity assets and other electricity infrastructure.

NGET has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

NGET provides information in relation to its assets at the website below.

- www2.nationalgrid.com/uk/services/land-and-development/planning-authority/shape-files/

Please also see attached information outlining guidance on development close to NGET infrastructure.

Avison Young (UK) Limited registered in England and Wales number 6382509.
Registered office, 3 Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB. Regulated by RICS

Submission from National Grid (cont.)



Distribution Networks

Information regarding the electricity distribution network is available at the website below:
www.energynetworks.org.uk

Further Advice

Please remember to consult NGET on any Neighbourhood Plan Documents or site-specific proposals that could affect our assets. We would be grateful if you could add our details shown below to your consultation database, if not already included:

Matt Verlander, Director

nationalgrid.uk@avisonyoung.com

Avison Young
Central Square
Forth Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3PJ

Tiffany Bate, Development Liaison Officer

box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com

National Grid Electricity Transmission
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick, CV34 6DA

If you require any further information in respect of this letter, then please contact us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Verlander".

**Matt Verlander MRTPI
Director**

0191 269 0094

matt.verlander@avisonyoung.com

For and on behalf of Avison Young

Avison Young (UK) Limited registered in England and Wales number 6382509.
Registered office, 3 Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB. Regulated by RICS

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Submission from National Grid (cont.)



NGET is able to provide advice and guidance to the Council concerning their networks and encourages high quality and well-planned development in the vicinity of its assets.

Developers of sites crossed or in close proximity to NGET assets should be aware that it is NGET policy to retain existing overhead lines in-situ, though it recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances that would justify the request where, for example, the proposal is of regional or national importance.

NGET's *'Guidelines for Development near pylons and high voltage overhead power lines'* promote the successful development of sites crossed by existing overhead lines and the creation of well-designed places. The guidelines demonstrate that a creative design approach can minimise the impact of overhead lines whilst promoting a quality environment. The guidelines can be downloaded here: <https://www.nationalgridet.com/document/130626/download>

The statutory safety clearances between overhead lines, the ground, and built structures must not be infringed. Where changes are proposed to ground levels beneath an existing line then it is important that changes in ground levels do not result in safety clearances being infringed. National Grid can, on request, provide to developers detailed line profile drawings that detail the height of conductors, above ordnance datum, at a specific site.

NGET's statutory safety clearances are detailed in their *'Guidelines when working near National Grid Electricity Transmission assets'*, which can be downloaded here: www.nationalgridet.com/network-and-assets/working-near-our-assets

How to contact NGET

If you require any further information in relation to the above and/or if you would like to check if NGET's transmission networks may be affected by a proposed development, please visit the website: <https://lsbud.co.uk/>

For local planning policy queries, please contact: nationalgrid.uk@avisonyoung.com

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3

P.9. Submission from National Highways

From: Sean O'connell <Sean.O'connell@nationalhighways.co.uk>
Sent: 19 August 2024 10:20
To: ourplan@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
Cc: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk; Spatial Planning; Philip Porter
Subject: Aston Abbots Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan - National Highways' response

Dear Sir/Madam

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Sean O'Connell

Spatial Planner

Operations (East) | National Highways
Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW
Mobile: +44 (0)7801 788805
Web: www.nationalhighways.co.uk

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National Highways Limited | General enquiries: 0300 123 5000 | National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park, Birmingham B32 1AF | <https://nationalhighways.co.uk> |

[info@nationalhighways.co.uk]info@nationalhighways.co.uk

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<https://nationalhighways.co.uk> | info@nationalhighways.co.uk

Submission from National Highways (cont.)

Registered in England and Wales no 9346363 | Registered Office: Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ
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Annex A Preliminary 2022 Survey Results

This annex contains the preliminary results of the survey published in November 2022. It has been reproduced here for reference in its original format.

For the complete findings, including all notes and comments from respondents, please refer to the separate report titled “2022 Survey Results Evidence Report”.

Aston Abbotts 2022 Neighbourhood Questionnaire Preliminary Results

Introduction

This document contains the preliminary consolidated information for the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Questionnaire which was distributed in April 2022. This preliminary report contains only the consolidated tick boxes and demographic information within the questionnaire and excludes the comments and notes made by the residents. The notes and comments will be included in the full version of this report which will be used to inform the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The questionnaires were delivered to about 180 households and 84 were completed and returned. This is close to 50% return - it is believed that a typical response to this type of questionnaire is between 30% and 40% so, by getting nearly 50% return is testament to the enthusiasm that many of our community are showing and their desire to influence the way Aston Abbotts will develop over the coming years.

The consolidated information presented in this document is divided into the following sections:

- Section 1 – General Info
- Section 2 – Housing
- Section 3 – Economy
- Section 4 – Communication
- Section 5 – Infrastructure
- Section 6 – Private Transport
- Section 7 – Environment
- Section 8 – History and Ecology
- Section 9 – Other
- Appendix A – Questionnaire

Sections 1 to 9

For each of the main sections (1 to 9) there are two subsections titled *Tick box Summary* and *Detailed Breakdown*.

Note that the information provided in the *Tick box Summary* and *Detailed Breakdown* sections may use abbreviated terms (this was necessary for presentation) - please refer to the questionnaire re-printed in Appendix A if clarification of the question is required.

Tick box Summaries:

The Tick box Summary subsection shows the highest scoring option of the tick boxes which includes the number of people who responded and the percentage achieved for the selected the option. For example:

Q2.5	When new homes are built, where do you think they should be located?	"Only within the village" (44 out of 82, 54%) 82 households responded (98%)
------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Shows the number and percentage of questionnaires where a response was given

Shows the highest scoring option and percentage of those that provided a response

Detailed Breakdowns:

The Detailed Breakdown subsection provides the details of the responses to all questions. For the tick box summaries, the tables are “heatmap” shaded with the darkest green showing the highest percent return. For example:

Q2.5 When new homes are built, where do you think they should be located?

Only within the village	44	54%
Only greenfield sites	9	11%
Both in village and greenfield sites	20	24%
Other*	9	11%

No Response 2 [2%]

Other:

- Brownfield site
- Brownfield sites before greenfield/agriculture

The percentage breakdown for those that provided a response

Number and percentage of questionnaires with no response

If the questionnaire provided the option for the residents to add “Other” categories then these are listed below the tick box summary.

Appendices

Appendix A – “Questionnaire” provides, for information and reference, the questionnaire that was circulated to residents

Annex A
Previously published document
Reproduced for reference

Section 1 - General Info

Section 1.1 - General Info - Tick Box Summary

Q1.4 What is the housing status for the property?

Q1.4 [i]	Housing Status	"Owned outright" (52 out of 84 (62%)) <i>84 households responded (100%)</i>
----------	----------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Q1.6 How do you feel about living in Aston Abbotts?

Q1.6 [i]	Has a nice environment	"Strongly agree" (57 out of 83, 69%) <i>83 households responded (99%)</i>
Q1.6 [ii]	Is clean & tidy	"Agree" (40 out of 82, 49%) <i>82 households responded (98%)</i>
Q1.6 [iii]	Is quiet/peaceful	"Strongly agree" (41 out of 82, 50%) <i>82 households responded (98%)</i>
Q1.6 [iv]	Has strong sense of community	"Agree" (45 out of 81, 56%) <i>81 households responded (96%)</i>
Q1.6 [v]	Has good facilities	"Disagree" (42 out of 83, 51%) <i>83 households responded (99%)</i>
Q1.6 [vi]	Has good public transport	"Neither agree nor disagree" (35 out of 82, 43%) <i>82 households responded (98%)</i>
Q1.6 [vii]	Is convenient for commuting	"Agree" (46 out of 81, 57%) <i>81 households responded (96%)</i>
Q1.6 [viii]	Is convenient for cultural activities	"Agree" (32 out of 79, 41%) "Neither agree nor disagree" (32 out of 79, 41%) <i>79 households responded (94%)</i>
Q1.6 [ix]	Is good for social activities	"Neither agree nor disagree" (32 out of 81, 40%) <i>81 households responded (96%)</i>
Q1.6 [x]	Is in good school catchment area	"Neither agree nor disagree" (35 out of 79, 44%) <i>79 households responded (94%)</i>

Section 1.2 - General Info - Detailed Breakdown

Q1.1 Number of members within the household

	Qty 1	Qty 2	Qty 3	Qty 4	Total
Number of adults?	23	57	2	2	151
Number of school-age children?	8	3			14
Number of pre-school-age infants?	2				2
					167

Q1.2 What is the gender and ages of all members of the household?

	Age not given	Under 12	12 to 17	18 to 29	30 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 75	76+	Total
Gender not given	1	1					2		4
Male	4	7	1	1	13	17	23	12	78
Female	4	3	1	6	13	27	17	12	83
Prefer not to say			1			1			2
	9	11	3	7	26	45	42	24	167

Q1.3 What is the work/education situation for all members of the household?

Employed	48	29%
Self Employed	26	16%
Retired	67	40%
Unemployed	2	1%
In full-time education	14	8%
Other*	10	6%

Other:

- Both employed and self employed
- Disabled
- Looking after home and family
- Nursery [x2]
- Retired although employed part time as casual as well
- Semi retired [x2]
- Starting school in September
- Volunteer librarian

Q1.4 What is the housing status for the property?

Owned with a mortgage	25	30%
Owned outright	52	62%
Rented from private landlord	2	2%
Housing association	5	6%
Social housing		
Other		

Q1.5 How long have you lived in Aston Abbotts (years)?

	Nil	<=1 yr	2-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	21-30 yrs	>30 yrs
Number in each year range	8	6	11	13	6	4	13	23

Q1.6 How do you feel about living in Aston Abbotts?**Q1.6 [i] Has a nice environment**

Strongly agree	57	69%
Agree	24	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	2	2%
Disagree		
Strongly disagree		
No Response	1	[1%]

Q1.6 [ii] Is clean & tidy

Strongly agree	37	45%
Agree	40	49%
Neither agree nor disagree	4	5%
Disagree	1	1%
Strongly disagree		
No Response	2	[2%]

Q1.6 [iii] Is quiet/peaceful

Strongly agree	41	50%
Agree	30	37%
Neither agree nor disagree	6	7%
Disagree	4	5%
Strongly disagree	1	1%
No Response	2	[2%]

Q1.6 [iv] Has strong sense of community

Strongly agree	22	27%
Agree	45	56%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	14%
Disagree	1	1%
Strongly disagree	2	2%
No Response	3	[4%]

Q1.6 [v] Has good facilities

Strongly agree		
Agree	11	13%
Neither agree nor disagree	24	29%
Disagree	42	51%
Strongly disagree	6	7%
No Response	1	[1%]

Q1.6 [vi] Has good public transport

Strongly agree	6	7%
Agree	27	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	35	43%
Disagree	9	11%
Strongly disagree	5	6%
No Response	2	[2%]

Q1.6 [vii] Is convenient for commuting

Strongly agree	9	11%
Agree	46	57%
Neither agree nor disagree	18	22%
Disagree	6	7%
Strongly disagree	2	2%
No Response	3	[4%]

Q1.6 [viii] Is convenient for cultural activities

Strongly agree	4	5%
Agree	32	41%
Neither agree nor disagree	32	41%
Disagree	10	13%
Strongly disagree	1	1%
No Response	5	[6%]

Q1.6 [ix] Is good for social activities

Strongly agree	3	4%
Agree	27	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	32	40%
Disagree	17	21%
Strongly disagree	2	2%
No Response	3	[4%]

Q1.6 [x] Is in good school catchment area

Strongly agree	9	11%
Agree	34	43%
Neither agree nor disagree	35	44%
Disagree	1	1%
Strongly disagree		
No Response	5	[6%]

Q1.6 [xi] Other Factor for Overall Impression

- Active Church (Agree)
- Church bell ringing at unsociable hours (ie early morning & late evening) (Strongly disagree)
- Coffee morning (Agree)
- Does not suffer from excessive traffic and used as rat-run (Strongly disagree)
- Feel safe and secure (Strongly agree)
- Footpaths (ie, easy access to open country to walk) (Strongly agree)
- General Improvements Required (Strongly agree)
- Lovely rural location (Strongly agree)
- Mobility friendly (Neither agree nor disagree)
- Needs a "community hub" (Strongly agree)
- Needs a pub (Strongly agree)
- Needs a shop (Strongly agree)
- Needs traffic calming (Strongly agree)
- No Pub (Strongly agree)
- No Shop / Post Office (Strongly agree)
- Now no pub (Strongly agree)
- Plenty of trees (Strongly agree)
- Pub (Strongly agree)
- Safe (Disagree)
- Shop (Strongly agree)
- Small village (Strongly agree)
- Sport and Leisure Facilities (Disagree)
- Stop lorries through village (Strongly agree)
- Traffic calming measures & stop cut-through via The Green to Weedon (Strongly agree)
- Traffic transit noise/quality worsening noticeably (Strongly agree)
- Village needs traffic calming measures urgently (Strongly agree)

Previously published document
Annex A
Reproduced for reference

Section 2 - Housing

Section 2.1 - Housing - Tick Box Summary

Q2.1,2 New housing

Q2.1	Do you agree that there will be a need for more housing?	"Agree" (31 out of 82, 38%) 82 households responded (98%)
Q2.2	How many homes do you think would be appropriate?	"Less than 10" (41 out of 83, 49%) 83 households responded (99%)

Q2.3 When new homes have to be built, which type do you think would be most suitable?

Q2.3 [i]	Affordable homes	"In favour" (23 out of 78, 29%) 78 households responded (93%)
Q2.3 [ii]	Housing association homes	"Strongly opposed to" (22 out of 74, 30%) 74 households responded (88%)
Q2.3 [iii]	Retirement/sheltered homes	"Don't mind" (26 out of 74, 35%) 74 households responded (88%)
Q2.3 [iv]	Bungalows	"Don't mind" (29 out of 73, 40%) 73 households responded (87%)
Q2.3 [v]	Small homes (1 bed)	"Don't mind" (30 out of 70, 43%) 70 households responded (83%)
Q2.3 [vi]	Medium size homes (2-3 beds)	"In favour" (39 out of 79, 49%) 79 households responded (94%)
Q2.3 [vii]	Larger homes (4+ beds)	"Don't mind" (20 out of 73, 27%) 73 households responded (87%)
Q2.3 [viii]	Flats	"Strongly opposed to" (31 out of 69, 45%) 69 households responded (82%)

Q2.4 New Housing Sustainability and Location

Q2.4 [i]	When new homes are built, do you agree they must be built sustainably?	"Strongly agree" (50 out of 84 (60%)) 84 households responded (100%)
Q2.5	When new homes are built, where do you think they should be located?	"Only within the village" (44 out of 82, 54%) 82 households responded (98%)

Section 2.2 - Housing - Detailed Breakdown

Q2.1,2 New housing

Q2.1 Do you agree that there will be a need for more housing?

Strongly agree	10	12%
Agree	31	38%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	10%
Disagree	13	16%
Strongly disagree	18	22%
Not sure or don't know	2	2%

No Response 2 [2%]

Q2.2 How many homes do you think would be appropriate?

Less than 10	41	49%
10 to 20	31	37%
21 to 30	8	10%
31 to 50	1	1%
Over 50	2	2%

No Response 1 [1%]

Q2.3 When new homes have to be built, which type do you think would be most suitable?

Q2.3 [i] Affordable homes

Strongly in favour	20	26%
In favour	23	29%
Don't mind	14	18%
Opposed to	9	12%
Strongly opposed to	12	15%

No Response 6 [7%]

Q2.3 [ii] Housing association homes

Strongly in favour	8	11%
In favour	11	15%
Don't mind	16	22%
Opposed to	17	23%
Strongly opposed to	22	30%

No Response 10 [12%]

Q2.3 [iii] Retirement/sheltered homes

Strongly in favour	7	9%
In favour	19	26%
Don't mind	26	35%
Opposed to	15	20%
Strongly opposed to	7	9%

No Response 10 [12%]

Q2.3 [iv] Bungalows

Strongly in favour	11	15%
In favour	20	27%
Don't mind	29	40%
Opposed to	10	14%
Strongly opposed to	3	4%
<i>No Response</i>	11	[13%]

Q2.3 [v] Small homes (1 bed)

Strongly in favour	7	10%
In favour	15	21%
Don't mind	30	43%
Opposed to	15	21%
Strongly opposed to	3	4%
<i>No Response</i>	14	[17%]

Q2.3 [vi] Medium size homes (2-3 beds)

Strongly in favour	12	15%
In favour	39	49%
Don't mind	20	25%
Opposed to	4	5%
Strongly opposed to	4	5%
<i>No Response</i>	5	[6%]

Q2.3 [vii] Larger homes (4+ beds)

Strongly in favour	7	10%
In favour	14	19%
Don't mind	20	27%
Opposed to	19	26%
Strongly opposed to	13	18%
<i>No Response</i>	11	[13%]

Q2.3 [viii] Flats

Strongly in favour	2	3%
In favour	3	4%
Don't mind	15	22%
Opposed to	18	26%
Strongly opposed to	31	45%
<i>No Response</i>	15	[18%]

Q2.3 [ix] Other Type of Housing

- Agricultural homes (Opposed to)
- Build to rent (Opposed to)
- Council houses (Strongly opposed to)
- Halfway homes (Strongly opposed to)
- Homes with off-road parking proportional to no. of bedrooms (Strongly in favour)
- Park Home/Mobile Home (Strongly opposed to)
- Quality Build (Strongly in favour)

Q2.4 New Housing Sustainability and Location

Q2.4 [i] When new homes are built, do you agree they must be built sustainably?

Strongly agree	50	60%
Agree	22	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	11%
Disagree		
Strongly disagree	3	4%
Not sure or don't know		

Q2.5 When new homes are built, where do you think they should be located?

Only within the village	44	54%
Only greenfield sites	9	11%
Both in village and greenfield sites	20	24%
Other*	9	11%

No Response 2 [2%]

Other:

- Brownfield site
- Brownfield sites before greenfield/agriculture
- Infill sites
- No new homes
- None
- Only on edge of village
- See note
- Urban fringe
- Within the village or potential brownfield sites

Section 3 - Economy

Section 3.1 - Economy - Tick Box Summary

Q3.2 Businesses run from home

Q3.2 [i]	Do any members of the household run a business from home?	"No" (65 out of 80, 81%) 80 households responded (95%)
----------	-----------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Q3.3 Business Premises

Q3.3 [i]	Does anyone in household own/rent business premises in the parish?	"No" (77 out of 79, 97%) 79 households responded (94%)
Q3.3a	Do they see the business(es) staying in the parish for the next 10 years?	"Yes" (2 out of 3, 67%) 3 households responded (4%)

Q3.4 Business Units

Q3.4 [i]	Do you favour development of more Business Units within the Parish?	"Neither agree nor disagree" (23 out of 79, 29%) 79 households responded (94%)
----------	---------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Annex A
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Section 3.2 - Economy - Detailed Breakdown

Q3.1 For members of the household that are employed, where do they work?

Aston Abbotts	16	22%
Aylesbury	10	14%
Leighton Buzzard	2	3%
Milton Keynes	2	3%
Luton or Dunstable	3	4%
London	9	12%
Other*	31	42%

Other:

- Aston Abbotts and Milton Keynes
- Aylesbury & Thame
- Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes
- Berkhamstead [x3]
- Bicester
- Both London & Home
- Buckingham
- Bucks Area
- Haddenham/Thame
- Hemel Hempstead [x4]
- Hertfordshire areas
- Local area
- Not defined
- Part London, Part Home [x2]
- Part time in both Aston Abbotts and London
- Princess Risborough
- Rickmansworth
- Tring
- Tring/Berkhamstead
- Various
- Watford
- Wing
- Wingrave
- Working from home [x2]

Q3.2 Businesses run from home

Q3.2 [i] Do any members of the household run a business from home?

Yes	15	19%
No	65	81%

No Response 4 [5%]

Q3.2a If yes, please state nature of the business(es)

Accommodation services	2	11%
Agriculture	1	5%
Catering		
Construction/ Landscaping		
Education	2	11%
Health and well-being		
Financial and/or Insurance	2	11%
Information/ Communication		
Retail	1	5%
Other*	11	58%

Other:

- Agriculture and Tourism
- Events
- Gardening
- Marketing [x2]
- Photography [x2]
- Secretarial audio typing
- Service Industry
- Transport
- Travel

Q3.3 Business Premises

Q3.3 [i] Does anyone in household own/rent business premises in the parish?

Yes	2	3%
No	77	97%

No Response 5 [6%]

Q3.3a Do they see the business(es) staying in the parish for the next 10 years?

Yes	2	67%
No	1	33%

No Response 81 [96%]

Q3.3b If yes, please state nature of the business(es)

Accommodation services		
Agriculture	2	50%
Catering		
Construction/ Landscaping		
Education		
Health and well-being		
Financial and/or Insurance		
Information/ Communication		
Retail		
Other*	2	50%

Other:

- Snow Sports
- Tourism

Q3.4 Business Units

Q3.4 [i] Do you favour development of more Business Units within the Parish?

Strongly agree	2	3%
Agree	12	15%
Neither agree nor disagree	23	29%
Disagree	18	23%
Strongly disagree	21	27%
Not sure or don't know	3	4%
No Response	5	[6%]

Annex A
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Section 4 - Communication

Section 4.1 - Communication - Tick Box Summary

Q4.1,2 Communication General

Q4.1	Community news and information - how important is it to you?	"Very important" (43 out of 83, 52%) 83 households responded (99%)
Q4.2	Is it easy to find community news and information for Aston Abbotts?	"Easy" (46 out of 79, 58%) 79 households responded (94%)

Q4.3 As sources of community news and information, how would you rate the following?

Q4.3 [i]	Parish noticeboards	"Don't use it" (28 out of 80, 35%) 80 households responded (95%)
Q4.3 [ii]	Parish Council website	"Don't use it" (32 out of 76, 42%) 76 households responded (90%)
Q4.3 [iii]	Aston Abbotts website	"Don't use it" (24 out of 76, 32%) 76 households responded (90%)
Q4.3 [iv]	Aston Abbotts Chronicle	"Very Good" (42 out of 82, 51%) 82 households responded (98%)
Q4.3 [v]	Aston Abbotts Email Post Box	"Very Good" (36 out of 80, 45%) 80 households responded (95%)
Q4.3 [vi]	Local county newspapers	"Don't use it" (52 out of 76, 68%) 76 households responded (90%)
Q4.3 [vii]	BBC Three Counties Radio	"Don't use it" (60 out of 74, 81%) 74 households responded (88%)
Q4.3 [viii]	Facebook	"Don't use it" (36 out of 76, 47%) 76 households responded (90%)
Q4.3 [ix]	Twitter	"Don't use it" (56 out of 74, 76%) 74 households responded (88%)

Section 4.2 - Communication - Detailed Breakdown

Q4.1,2 Communication General

Q4.1 Community news and information - how important is it to you?

Very important	43	52%
Important	31	37%
Fairly Important	9	11%
Not important		
No Response	1	[1%]

Q4.2 Is it easy to find community news and information for Aston Abbotts?

Very Easy	26	33%
Easy	46	58%
Difficult	6	8%
Very difficult	1	1%
No Response	5	[6%]

Q4.3 As sources of community news and information, how would you rate the following?

Q4.3 [i] Parish noticeboards

Very Good	7	9%
Good	15	19%
OK	23	29%
Poor	7	9%
Very Poor		
Don't use it	28	35%
Was not aware it existed		
No Response	4	[5%]

Q4.3 [ii] Parish Council website

Very Good	7	9%
Good	8	11%
OK	17	22%
Poor	2	3%
Very Poor		
Don't use it	32	42%
Was not aware it existed	10	13%
No Response	8	[10%]

Q4.3 [iii] Aston Abbotts website

Very Good	13	17%
Good	15	20%
OK	18	24%
Poor	3	4%
Very Poor	1	1%
Don't use it	24	32%
Was not aware it existed	2	3%

No Response 8 [10%]

Q4.3 [iv] Aston Abbotts Chronicle

Very Good	42	51%
Good	27	33%
OK	11	13%
Poor	2	2%
Very Poor		
Don't use it		
Was not aware it existed		

No Response 2 [2%]

Q4.3 [v] Aston Abbotts Email Post Box

Very Good	36	45%
Good	17	21%
OK	9	11%
Poor	2	3%
Very Poor	1	1%
Don't use it	11	14%
Was not aware it existed	4	5%

No Response 4 [5%]

Q4.3 [vi] Local county newspapers

Very Good	1	1%
Good	1	1%
OK	12	16%
Poor		
Very Poor	6	8%
Don't use it	52	68%
Was not aware it existed	4	5%

No Response 8 [10%]

Q4.3 [vii] **BBC Three Counties Radio**

Very Good		
Good	2	3%
OK	7	9%
Poor	2	3%
Very Poor	2	3%
Don't use it	60	81%
Was not aware it existed	1	1%

No Response 10 [12%]

Q4.3 [viii] **Facebook**

Very Good	11	14%
Good	13	17%
OK	8	11%
Poor	4	5%
Very Poor	1	1%
Don't use it	36	47%
Was not aware it existed	3	4%

No Response 8 [10%]

Q4.3 [ix] **Twitter**

Very Good		
Good	1	1%
OK	2	3%
Poor		
Very Poor		
Don't use it	56	76%
Was not aware it existed	15	20%

No Response 10 [12%]

Q4.3 [x] **Other Types of Information**

- Bucks Radio (Very Good)
- Church noticeboard (Poor)
- Social groups within the village (Very Good)

Section 5 - Infrastructure

Section 5.1 - Infrastructure - Tick Box Summary

Q5.1 Infrastructure

Q5.1	Do you have a broadband internet connection within the household?	"Yes" (74 out of 81, 91%) 81 households responded (96%)
------	-------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------

Q5.2 Which of the following facilities do you use and how often do you use them?

Q5.2 [i]	Village Hall	"Rarely" (37 out of 82, 45%) 82 households responded (98%)
Q5.2 [ii]	Recreation Ground	"Rarely" (33 out of 80, 41%) 80 households responded (95%)
Q5.2 [iii]	Children's Play Area	"Never" (42 out of 81, 52%) 81 households responded (96%)
Q5.2 [iv]	Church	"Rarely" (36 out of 81, 44%) 81 households responded (96%)
Q5.2 [v]	The Orchard	"Rarely" (32 out of 80, 40%) 80 households responded (95%)

Q5.3 Which of the following do you think will need to be developed in the Parish?

Q5.3 [i]	Local shops	"Need more regardless.." (39 out of 76, 51%) 76 households responded (90%)
Q5.3 [ii]	Leisure facilities	"Don't need any more.." (22 out of 73, 30%) 73 households responded (87%)
Q5.3 [iii]	Parks/play area	"Don't need any more.." (32 out of 75, 43%) 75 households responded (89%)
Q5.3 [iv]	Parking spaces	"Need more regardless.." (32 out of 77, 42%) 77 households responded (92%)
Q5.3 [v]	Road capacity	"Need more with new homes.." (28 out of 74, 38%) 74 households responded (88%)
Q5.3 [vi]	Bus services	"Need more regardless.." (24 out of 77, 31%) 77 households responded (92%)

Q5.5 Schools

Q5.5b	Were the school(s) the preferred choice for the child(ren)	"Yes" (10 out of 11, 91%) 11 households responded (13%)
-------	------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------

Q5.6 Recreational facilities

Q5.6 [i]	How do you rate the play and recreational facilities for the village?	"Adequate" (34 out of 83, 41%) 83 households responded (99%)
----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------

Q5.9 Allotments

Q5.9a	Do any of the members of the household rent or share an allotment?	"No" (74 out of 82, 90%) 82 households responded (98%)
Q5.9b	If they don't rent or share an allotment, would they like to?	"No" (63 out of 69, 91%) 69 households responded (82%)

Section 5.2 - Infrastructure - Detailed Breakdown

Q5.1 Infrastructure

Q5.1 Do you have a broadband internet connection within the household?

Yes	74	91%
No	7	9%
No Response	3	[4%]

Q5.2 Which of the following facilities do you use and how often do you use them?

Q5.2 [i] Village Hall

Daily		
Weekly	24	29%
Monthly	7	9%
Rarely	37	45%
Never	14	17%
No Response	2	[2%]

Q5.2 [ii] Recreation Ground

Daily	5	6%
Weekly	13	16%
Monthly	13	16%
Rarely	33	41%
Never	16	20%
No Response	4	[5%]

Q5.2 [iii] Children's Play Area

Daily	1	1%
Weekly	10	12%
Monthly	9	11%
Rarely	19	23%
Never	42	52%
No Response	3	[4%]

Q5.2 [iv] Church

Daily		
Weekly	16	20%
Monthly	5	6%
Rarely	36	44%
Never	24	30%
No Response	3	[4%]

Q5.2 [v] **The Orchard**

Daily	2	3%
Weekly	6	8%
Monthly	19	24%
Rarely	32	40%
Never	21	26%

No Response 4 [5%]

Q5.2 [vi] **Other Facility**

- Allotments (Daily)
- Footpaths & bridleways around the village (Daily)
- Footpaths (Daily) [x2]
- Footpaths (Weekly)
- Pub (as there isn't one) (Never)
- Pub (Monthly)
- Pub (Never)
- Public footpaths/bridleways (Daily)
- Village Hall cafe (Weekly)
- Village walk (Weekly)
- Village walk over fields and footpaths (Monthly)

Q5.3 **Which of the following do you think will need to be developed in the Parish?**Q5.3 [i] **Local shops**

Don't need any more..	17	22%
Need more with new homes..	9	12%
Need more regardless..	39	51%
Don't know	11	14%

No Response 8 [10%]

Q5.3 [ii] **Leisure facilities**

Don't need any more..	22	30%
Need more with new homes..	16	22%
Need more regardless..	16	22%
Don't know	19	26%

No Response 11 [13%]

Q5.3 [iii] **Parks/play area**

Don't need any more..	32	43%
Need more with new homes..	28	37%
Need more regardless..	8	11%
Don't know	7	9%

No Response 9 [11%]

Q5.3 [iv] Parking spaces

Don't need any more..	7	9%
Need more with new homes..	31	40%
Need more regardless..	32	42%
Don't know	7	9%

No Response 7 [8%]

Q5.3 [v] Road capacity

Don't need any more..	17	23%
Need more with new homes..	28	38%
Need more regardless..	14	19%
Don't know	15	20%

No Response 10 [12%]

Q5.3 [vi] Bus services

Don't need any more..	10	13%
Need more with new homes..	21	27%
Need more regardless..	24	31%
Don't know	22	29%

No Response 7 [8%]

Q5.3 [vii] Other Things for Development

- Activity for 10-16 year olds (Need more with new homes..)
- Bridleways (Need more regardless..)
- Cycle paths (Need more regardless..)
- Dog poo bins (Need more regardless..)
- Footpaths (Need more regardless..)
- GP Surgery (Need more regardless..)
- Improved/controlled traffic flow by non-local traffic/inappropriate size/speed (Need more regardless..)
- Improvements to pavements and footpaths (Need more regardless..)
- Library bus (Need more regardless..)
- Licenced social club (Need more regardless..)
- Outdoor exercise (Need more regardless..)
- Pavement (Need more regardless..)
- Pavements within village (Need more regardless..)
- Pub (Need more regardless..) [x13]
- Pub/Restaurant (Need more regardless..) [x2]
- Renewable energy (Need more regardless..)
- Street Lights (Need more regardless..)
- Tennis courts (Need more regardless..)
- Traffic calming (Need more regardless..)

Q5.5 Schools

Q5.5b Were the school(s) the preferred choice for the child(ren)

Yes	10	91%
No	1	9%

No Response 73 [87%]

Q5.6 Recreational facilities

Q5.6 [i] How do you rate the play and recreational facilities for the village?

Very Good	12	14%
Good	33	40%
Adequate	34	41%
Poor	3	4%
Very Poor	1	1%
<i>No Response</i>	1	[1%]

Q5.7 Footpaths

Q5.7 [i] How often do you use the footpaths?

Often in summer	63	43%
Often in winter	51	35%
Sometimes in summer	9	6%
Sometimes in winter	13	9%
Rarely	5	3%
Never	4	3%
<i>No Response</i>	2	[1%]

Q5.8 Bridleways

Q5.8 [i] How often do you use the bridleways?

Often in summer	27	25%
Often in winter	21	20%
Sometimes in summer	14	13%
Sometimes in winter	8	7%
Rarely	9	8%
Never	28	26%
<i>No Response</i>	8	[7%]

Q5.9 Allotments

Q5.9a Do any of the members of the household rent or share an allotment?

Yes	8	10%
No	74	90%
<i>No Response</i>	2	[2%]

Q5.9b If they don't rent or share an allotment, would they like to?

Yes	6	9%
No	63	91%
<i>No Response</i>	15	[18%]

Section 6 - Private Transport

Section 6.1 - Private Transport - Tick Box Summary

Q6.1b Parking

Q6.1b [i]	Do you rely on on-street parking for your vehicles?	"No" (62 out of 79, 78%) 79 households responded (94%)
-----------	-----------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Q6.2 Electric Vehicles

Q6.2a	Are you considering getting an electric vehicle in the next 5 years?	"No" (43 out of 76, 57%) 76 households responded (90%)
Q6.2b	Would lack of an on-street charging stop you getting an electric vehicle?	"No" (52 out of 74, 70%) 74 households responded (88%)

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Section 6.2 - Private Transport - Detailed Breakdown

Q6.1 How many vehicles are there for the household?

	Qty 1	Qty 2	Qty 3	Qty 4	Total
Petrol	33	17	1	2	78
Diesel	22	17	1	1	63
Hybrid	3				3
Electric	4				4
					148

Q6.1a [iv] Other Type of Vehicle

- Bicycles/ebikes (4)

Q6.1b [i] Do you rely on on-street parking for your vehicles?

Yes	17	22%
No	62	78%
No Response	5	[6%]

Q6.1c If yes, how many of your vehicles are typically parked on the street?

	Qty 1	Qty 2	Qty 3	Total
Number against qty of cars on street	12	3	1	21

Q6.2 Electric Vehicles

Q6.2a Are you considering getting an electric vehicle in the next 5 years?

Yes	33	43%
No	43	57%
No Response	8	[10%]

Q6.2b Would lack of an on-street charging stop you getting an electric vehicle?

Yes	22	30%
No	52	70%
No Response	10	[12%]

Section 7 - Environment

Section 7.1 - Environment - Tick Box Summary

Q7.1 Countryside and landscape

Q7.1 [i]	How important is to you is the countryside/landscape around the Parish?	"Very important" (76 out of 82, 93%) 82 households responded (98%)
----------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

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Section 7.2 - Environment - Detailed Breakdown

Q7.1 Countryside and landscape

Q7.1 [i] How important is to you is the countryside/landscape around the Parish?

Very important	76	93%
Important	6	7%
Fairly Important		
Not important		
No Response	2	[2%]

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Section 8 - History and Ecology

Section 8.1 - History and Ecology - Tick Box Summary

Q8.1 History

Q8.1 [i]	How do you feel about our historical past being preserved?	"Very important" (63 out of 82, 77%) 82 households responded (98%)
----------	------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

Q8.2 Wildlife

Q8.2 [i]	How do you feel about our wildlife being preserved?	"Very important" (77 out of 83, 93%) 83 households responded (99%)
----------	-----------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

Q8.3 History and Ecology Ideas

Q8.3 [i]	Website (Historical and ecological information)	"Yes" (63 out of 77, 82%) 77 households responded (92%)
Q8.3 [ii]	Information signs at points of interest	"Yes" (56 out of 78, 72%) 78 households responded (93%)
Q8.3 [iii]	History display boards	"Yes" (47 out of 77, 61%) 77 households responded (92%)
Q8.3 [iv]	Open History days and Ecology days	"Yes" (40 out of 75, 53%) 75 households responded (89%)
Q8.3 [v]	Walking guides – what to see where	"Yes" (67 out of 79, 85%) 79 households responded (94%)
Q8.3 [vi]	Guided tours for history/ecology	"Yes" (38 out of 74, 51%) 74 households responded (88%)
Q8.3 [vii]	Living memories website (for people inside and outside the parish)	"Yes" (43 out of 76, 57%) 76 households responded (90%)

Section 8.2 - History and Ecology - Detailed Breakdown

Q8.1 History

Q8.1 [i] How do you feel about our historical past being preserved?

Very important	63	77%
Important	11	13%
Fairly Important	8	10%
Not important		
<i>No Response</i>	2	[2%]

Q8.2 Wildlife

Q8.2 [i] How do you feel about our wildlife being preserved?

Very important	77	93%
Important	4	5%
Fairly Important	2	2%
Not important		
<i>No Response</i>	1	[1%]

Q8.3 History and Ecology Ideas

Q8.3 [i] Website (Historical and ecological information)

Yes	63	82%
No	1	1%
No Opinion	13	17%
<i>No Response</i>	7	[8%]

Q8.3 [ii] Information signs at points of interest

Yes	56	72%
No	12	15%
No Opinion	10	13%
<i>No Response</i>	6	[7%]

Q8.3 [iii] History display boards

Yes	47	61%
No	13	17%
No Opinion	17	22%
<i>No Response</i>	7	[8%]

Q8.3 [iv] Open History days and Ecology days

Yes	40	53%
No	7	9%
No Opinion	28	37%
<i>No Response</i>	9	[11%]

Q8.3 [v] Walking guides – what to see where

Yes	67	85%
No	3	4%
No Opinion	9	11%
No Response	5	[6%]

Q8.3 [vi] Guided tours for history/ecology

Yes	38	51%
No	10	14%
No Opinion	26	35%
No Response	10	[12%]

Q8.3 [vii] Living memories website (for people inside and outside the parish)

Yes	43	57%
No	6	8%
No Opinion	27	36%
No Response	8	[10%]

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Section 9 - Other

Section 9.1 - Other - Tick Box Summary

Q9.1 If we were to encourage alternative energy, which would you support?

Q9.1a	Wind power	"Agree" (53 out of 80, 66%) 80 households responded (95%)
Q9.1b	Solar power	"Agree" (70 out of 80, 88%) 80 households responded (95%)

Q9.3 Willing to Help?

Q9.3 [i]	Would you like to help in developing the Neighbourhood Plan?	"No" (64 out of 81, 79%) 81 households responded (96%)
----------	--------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Q9.4 Optional Contact Details

Q9.4 [i]	Contact Details Provided?	"No" (47 out of 83, 57%) 83 households responded (99%)
----------	---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Annex A
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Section 9.2 - Other - Detailed Breakdown

Q9.1 If we were to encourage alternative energy, which would you support?

Q9.1a Wind power

Agree	53	66%
Disagree	17	21%
No opinion	10	13%
<i>No Response</i>	4	[5%]

Q9.1b Solar power

Agree	70	88%
Disagree	5	6%
No opinion	5	6%
<i>No Response</i>	4	[5%]

Q9.2 Anything Else?

Q9.3 Willing to Help?

Q9.3 [i] Would you like to help in developing the Neighbourhood Plan?

Yes	17	21%
No	64	79%
<i>No Response</i>	3	[4%]

Q9.4 Optional Contact Details

Q9.4 [i] Contact Details Provided?

Yes	36	43%
No	47	57%
<i>No Response</i>	1	[1%]

Appendix A - Questionnaire

This appendix provides, for information and reference, the questionnaire that was circulated to residents

Annex A
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THE PARISH OF ASTON ABBOTTS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Resident,

This questionnaire is your opportunity to influence how Aston Abbots will develop over the coming years.

The Localism Act has given communities the power to shape their future by putting local plans at the heart of the planning system. Under the Act, parish councils and local people can make decisions about future development, its design and location. Aston Abbots Parish Council has made the decision to embrace these powers and to prepare what is known as a Neighbourhood Plan to encompass the whole Parish.

The main focus of any development is usually the visual aspect – especially in the case of new housing. Important though housing development is, our plan will also include policies that incorporate our aspirations for the future concerning issues such as green spaces, heritage assets, community facilities, the environment and economic activity – all things that directly impact our community.

The Plan, once adopted, will be a powerful document. It will enable us to make decisions for our future rather than having others decide it for us. It will be legally binding and, as such, must be consulted by Buckinghamshire Council and other authorities when determining future planning applications within the Parish.

Why it's important for everyone to have their say?

Whilst there may not be immediate pressure in the Parish of Aston Abbots to build additional houses, we know we may have to take some development to meet district and national targets in the future. We therefore need to ask ourselves:

- *Do we want to be involved in deciding how large such developments should be and where they should be located?*
- *When new developments do occur, do we want to influence their design?*

If we don't develop a Neighbourhood Plan, others will make the decisions for us.

So please get involved now and take the time to complete this questionnaire

This questionnaire is an important start to the process. It will be used to understand community opinion and will ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan will reflect of the consensus views of the residents of our Parish.

Please complete this questionnaire and return it in the envelope it came in by Saturday 7th May

You can post the completed questionnaire through the letter box of either of these locations:

*20 The Green
10 Wingrave Road*

Or, if you wish, you can hand it to any Parish Councillor:

<i>Heather Langdon</i>	<i>Jane Baylis</i>	<i>Jane Plested</i>
<i>Marissa Abel Smith</i>	<i>Richard Lakin</i>	<i>Sally Palmer</i>
<i>Trevor Hall</i>		

***Aston Abbots Parish Council
April 2022***

Please complete one questionnaire on behalf of each household (in this context, the term “you” refers collectively to all members of the household). If there is more than one household in the property, or there are differing views within the household, please contact the clerk of the Parish Council for additional copies (clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk).

You may remain anonymous but, at the end of the questionnaire, you can provide your name if you so wish.

Please note that all answers to the questionnaire will be treated as confidential and will be solely for the purposes of developing the Neighbourhood Plan. All information and data received will be managed in line with good practice set out in the Data Protection Act 2018. Also note that comments may be selected for anonymous inclusion in the final Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Household Details and Overall Feelings About Living in Aston Abbots

1.1	Number of members within the household <i>Please enter the number of adults and school-age children below</i>
1.1a	Number of adults in household?
1.1b	Number of school-age children in the household?

1.2	What is the gender and ages of all members of the household? <i>Please tick both the Gender and Age Range for each person</i>									
	Gender			Age Range						
	Male	Female	Prefer not to say	Under 12	12-17	18-29	30-49	50-64	65-75	76+
Person 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Person 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Person 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Person 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Person 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If more than five persons, please list others below:</i>										

1.3	What is the work/education situation for all members of the household? <i>Please tick for each person</i>					
	Employed	Self Employed	Retired	Unemployed	In full-time education	Other (Please describe) <i>e.g., Looking after home/family, full-time carer, etc</i>
Person 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Person 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Person 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Person 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Person 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If more than five persons, please list others below:</i>						

1.4	What is the housing status for the property? <i>Please tick</i>				
Owned with a mortgage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Owned outright	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rented from private landlord <input type="checkbox"/>	
Housing association	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social housing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (<i>Please describe</i>)					

1.5	How long have you lived in Aston Abbots?
------------	-------------------------------------------------

1.6	How do you feel about living in Aston Abbots? <i>Please tick and please add any other factors which affect how you feel about the place</i>				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Has a nice environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is clean & tidy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is quiet/peaceful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has strong sense of community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has good facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has good public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is convenient for commuting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is convenient for cultural activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is good for social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is in good school catchment area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please add others factors you think important:</i>					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. HOUSING

There are currently approximately 185 dwellings within the Parish.

It is inevitable that additional housing will have to be built over the next 20 years. It is important that we understand your views in relation to increased housing in Aston Abbots.

2.1	Do you agree that, over the next 20 years, there will be a need for more housing? <i>Please tick</i>				
Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure or don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2	When new homes have to be built, how many homes do you think would be appropriate? <i>Please tick</i>				
Less than 10	10-20	21-30	31-50	Over 50	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2.3

When new homes have to be built, which type do you think would be most suitable?

Please tick – you can tick more than one row.

Please note: If you are not in favour of any new housing, please do not tick all types as “strongly opposed to” The building of new homes will be inevitable within the next 20 years so it is therefore important to identify the types of property that are the least disagreeable.

	Strongly in favour	In favour	Don't mind	Opposed to	Strongly opposed to
Affordable homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing association homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retirement/sheltered homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bungalows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small homes (1 bed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medium size homes (2-3 beds)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger homes (4+ beds)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please add others you think should be considered or opposed:					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.4

When new homes are built, do you agree that they must be built sustainably?

Please tick

Note: Sustainable building requires the use of renewable and recyclable materials when building new homes, as well as reducing energy consumption and waste. It must also ensure the building remains resource-efficient throughout its lifecycle. This is likely to incur higher initial costs which may affect the affordability of the housing.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure or don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.5

When new homes are built, where do you think they should be located?

You must tick one to show your preference (refer to maps in Figures 1 and 2 and the notes below)

Notes:

- 1) “Within the village” means use of any available land close to the centre of the village. Such land is likely to be adjacent to existing properties.
- 2) “Greenfield site” means the use of farmland or other undeveloped land within the parish. The investment required to build on such sites (e.g., providing services etc) is likely to result in larger scale developments.

Only within the village <input type="checkbox"/>	Only greenfield sites <input type="checkbox"/>	Both within the village and greenfield sites <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

Please add any comments you think would help in identifying suitable locations for future housing (you can also add notes on the maps in Figures 1 and/or 2):

3. ECONOMY

Neighbourhood Planning creates the chance for the community to influence the local economic pattern by working with the Local Authority to look at how development can provide local jobs. Most of our residents have to travel out of the community to their work, thus increasing traffic and travelling cost for working people.

3.1	For members of the household that are employed, where do they work? <i>Please tick or state in "Other"</i>						
	Aston Abbotts	Aylesbury	Leighton Buzzard	Milton Keynes	Luton or Dunstable	London	Other (please state)
Person 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Person 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If more than two persons are in employment, please list others here:</i>							

3.2	Do any members of the household run a business from home? <i>Please tick and, if Yes, please answer the following question</i>									Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.2a	Please state the nature of the business(es) (if more than one then just answer for the two largest businesses). <i>Please tick</i>										
		Accommodation services	Agriculture	Catering	Construction/Landscaping	Education	Health and well-being	Financial and/or Insurance	Information/Communication	Retail	Other (please state)
Business 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Business 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3.3	Do any members of the household own/rent business premises in the parish? <i>Please tick and, if Yes, please answer the following two questions</i>									Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.3a	Do they see the business(es) staying in the parish for the next 10 years? <i>Please tick and, if No, please explain why:</i>									Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

3.3b	Please state the nature of the business(es) (if more than one then just answer for the two largest businesses). Please tick										
		Accommodation services	Agriculture	Catering	Construction/Landscaping	Education	Health and well-being	Financial and/or Insurance	Information/Communication	Retail	Other (please state)
	Business 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Business 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3.4	Would you be in favour of the development of more Business Units within the Parish? <i>Please tick</i>				
Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure or don't know <input type="checkbox"/>

3.5	Please add other suggestions for improving our economy. If a business is being run from home, or member of the household owns/rents a business in the parish, please provide any suggestions that could assist the success of the business(es):
<p style="font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.5; transform: rotate(-30deg);">Annex 1 Previously published document Reproduced for reference</p>	

4. COMMUNICATION

This Section covers communication of important news and information, including social information.

4.1	Community news and information - how important is it to you? <i>Please tick</i>			
Very important <input type="checkbox"/>	Important <input type="checkbox"/>	Fairly Important <input type="checkbox"/>	Not important <input type="checkbox"/>	

4.2	How easy is it to find community news and information for Aston Abbots? <i>Please tick</i>			
Very Easy <input type="checkbox"/>	Easy <input type="checkbox"/>	Difficult <input type="checkbox"/>	Very difficult <input type="checkbox"/>	

4.3 As sources of community news and information, how would you rate the following? <i>Please tick and add and others you think important</i>							
	Very Good	Good	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't use it	Was not aware it existed
Parish noticeboards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parish Council website (<i>see notes*</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aston Abbotts website (<i>see notes*</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aston Abbotts Chronicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aston Abbotts Email Post Box (<i>see notes*</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local county newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBC Three Counties Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facebook (<i>see notes*</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twitter (<i>see notes*</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please add others you think important:</i>							
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Notes: Parish Council website address: astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk
Aston Abbotts website address: www.aston-abbotts.co.uk
To sign up to the AA Postbox please see: www.aston-abbotts.co.uk/postbox.htm
Facebook Aston Abbotts Community: www.facebook.com/groups/astonabbotts
Twitter #astonabbotts: twitter.com/hashtag/AstonAbbotts?src=hashtag_click&f=live

4.4 If you don't think you're getting sufficient local news or information, please provide suggestions/ideas that you think will help:	

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

This section covers the following topics:

- Internet Connectivity
- Facilities
- Education Services
- Recreation, Footpaths and Bridleways
- Allotments

Internet Connectivity

5.1 Do you have a broadband internet connection within the household? <i>Please tick</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Facilities

5.2

Which of the following facilities do you use and how often do you use them?

Please tick

Note: Education Services are covered in Questions 5.4 and 5.5, and Allotments in Question 5.09

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Rarely	Never
Village Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Play Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Orchard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please add others you think important:</i>					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.3

Which of the following do you think will need to be developed in the Parish?

Please tick and add and others you think important

Notes:

1) Education Services as covered in Questions 5.4 and 5.5

2) The term "Local" below does not imply the facility is within the village. Local facilities could include facilities that are within an acceptable distance (by your preferred method of transport, i.e., walking, bicycle, car etc)

	We don't need any more of this even with new housing	We have enough now but will need more if new housing is built	We need more of this without any new housing	Don't know
Local shops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks/play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please add other Community Facilities you think important:</i>				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you would like to see more action to develop facilities within the parish, please provide suggestions/ideas that you think will help:

Educational Services

5.4	Nurseries and Preschool <i>If there are children in your household that attend nursery or preschool, please provide details below</i>
5.4	Please list below the nursery/preschool that the child(ren) attend:

5.5	Schools <i>If there are school-age children in your household, please answer the following two questions</i>		
5.5a	Please list below the school(s) that the child(ren) attend:		
5.5b	Were the school(s) the preferred choice for the child(ren)? <i>Please tick</i> <table style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> If not, and it was an issue related to catchment area, what was the preferred school(s):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Recreation, Footpaths and Bridleways

5.6	How do you rate the play and recreational facilities for the village? <i>Please tick</i>				
Very Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	Very Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	
If you would like to see more action to improve the play and recreational facilities, please provide suggestions/ideas that you think will help:					

5.7	How often do you use the footpaths? <i>Please tick</i> All public footpaths are identified on the map in Figure 1					
Often in summer <input type="checkbox"/>	Often in winter <input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes in summer <input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes in winter <input type="checkbox"/>	Rarely <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>	
If so, which one(s) do you use the most and why?						

5.8	How often do you use the bridleways? <i>Please tick</i> <i>The two bridleways are identified on the map in Figure 1</i>				
Often in summer <input type="checkbox"/>	Often in winter <input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes in summer <input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes in winter <input type="checkbox"/>	Rarely <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, which one(s) do you use frequently and why?					

Allotments

5.09	Allotments <i>Please tick</i>		
5.09a	Do any of the members of the household rent or share an allotment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.09b	If they don't rent or share an allotment, would they like to?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

6. PRIVATE TRANSPORT

6.1	Private Vehicles		
6.1a	How many vehicles are there for the household? <i>Please enter number against each type of vehicle – leave blank if none</i>		
		No of Vehicles	
	Petrol		
	Diesel		
	Hybrid		
	Electric		
	Other (<i>Please state</i>):		
6.1b	Do you rely on on-street parking for your vehicles? <i>Please tick</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.1c	If you have answered Yes to the previous question, how many of your vehicles are typically parked on the street?		

6.2	Electric Vehicles		
6.2a	If you do not currently own an electric vehicle, are you considering getting one in the next 5 years? <i>Please tick</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.2b	Would the lack of an on-street charging point prohibit you from getting an electric vehicle? <i>Please tick</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

7. ENVIRONMENT

7.1

How important is to you, and how highly do you value, the countryside and landscape around the Parish? *Please tick*

Very Important

Important

Fairly Important

Not important

Please place an arrow on the maps in Figures 1 or 2 showing your favourite views *from a public viewpoint*. Please elaborate below if you wish:

7.2

Which Green Spaces are important to you

Note: Green space is land, not necessarily provided for formal recreation or public amenity, which makes a positive visual and environmental contribution to the Parish.

Are there any Green Spaces within the Parish are important to you?' If so, please describe them and/or mark them on the maps in Figures 1 or 2.

8. HISTORY & ECOLOGY

History

Our historic environment includes buildings and features such as walls etc. Our parish has shown a keen interest in its historical roots. At the turn of the millennium, a very active History Group produced a widely praised book "Aston Abbots 1000-2000, A Village History" and the Aston Abbots Chronical frequently publishes historical articles. Our close links with the Czech Republic and Slovakia culminating in the recent unveiling of the History Board on The Green is a testament to the desire of many to ensure that the history of the parish is well preserved.

Wildlife

Our parish is teeming with lots of wildlife. Part of our plan can also include the preservation and protection of specific areas where rare and not so rare wildlife is accessible to all. This will benefit the parish on a local scale and also encourage visitors.

8.1	How do you feel about our historical past being preserved for future generations?		
<i>Please tick</i>			
Very important <input type="checkbox"/>	Important <input type="checkbox"/>	Fairly important <input type="checkbox"/>	Not important <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there any important historic features or buildings you wish to see protected? If so, please describe them and mark them on the maps in Figures 1 <u>or</u> 2 if you wish.</p>			

8.2	How do you feel about our wildlife being preserved for future generations?		
<i>Please tick</i>			
Very important <input type="checkbox"/>	Important <input type="checkbox"/>	Fairly important <input type="checkbox"/>	Not important <input type="checkbox"/>

8.3 Do you think that these are a good idea? <i>Please tick</i>			
	Yes	No	No opinion
Website (Historical and ecological information)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information signs at points of interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
History display boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open History days and Ecology days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking guides – what to see where	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guided tours for history/ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living memories website (for people inside and outside the parish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you would like to see more action to support our historical heritage, ecology, and local wildlife, please provide suggestions/ideas that you think will help:			

9. OTHER

9.1 If we were to encourage alternative energy, which would you support? <i>Please tick</i>			
	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Wind power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you would like to see more action to encourage alternative energy, please provide suggestions/ideas that you think will help:			

9.2

Please write in anything else you can think of that has not been covered within this questionnaire and that you think should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan:

Annex A
Published document
for reference

9.3

Would anybody in the household like to help in developing the Neighbourhood Plan? *Please tick*

Yes

No

We will be looking for people who have an interest in planning the future of the Parish and we would welcome help with various aspects of producing the neighbourhood plan including communications and publicity, project management, IT skills, organisational skills, and general help such as delivering leaflets etc. If you would like to help, then please contact the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk with information on areas of interest and any specific expertise.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Questionnaire

Contact Details - *OPTIONAL*

All responses will remain anonymous unless you wish to provide your contact details. These details shall only be made available to the Parish Council and to those persons developing the Neighbourhood Plan and will enable them to contact you to discuss any specific details or concerns.

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

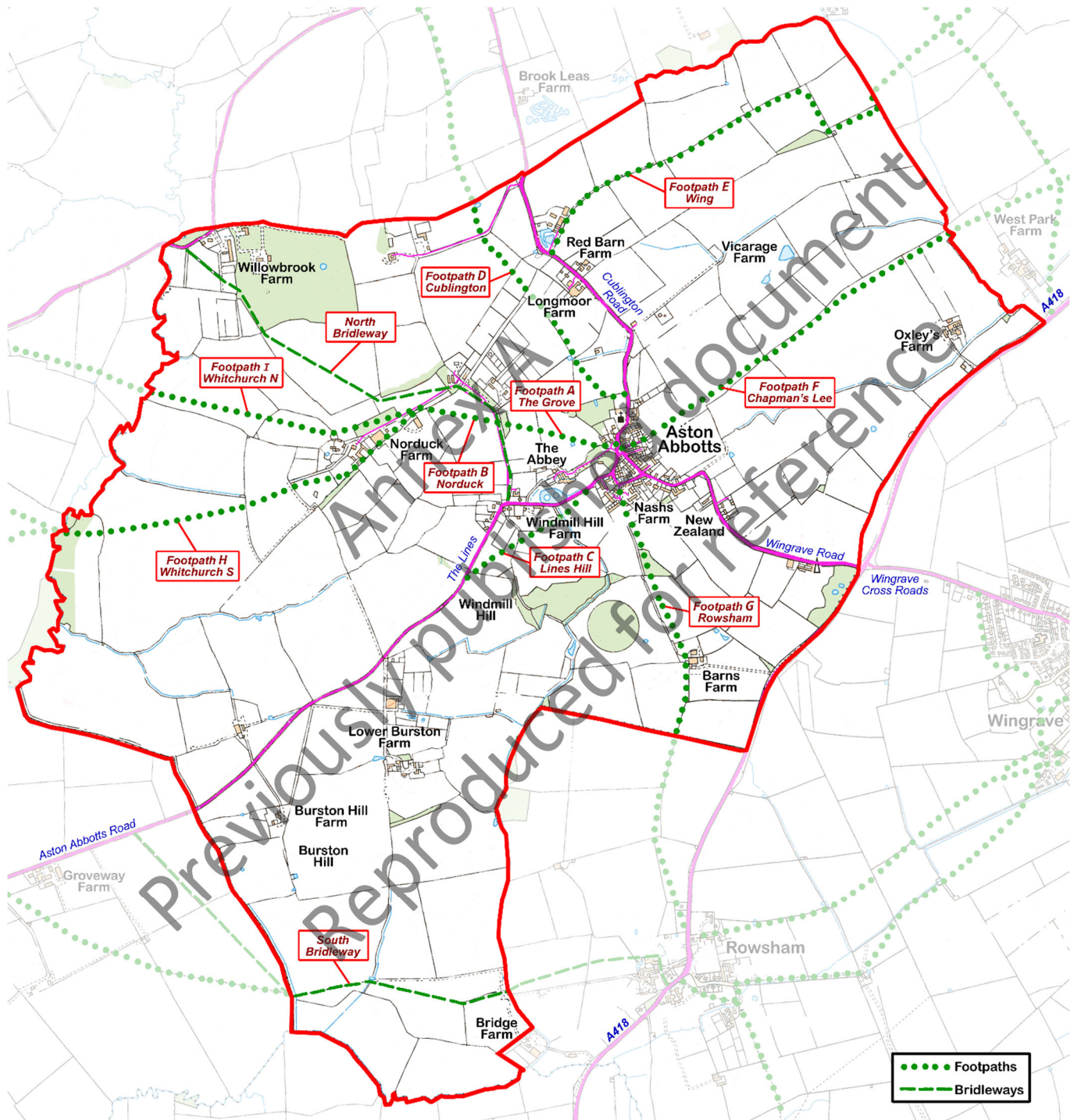


Figure 1 – Aston Abbots Parish Boundary

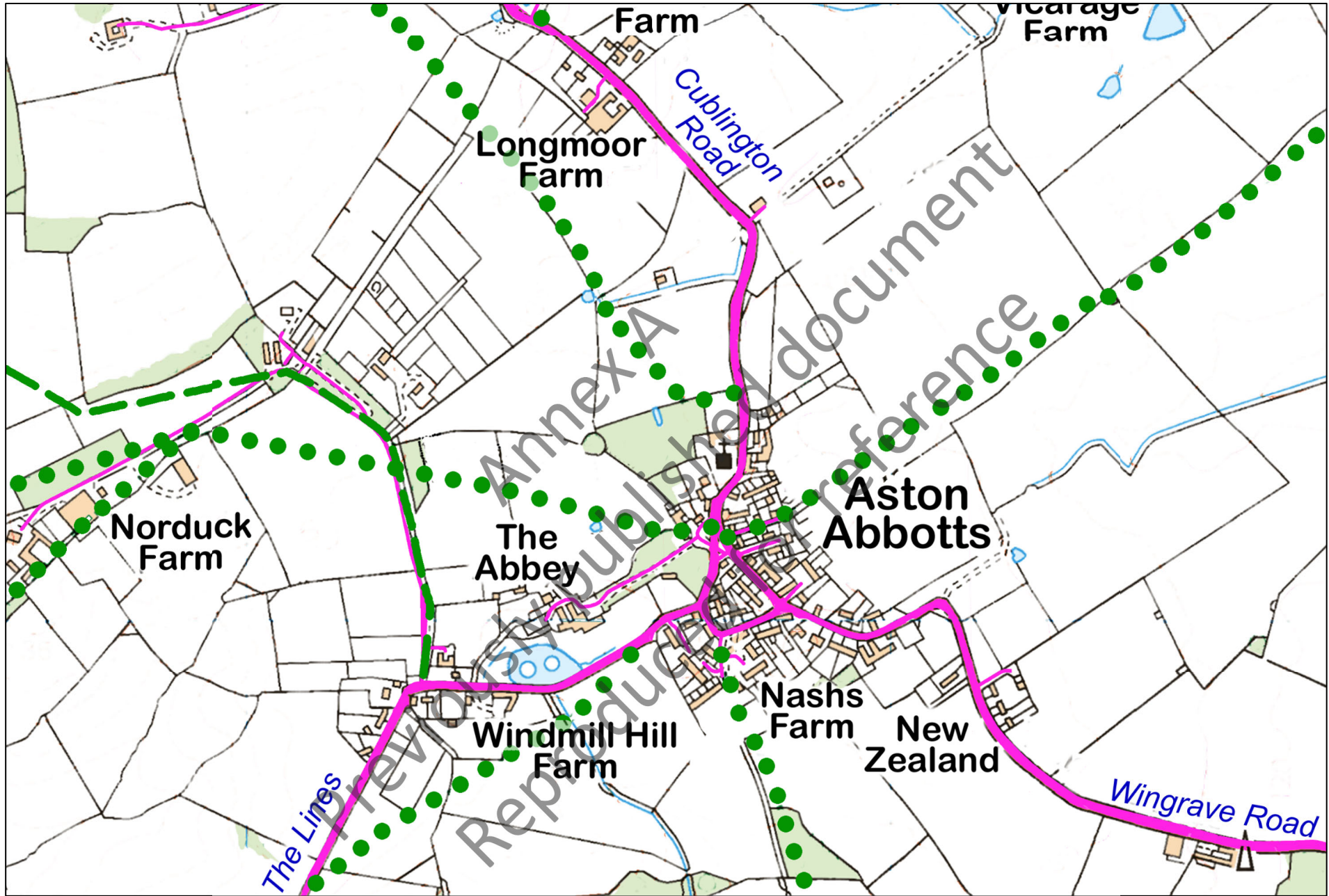


Figure 2 – Aston Abbots village and surrounds