



**BIERTON
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
2024 - 2033
Consultation Statement**

Published by Bierton Parish Council to accompany the
Submission Bierton Neighbourhood Plan under the
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

July 2024

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Glossary of Abbreviations

AVDC	Aylesbury Vale District Council
BB&KNP	Bierton, Broughton and Kingsbrook Neighbourhood Plan
BC	Buckinghamshire Council
BPC	Bierton Parish Council
KPC	Kingsbrook Parish Council
NA	Neighbourhood Area
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
RoWIP	The Buckinghamshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 - 2030
VALP	Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

1 Compliance with Regulation 15 (Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012)

Bierton Parish Council (BPC) submits its Neighbourhood Plan (NP) to Aylesbury Vale District Council for independent examination.

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, (amended 2017) and complies with the requirements of Regulation 15 and provides the response to Regulation 14 (pre-submission consultation and publicity).

Part 5, Section 15 of the Regulations sets out that a Consultation Statement should contain:

- (a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan [or neighbourhood development plan as proposed to be modified];
- (b) a consultation statement;
- (c) explains how they were consulted;
- (d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan [or neighbourhood development plan as proposed to be modified.]

This Consultation Statement summarises all statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken with the community and other relevant statutory bodies and stakeholders in developing the NP. It describes how concerns have been addressed and what changes have been made to the final NP as a result of statutory pre-submission consultation.

Appendices accompanying this Statement provide a record of all consultation exercises, comments, and feedback.

Enquiries regarding this Statement should be made to:

Bierton NP Steering Group

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2 Introduction

2.1 Background

In common with other neighbourhoods in the local area, the former Bierton with Broughton Parish faced pressure in recent years from planning applications for housing development that many residents have viewed as unsuitable. The Parish Council concluded that it was appropriate to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to give the community more control over defining what they wished for the future of Bierton with Broughton. The BB&KNP set out the objectives and policies to be applied regarding parish identity, housing, business & employment, community facilities, environment & green spaces, health & education, history & heritage, infrastructure & connectivity, and transport.

2.2 Original Neighbourhood Area Designation

At the request of Bierton with Broughton Parish Council, the local planning authority, Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), designated the Bierton with Broughton Neighbourhood Area on 07/09/16, under the provisions of the Localism Act and the

Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (see [Appendices A and B](#)). The designated Neighbourhood Area was defined as the area within the boundary of the Civil Parish of Bierton with Broughton (see [Figure 1](#) below); however, during the creation of this Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group learned that there would be a realignment of this boundary. This took effect in May 2020, with the creation of a new civil parish for Kingsbrook, the major new housing and industrial development taking place within the NA, with Broughton Hamlet having its own Parish Meeting, and with Bierton Parish Council representing the village of Bierton, Broughton Crossing and Oldhams Meadow. The Steering Group took advice, from AVDC and Planning Aid England, on how to proceed in this situation, with the conclusion that the originally designated NA still stands for the purpose of this Neighbourhood Plan. To reflect this change, the name was subsequently changed from Bierton with Broughton Neighbourhood Plan to Bierton, Boughton and Kingsbrook Neighbourhood Plan.

2.3 The Steering Group

In 2017, Bierton with Broughton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was appointed in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, to represent the interests of the community in the future development of the neighbourhood. The Steering Group consisted of a combination of Parish Councillors and local residents with a very good understanding of the local area.

Clear Terms of Reference which explain accountability to the Parish Council and the community were posted onto the Neighbourhood Plan website <http://www.bwbnplan.co.uk> to ensure transparency in the process and to provide the community with assurance that the process is being managed effectively (see [Appendix C](#)).

From the outset, the Steering Group were aware that drawing together the evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan would be labour intensive and actively tried to recruit new members during the process, including calling for volunteers at launch and consultation events.

The Steering Group were responsible for planning and holding consultation events and conducting other engagement activities. Analysis of feedback and other evidence was used to identify key concerns / issues that could be addressed in the BB&KNP, to define objectives, and then to draft policies and aspirations that could help to deliver those objectives. Various early drafts of the BB&KNP were produced, with revisions being made as new evidence emerged and on the basis of advice and comments from consultants, BPC, KPC and AVDC/BC.

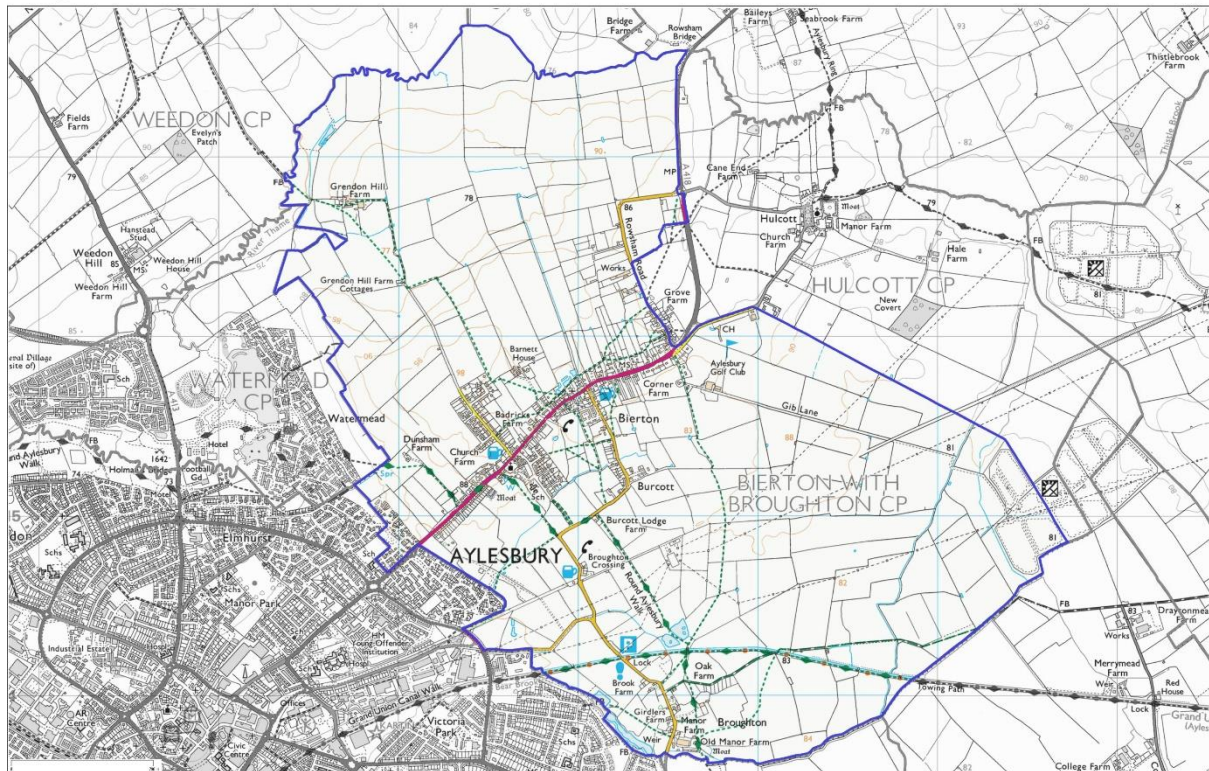


Figure 1 Designated Neighbourhood Area for BwBNP

3 The Consultation Process

3.1 Overview

Engagement and consultation with the residents were considered essential aspects of the process. From the outset, the Steering Group systematically adopted a ‘funnel approach’ to the research, ensuring, as far as possible, that issues and information would emerge from the widespread consultation rather than be pre-defined by the Steering Group.

In order to ensure a robust methodology, a clearly pre-defined Consultation and Engagement Strategy Report ([Appendix D](#)) was developed through two Steering Group Workshops facilitated by independent research specialists People and Places Insight Limited. Updates to the report were produced as the consultation process developed. A list of Key Principles underlying the consultation and engagement programme were drawn up to govern the process:

- Effective use of resources and targeting consultations in such a way as achieves maximum feedback and involvement from the wider community, including neighbouring parish councils
- Building on any consultation that has already taken place.
- Focusing more specifically on the use of land within the plan area, as opposed to wider community aspirations not addressed through a neighbourhood plan (but captured through the Community Action Plan)

- Ensuring those that might be considered “harder to reach”, or “harder to engage” are a focus of attention in engaging the community in discussion and ascertaining views
- Maximising the potential for volunteer support
- Maximising the use of existing communication mediums
- Aligning consultation activities where appropriate to deliver the best outcomes for the plan, avoiding delays to the plan process where timing is an issue

3.2 Professional Advice

The Steering Group agreed to employ professional consultants, at appropriate times, to assist in the consultation process and in developing the BwBNP. People and Places Insight Ltd assisted with developing the consultation approach and with conducting a NP survey. Jennifer Lampert Associates provided advice on project planning and NP regulations. Steve Jowers Associates Ltd provided a report on landscape assessment, green spaces, and green infrastructure. IPE Ltd reviewed and provided advice on drafts of the BwBNP.

3.3 Consultation with AVDC

The Steering Group looked to build their relationship with AVDC through regular discussion, seeking guidance and information sharing to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan remains consistent with the emerging Local Plan (VALP). The Neighbourhood Plan is due to run until 2033, bringing it in line with the VALP, once adopted.

At the start of the process, the Steering Group clarified the support that AVDC could lend to consultation with communities, for example, maps, printing, publicity and communications, in addition to the planning authority’s statutory duties in supporting development of a Neighbourhood Plan, i.e.

- Agreeing and designating the Neighbourhood Area
- Support during the preparation
- Regulation 14 Submission
- Examination by the Inspector
- Supervision of the Referendum

Drafts of the BwBNP or policies were sent and reviewed by AVDC on several occasions and changes adopted where considered appropriate.

4 Understanding the Issues and Initial Consultation

4.1 Overview of Consultation Approaches to Engage the Community

Consultation events began with Launch Events held on 2nd and 7th October 2017. Other public consultation events were held at different stages of the process to keep the community informed of progress, to explain what was happening and why, and to elicit comments and feedback (see section 4.2). Where possible, consultation events were held in several locations across the neighbourhood area, on different days and different times, to maximise the number of residents and other participants attending.

The Steering Group advertised the events as widely as possible using the Village Diary monthly information sheet, the Parish website (www.biertonvillage.org.uk) and,

subsequently, the BwBNP website (www.bwbnplan.co.uk), Facebook, the Bucks Herald local newspaper, and Mix96 local radio. Prominent street advertising was used to promote forthcoming events.

At each event, Steering Group members provided information in a variety of ways, including: a formal presentation, display boards, leaflet handouts, maps, a rolling PowerPoint presentation summarising key information, and by guiding attendees through the displayed material and answering questions. Attendees (whose contact details were recorded at the event and are summarised in [Appendix E](#)) were asked to provide comments on post-it notes, associated with the relevant topic display board; all comments were recorded and compiled after the events.

4.2 Summary of Consultations

The consultation events, methods, and community feedback leading up to the pre-submission consultation draft BwBNP are summarised in the following table.

Date & Venue (no. attending)	Consultation Approach	How Publicised	Who was engaged	Outcomes
Launch and initial consultation events				
02/10/2017 Sports Centre (52)	Events held over 6 dates and at multiple locations to maximise attendance. Explained the process for developing a neighbourhood plan. Maps to show AVDC HELAA and the phases of Kingsbrook development (see Appendix F for handout). Comments were invited on various topics, including a Vision for BwBNP.	Through the website, Facebook, and on local media. Leaflets were distributed to all properties and businesses, posters, and in the Village Diary.	Residents, businesses, landowners, and other stakeholders. A total of 290 people attended the events	A dialogue was established with the community. Start of understanding of key issues. Comments and responses were analysed to help formulate the survey, in conjunction with People and Places Insight Ltd (see Appendix G).
07/10/2017 Jubilee Hall (71)				
14/10/2017 St. James the Great (44)				
17/10/2017 The Dog House (38)				
25/10/2017 The Barn (25)				
5/11/2017 Sports Centre (60)				

Date & Venue (no. attending)	Consultation Approach	How Publicised	Who was engaged	Outcomes
Consultation events with targeted audiences				
23/10/2017 Elderly Persons Consultation, William Hill Drive (4)	Events to broaden engagement with community, including with residents that had difficulty attending other events. Similar information sharing to above.	Direct liaison with key contacts representing each audience.	Residents of sheltered housing scheme.	As above.
20/11/2017 School Staff & Governors (12)			Staff and Governors of Bierton primary school.	
30/11/2017 Church Council (11)			Church Council of St. James the Great	
BwBNP Survey				
Feb & March 2018 Survey delivered by hand to every household, for return by 18/03/2018	All parishioners were given the option of completing the Survey on-line or by returning the hard copy.	Through the website, and Facebook and the Village Diary, which is delivered to each household, monthly.	Residents, businesses, and landowners. 447 completed surveys were returned.	An opportunity for the responders to express their views by completing the Survey. See Appendix H for summary analysis of responses.
29/09/2018 Feedback on Survey – a walk- in event at the Jubilee Hall	The result of the analysis was presented in summary form and as pie charts on display boards with a slide presentation of the same information projected onto a screen (see Appendix I).	Through the website, and Facebook and the Village Diary.	Residents businesses and landowners. A total of 92 people attended the event.	A presentation of the results of the NP Survey and collection of comments.
Additional consultation to shape draft BwBNP				
17/06/2019 Meeting with Parish Council.	To get comments on the developing summary of draft Policies before a public event.	Previously arranged as first item of agenda for regular Parish Council Meeting.	Parish Councillors; some public attendees.	Discussion and helpful comments (see Appendix J).

Date & Venue (no. attending)	Consultation Approach	How Publicised	Who was engaged	Outcomes
				Approval for presentation at public event.
13/07/2019 Feedback – a walk-in event was held in the Jubilee Hall.	Summary bullet points of draft Policies were presented for each topic area on display boards. Proposed Development Boundaries were shown on maps.	Through the website, and Facebook and the Village Diary. Publicised at Bierton Summer Fete (15/06/2019, Sports Hall) (see Appendix K) that also gave general information on the process.	A total of 70 people attended the events.	Generally, the response was in favour of the draft policies and proposed Development Boundaries. See Appendix L for copy of feedback analysis.
16/10/2019 Letter to landowners on proposed development boundaries	Letters were sent to households where the proposed development boundaries bisected a large garden, with background information and inviting comments (Appendix M).	Not applicable.	18 households were contacted.	No objections Received.
16/10/2019 Letter to landowners on proposed designation of Green Spaces	Letters were sent to landowners where the area was proposed to be designated a Local Green Space, with background information and inviting comments (Appendix N).	Not applicable.	3 landowners were notified.	Letter received on behalf of Mr Hobbs (Great Lane Allotments) saying housing development application was being considered.
27/11/2019 Further consultation event to inform the growing	A presentation was given to inform the new residents about the BwBNP and	Village Diary, notices on Parish notice board, poster in the local Pub	Primarily the local residents of Kingsbrook and Broughton Hamlet but the	Low attendance but further publicity of the BwBNP process within the

Date & Venue (no. attending)	Consultation Approach	How Publicised	Who was engaged	Outcomes
population of Kingsbrook.	to introduce them to the aims, objectives, and policies.	(The Dog House), and announcements on website.	meeting was open to all. A total of 5 people attended the events.	Kingsbrook community and discussion with Steering Group members.
16/12/2019 Meeting with Parish Council.	To get comments on the developing draft BwBNP.	Previously arranged as special meeting of Parish Council and Steering Group.	Parish Councillors.	Discussion and helpful comments (see Appendix O). Approval for proceeding with plans for Reg. 14 consultation.
March to October 2020	Early draft of NP published on BB&KNP website (e.g. see Appendix P for screenshot).	Availability of draft NP on website announced in April 2020 issue of Village Diary.	General public, to the extent permitted by Government restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic.	No specific comments received.

5 Pre-submission Consultation on Draft BwBNP (Regulation 14)

5.1 Background, Period and Process of Consultation

Restrictions were imposed by the Government on neighbourhood planning processes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The July 2020 issue of the Village Diary, under Parish Messages, announced that the referendum on the BB&KNP could not take place until May 2021 at the earliest and that the next stage of the plan, public consultation called Regulation 14, would take place when practically possible. This messaging was replicated on the home page of the BB&KNP website. This was followed up in the September 2020 issue of the Village Diary with an update on progress of the draft plan and that consideration was underway to how the public consultation could be done. Then, the October 2020 issue announced that the Regulation 14 consultation would take place between **2nd November and 13th December 2020** and that a flyer with further details would be coming out (see [Appendices Q and R](#)). The message about the consultation period and a request for comments to be submitted were repeated in the November issue of the Village Diary.

The Steering Group took advice from neighbourhood planning liaison officers at BC on safely and effectively holding a Regulation 14 public consultation during Covid-19 restrictions. As face-to-face meetings would not be possible, several measures were agreed upon to bring the plan to the attention of stakeholders, designed to ensure maximum publicity and to afford all interested parties an opportunity to submit their comments on the submission draft BB&KNP.

The following stakeholders were consulted:

- All residents and businesses in the NA
- Developers and landowners
- Statutory Undertakers (NP Regulations paragraph 1 of schedule1)
- Neighbouring parishes
- Other community stakeholders and interest groups

The flyer ([Appendix R](#)) was delivered to all households and local businesses in Bierton Parish and Broughton hamlet, by a team of volunteers from the community, in advance of the start of the consultation period (2 November 2020), starting on the weekend of 24/25 October 2020. The flyer was delivered to households in Kingsbrook by a commercial leaflet delivery service over the 3 and 4 November. In total, 1,697 flyers were hand-delivered to households in the NA. In addition, a version of the flyer was displayed as a poster on 14 public noticeboards throughout the NA (see [Appendix S](#)) from 24/25 October 2020 and throughout the Regulation 14 Consultation period. The flyer provided details of where the NP could be downloaded from, viewed as a hard copy, and a telephone number was supplied for general enquiries or requesting a personal hard copy of the plan.

A comments form ([Appendix T](#)) was included on the rear of the flyer and a downloadable version of it was made available on the BB&KNP website. The form allowed people to record their general views of the draft plan and to make specific comments. In response to early requests from residents of the NA, the pre-submission draft of the NP was made available on the BB&KNP website from 26 October 2020.

In addition to the flyers, notice board posters, and the website, other consultation techniques were:

- Advertisement on social media (6 local Facebook groups: Bierton's Future; Bierton Events; Bierton Families; Bierton Parish Council; Kingsbrook Community Page; Broughton Pastures Community) at beginning of consultation period and then repeated on 24 November, as a reminder that the consultation was in its third week of six
- Announcement in Bucks Herald (local newspaper) on 4 and 11 November 2020
- Copies of the NP were compiled in plastic wallets in ring back folders and were placed at three locations (The Doghouse, Broughton Crossing; St James Church, Bierton; The Barn, Hulcott), with hand sanitiser and a notice to sanitise hands before and after Handling the folder. Copies of the comments form were also left at each location
- Printed hard copies of plan supplied on request
- Letter or email sent to statutory consultees, local groups, and other interested parties (see [Appendix U](#) for their contact details)

Note: After publicity of the consultation period commenced, HM Government announced a "lock down" for England from 5 November to 2 December 2020. Advice was sought from the liaison officer at BC, who said that everything possible had been done to publicise the consultation and, despite the three venues where the plan was available for public inspection being temporarily closed, we should continue with the consultation.

5.2 Summary of Consultation Responses – Overview

Full details of the consultation responses, comments, and the actions taken by the Steering Group to address the responses and comments are recorded in [Appendix V](#). Seventy responses were received, the majority (59) from residents. Responders were generally in favour of the draft BB&KNP, 31 supported and 19 tended to support (combined 78.6% of total responders). Relatively few people disagreed with the individual policies, ranging from 0 disagreement with policies HE1 and HH1 to 11 (15.7%) disagreements with policy T2.

A total of 307 separate comments were received from the 70 responders; some comments covered the same issue as other comments. The Steering Group continued to meet virtually during 2021 to consider and respond to each comment. Of the 307 comments, 181 were found to have merit and the BB&KNP was amended accordingly, the other 126 did not lead to a revision of the BB&KNP and the reasons were recorded in [Appendix V](#).

Several comments were received from Kingsbrook Parish Council (KPC). The Steering Group met virtually with representatives of KPC to discuss their comments and to agree appropriate amendments to the NP. John Watson, a member of KPC, joined the Steering Group in 2021 to assist in this process.

Extensive feedback, advice, and comments were provided by BC. Representatives of the Steering Group held a virtual meeting with David Waker, Senior Planning Officer (Policy) BC, to clarify the comments and to agree actions to address them (see [Appendix W](#) for minutes of the meeting).

5.3 Summary of Consultation Responses – Policies

The following paragraphs provide a summary of how issues and concerns to the policies were considered and any resultant changes to them made.

Parish Identity

P1 – A small number of comments were made suggesting changes to the Bierton Village Development Boundary to include additional areas. The Steering Group considered these but concluded that the boundary had been applied consistently based on defined criteria that accorded with VALP Policy D3. A minor modification was made to nomenclature of Kingsbrook Village 1.

Housing

HO1 – The wording of the policy was amended to clarify that proposals for housing development within development boundaries should represent small infilling of gaps in developed frontages, as specified in VALP Policy D3. The supporting information text was expanded to clarify the evidence justifying that such development should comprise no more than four dwellings.

HO2 and HO3 – Based on advice from BC, the wording of these policies was amended to align them more clearly with national and VALP policies. For HO3, reference to the obsolete AVDC design guide was replaced with the new Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD 5), from the VALP.

Business and Employment

B1 – No changes were found to be necessary.

B2 – Minor changes to wording were made to define the scope of “commercial buildings” and to clarify preferred locations under the policy.

Community Facilities

F1 – Minor changes to wording were made to clarify the intent.

F2 – Reference to RoWIP was added.

Environment and Green Spaces

G1 – Based on advice from BC, and other comments, a new version of the Local Green Spaces Report was produced, setting out clear methodology for scoring each site and how sites to be designated meet the NPPF criteria for designation. As a result of this exercise, the number of areas of green infrastructure to be designated as Local Green Space was reduced from 26 to 12, and each was listed in the BB&KNP and their location shown on a map in Appendix 2 of the NP.

G2 – Based on advice from BC, the wording of the policy was amended to clarify the requirement for assessment of impact of a development proposal on views and vistas and to move text from the “Supporting Information” into the policy itself. A list of the views was added to the BB&KNP under the policy.

Health and Education

HE1 – Minor changes to wording were made to clarify that “proposals” refers to infrastructure and community facilities and not, for example, to housing. Reference added to tie the policy to the aims of RoWIP (especially Theme 5: Access for Everyone).

History and Heritage

HH1 – Removal of one word to better convey intent of policy.

HH2 – New policy added, based on advice of BC, to cover protection of designated and non-designated Historical Assets in the NA.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

I1 - Minor changes to wording were made to clarify the intent.

Transport

T1 - Removal of one word to better convey intent of policy.

T2 – The policy was modified to remove reference to specific locations in Bierton Village. Consistent with the clear wishes of the residents, expressed through the consultation process, wording was added about reducing parking on footways and grass verges.

5.4 Summary of Consultation Responses – General

To reflect the changes in parish council structure within the NA since the initiation of the Neighbourhood Plan process, the name was changed from Bierton with Broughton Neighbourhood Plan to Bierton, Broughton and Kingsbrook Neighbourhood Plan (BB&KNP). Amendments to text were made throughout to be consistent with this name change. Where necessary, changes were made to the BB&KNP to improve clarity of text and figures, to correct errors, and to update with new information since publication of the Regulation 14 draft. One such update concerned the adopted status of the VALP and the consequential removal of reference to the saved policies from the adopted 2004 local plan. As requested by BC, all references to VALP policies were checked to ensure that the latest policy number was used.

Several amendments/additions to wording, proposed by KPC to better reflect the growing community at Kingsbrook, were included in the revised BB&KNP for Regulation 16.

It was agreed with BC that a separate policies map was not necessary, on the basis that no new sites for development are allocated in the BB&KNP and that other maps in the NP show the locations of proposed development boundaries and local green spaces. With kind help from the cartography section at BC, improved versions of maps for Figures 1 and 2, and Appendices 2, 3, 5, and 18/19 were produced. As the new maps for illustrating archaeological, conservation and heritage designations in the NA combined several categories, the new Appendix 18 replaced the original Appendices 18 and 19. Similarly, the new map for Appendix 3 incorporated routes of public rights of way in the NA, rendering a separate Appendix for this unnecessary. The map of proposed car park locations in Appendix 20 was removed. Consequently, the total number of appendices in the submission version of the BB&KNP (Regulation 16) was reduced to 20 from 22 in the Regulation 14 version.

Some Regulation 14 responses suggested changes to wording in the BB&KNP that reflected feedback from earlier consultations. Where that wording represented verbatim comments made at public consultations, the Steering Group felt it inappropriate to make changes, however, formatting was modified to make it clearer where quotations were being used and in what context.

Additional buildings were added to Appendix 16 as proposed non-designated heritage assets. Some comments were received from residents that were considered reasonable but did not fit within the scope of land use in the designated NA; where possible, these were included in Part 3 of the BB&KNP, which comprises some non-statutory proposals relating to the aspirations of the local community that were brought to the attention of the Parish Council through the consultation process.

6 Regulation 16 and Change to Designated Neighbourhood Area

6.1 Events During Regulation 16

The submission version of the BB&KNP was sent to BC in March 2022 for Regulation 16 consultation. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed as Independent Examiner and he sent a Clarification Note, dated 11 July 2022, via BC to the Steering Group. The Steering Group considered the questions asked in the Clarification Note and returned responses, on behalf of BPC, in a marked-up copy of the document, dated 30 August 2022 ([Appendix X](#)). Some of the responses, however, required confirmation or input from KPC and the Steering Group was unable to obtain such input. Subsequently, KPC took the decision to withdraw consent from proceeding with the BB&KNP as they wished to pursue their own parish NP in the future.

Following internal discussions and dialogue with BC, who in turn held lengthy discussions with KPC, BPC submitted a Neighbourhood Area Application on 27 June 2023, requesting that the whole of its parish be designated as a Neighbourhood Area. A proposal to split the existing neighbourhood area, which comprises an area that includes Bierton Parish and Kingsbrook Parish and Broughton Parish, was put forward to a consultation. The consultation ran for six weeks from 17 August to 28 September and the proposal to split the previous NA into three separate NAs (the parishes of Bierton, Broughton, and Kingsbrook) received majority support. This was authorised by BC on 10 October 2023 ([Appendix Y](#)).

6.2 Drafting of BPC NP for a New Regulation 14 Consultation

The Steering Group revised the NP to fit with the new NA being that of Bierton Parish (new NA is shown in Appendix B of **Appendix Y**). Comments received during the above Regulation 16 consultation, including from the Independent Examiner, were taken into account in developing the new NP.

7 Pre-submission Consultation on Draft BPC NP (Regulation 14)

7.1 Period and Process of Consultation

The consultation period was from 19 February to 31 March 2024 with an open public forum held in the Jubilee Hall from 10am to 4 pm on Saturday 24 February. Publicity for the consultation and for the public forum consisted of the following:

- An advertising flyer with a comments form printed on the reverse was delivered with the Bierton Winter News (January 2024) newsletter to all households and businesses in the NA around the end of January; the first article in the newsletter was an update on the NP, including reporting of the pre-submission consultation and public forum (see **Appendices Z, AA and AB**)
- Information on the consultation and the public forum, including copies of the flyer and the comments form were published on the website (www.bwbnplan.co.uk)
- Poster versions of the flyer were displayed from early February on the five BPC noticeboards, the Bierton CE Combined School noticeboard, St James Church (porch and noticeboard), at Lounge India restaurant, and at The Barn and The Doghouse public houses
- The flyer was published on four relevant FaceBook sites (Bierton Parish Council, Bierton Families, Bierton Futures and Bierton Events) at regular intervals – 29 January, 10, 19 and 24 February, 1 and 25 March 2024.
- The Steering Group liaised with BC and a link to the bwbnplan.co.uk website was placed on a Neighbourhood Planning page (Aylesbury emerging plans) of the BC website
- Letters or emails were sent on 5 February 2024 to inform the following of the pre-submission consultation: Statutory Undertakers (NP Regulations paragraph 1 of schedule1); developers and landowners (as per the Landowners log); neighbouring parish councils (Watermead, Weedon, Aston Abbots, Wingrave with Rowsham, Hulcott, Kingsbrook, Aylesbury Town Council); other community stakeholders and interest groups (BPC councillors, local MP [Greg Smith], County Councillors [Julie Ward, Bill Chapple, Mike Collins], William Hill Drive residential home, Bierton CE Combined School, The Griffin Trust, Three Counties Radio and Bucks Radio)
- Reminder emails or letters about the pre-submission consultation were sent to the Statutory Undertakers on 16 March 2024 and, based on advice from BC, the period of consultation for comments from the Statutory Undertakers was extended until 21 April 2024 to ensure that they had at least 6 weeks to do so.

7.2 Public Forum Saturday 24 February 2024

The public forum was held in the Jubilee Hall from 10am to 4pm. Posters were displayed on boards to explain the current status of the BPC NP, the core objectives derived from past consultations, the draft policies to address these objectives, and the future stages

required (see [Appendix AC](#)). Hard copies of the draft NP and of the feedback forms were made available on central tables, and a box for posting completed feedback forms for those who wished to do so at the time. All current members of the Steering Group were present and aided attendees by answering questions, as needed. A total of 42 people attended the public forum (see [Appendix E](#)).

7.3 Summary of Consultation Responses – Overview

Full details of the consultation responses, comments, and the actions taken by the Steering Group to address the responses and comments are recorded in [Appendix AD](#). Thirty-seven responses were received, the majority (33) from residents. Responders were generally in favour of the draft BNP, 24 supported¹ and 2 tended to support (combined 70.3% of total responders). Relatively few people disagreed with the individual policies, ranging from 0 disagreement with policies F1, T1 and T2 to 10 (27.0 – 27.8%) disagreements with policies P1, HO1 and HO2.

A total of 122 separate comments were received from the 37 responders; some comments covered the same issue as other comments. The Steering Group met during April to June 2024 to consider and respond to each comment. Of the 122 comments, 58 were found to have merit and the BNP was amended accordingly, the other 64 did not lead to a revision of the BNP and the reasons were recorded in [Appendix AD](#).

Feedback, advice, and comments were provided by BC. Representatives of the Steering Group held a virtual meeting on 30 May 2024 with Rachael Riach, Neighbourhood Planning Coordinator and Ella Wood of BC, to clarify the comments and to agree actions to address them.

7.4 Summary of Consultation Responses – Policies

The following paragraphs provide a summary of how issues and concerns to the policies were considered and any resultant changes to them made.

Parish Identity

P1 – Comments were made from two residents requesting changes to the Bierton Village Development Boundary to include additional areas of their garden. The Steering Group considered these and took advice from BC but concluded that the boundary had been applied consistently based on defined criteria that accorded with VALP Policy D3.

Housing

HO1 – The wording of the policy was amended to ensure that it was consistent with VALP Policy D3.

HO2 and HO3 – Based on advice from BC, the wording of these policies was amended to refer to the most recent version of the NPPF and, for HO3, to make the principal reference to VALP Policy BE2 rather than the Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD 5).

Business and Employment

B1 and B – Based on advice from BC, Use Classes were added to the wording of the policies to clarify the intention and designated business areas for industrial purposes, Use Class B, were shown in a map in an additional appendix, Appendix 16.

¹ Four individuals did not answer Question 1, but as they had entered Agree to all of the individual policies in Question 2, except for one No Response to Policy T2, these four responders were classified as supporting the draft BNP.

Community Facilities

F1 – No change required.

F2 – Minor changes to wording to reflect that the current RoWIP only covers the period to 2030.

Environment and Green Spaces

G1 and G2 – No change required, other than minor change of wording to reflect the attest version of the NPPF.

Health and Education

HE1 – Minor changes to wording to reflect that the current RoWIP only covers the period to 2030.

History and Heritage

HH1 – No change required.

HH2 – Changes to wording and contents of Appendices 10 and 11, based on advice of BC, to state that BPC will liaise with BC to change the status of a number of buildings of local note to become Non-Designated Heritage Assets in the NA.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

I1 - No change required.

Transport

T1 – Minor changes to wording to remove reference to opening of the Eastern Link Road.

T2 – No change required.

7.5 Summary of Consultation Responses – General

Other revisions to the BNP post-Regulation 14 consultation included correction of minor errors, updates for current status of activities, works, and policies referred to in the BNP, and the addition of a key to the map in Appendix 13.

8 Regulation 16

To be added later.

9 Conclusion

This Consultation Statement and the supporting evidence are considered to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

10 List of Appendices

- Appendix A Letter applying for designation of BwB Neighbourhood Area
- Appendix B Letter confirming designation
- Appendix C Copy of terms of reference of BwBSG
- Appendix D Consultation & Engagement Strategy Report
- Appendix E Consultation Attendance to 20 Nov 2017
- Appendix F Handout at initial consultation events
- Appendix G Initial consultation – analysis of comments
- Appendix H Report on Survey results
- Appendix I Survey Feedback Display Boards
- Appendix J Notes of June 2019 meeting with Parish Council
- Appendix K Upcoming Events Flyer
- Appendix L Analysis of Feedback July 2019
- Appendix M Notes of December 2019 meeting with Parish Council
- Appendix N Letter to landowners on proposed Local Green Spaces
- Appendix O Notes of December 2019 meeting with Parish Council
- Appendix P Screenshot of The Neighbourhood Plan on website
- Appendix Q Regulation 14 announcement in October 2020 Village Diary
- Appendix R Copy of flyer for public consultation (Regulation 14)
- Appendix S List of noticeboards in NA used to publicise NP consultation
- Appendix T Form for return of comments on the submission draft BB&KNP
- Appendix U Contact details of statutory consultees and other interested parties
- Appendix V 2020 Regulation 14 Comments and Feedback Database
- Appendix W Minutes of meeting with David Waker on 23 March 2021
- Appendix X Partial Response to Independent Examiner’s Clarification Note 30 August 2022
- Appendix Y Report for BB&K NA to be split into 3 NAs 10 October 2023
- Appendix Z Front page of Bierton Winter News, January 2024
- Appendix AA Regulation 14 Flyer 2024
- Appendix AB Form for return of comments on the submission draft BNP 2024
- Appendix AC Public forum 24 Feb 2024
- Appendix AD 2024 Regulation 14 Comments and Feedback Database