

Rothley Neighbourhood Plan



CONSULTATION STATEMENT

Part 5, Section 15
The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

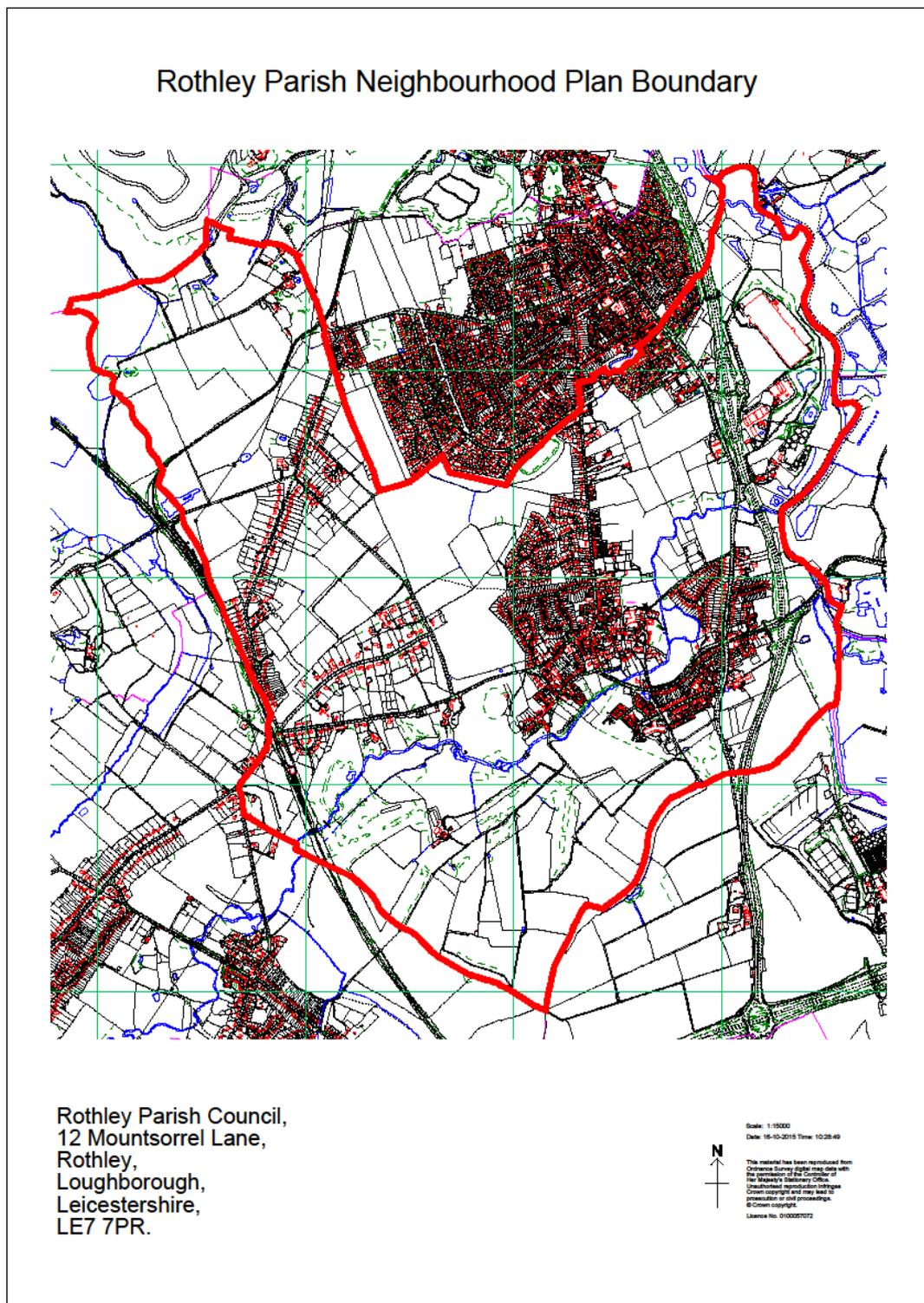
- 1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal requirements of Part 5, Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 by:
- (a) Detailing the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood plan;*
 - (b) Outlining how these persons and bodies were consulted;*
 - (c) Providing a summary of the main issues and concerns raised;*
 - (d) Reviewing how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood plan.*
- 1.2 Throughout the process of producing the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan an extensive consultation process has been undertaken. A Consultation Engagement and Strategy document was produced in March 2016 (see CE0001). Although the strategy was not followed in every respect it served as a useful guide and checklist.
- 1.3 The aims of the consultation process were:
- To ensure that the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan was fully informed by the views and priorities of local residents, businesses, and key local stakeholders.*
 - To ensure that detailed consultation took place at all stages of the process, especially where key priorities needed to be set.*
 - To engage with as broad a cross section of the community as possible, using a variety of consultation and communication techniques.*
 - To ensure all consultation results were made publically available and utilised to inform subsequent stages of the Neighbourhood Planning process.*
- 1.3 Consultation was undertaken by Rothley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Rothley Parish Council with independent professional support from People & Places.
- 1.4 The programme of consultation completed is detailed below.

Date	Activity
4 June 2016	Community drop-in event (1)
8 June 2016	Community drop-in event (2)
14 June 2016	Rothley 10k run
6 July 2016	Youth consultation
April/May 2017	Questionnaire survey
4 Nov 2017	Public feedback event
7 Nov 2018	Informal consultation with Parish & Borough Councils
15 April 2019	RPC formal approval of draft for public consultation
April/May 2019	Pre-submission Consultation
20 Jan 2020	RPC formal approval of post-consultation draft

- 1.5 This Consultation Statement provides an overview of each of the above stages of consultation in accordance with Section 15 (2) of Part 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

SECTION 2: NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

- 2.1 The whole parish of Rothley was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area through an application made by Rothley Parish Council on 5th October 2015.
- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Area was officially approved by Charnwood Borough Council on 21st December 2015, following a 6 week period of public consultation.
- 2.3 The designated 'Rothley Neighbourhood Area' is illustrated below.



SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN EVENTS

- 3.1 An overview of the two events is provided below.
- 3.2 These were the first public consultation events held as part of the process to develop the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan. The aims of these two events were as follows:
- *To inform the community about Neighbourhood Planning.*
 - *To identify local issues, priorities and the community's key aspirations for the future.*
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- 3.3 The two open events were held, as follows:
- Saturday 4th June 2016 between 10 am and 4 pm at the Old School Rooms, School Street.
 - Wednesday 8th June 2016 between 4 pm and 7 pm at the Rothley Centre, Mountsorrel Lane.

- 3.4 The events were widely publicised through a variety of media, as follows:

Communication	Document ref
▪ Letter & leaflet distributed to all properties in Rothley	CE0004 & CE0005
▪ Poster displayed in village centre and on notice boards	CE0006 CE0007
▪ Advertisement in Rothley Post	CE0008
▪ Article in Loughborough Echo	CE0009
▪ Article in Leicester Mercury	CE0010
▪ Church newsletter	CE0011
▪ School newsletter	CE0012
▪ Various websites eg Rothley PTFA	-
▪ Email to 400 members of 'Save Rothley' group	CE0013
▪ Email to RPC Councillors	CE0014
▪ Email to CBC Councillors (x2) covering Rothley	CE0015
▪ Email to Rothley businesses	CE0016
▪ Email to statutory consultees	

- 3.5 A number of steering group members attended each event along with one of the consultants.
- 3.6 Posters were displayed providing information regarding the neighbourhood planning process (CE0017) together with various maps of the parish (CE0019). A further set of posters provided prompts and asked for comments on a variety of topics (CE0018).
- 3.7 The comments were collected and a typed list produced (CE0024).
- 3.8 In total over the two events 64 people attended and provided their names on the attendance logs (CE0020a/b).
- 3.9 A number of photographs were taken for illustrative purposes (CE0022 & CE0027).

ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS RAISED

- 3.10 A number of popular themes emerged:
- No more large housing developments
 - Protect green spaces and recreational areas
 - Protect the conservation areas
 - More starter homes
 - More homes for the elderly
 - Need for small businesses
 - Parking is a major issue
 - Need for doctor's surgery
 - Keep and modernise the Rothley Centre

HOW THE ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED

- 3.11 All issues, priorities, concerns and comments put forward at the two events were considered at workshop meetings of Rothley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and used to:
- a) *Inform the development of the overall vision and objectives for the plan*
 - b) *Guide the structure, format, and content of subsequent consultation and engagement. In particular the questionnaire survey carried out at a later date (see below)*

SECTION 4: CONSULTATION AT ROTHLEY 10K RUN

4.1 The aims of attending this event were as follows:

- *To take advantage of the large number of attendees (around 700) to inform the community about Neighbourhood Planning.*
- *To identify local issues, priorities and the community's key aspirations for the future*

4.1 An overview of this consultation is provided below.

4.2 A small display stand was erected in Woodgate and manned by Steering Group members for 90 minutes before the start of the Rothley 10K Run on 14th June 2016. The event was attended by hundreds of runners and spectators (see photos CE0028 and CE0029).

4.3 Attempts were made to engage with those attending and to invite comments on the various

neighbourhood plan topics. Most people were preoccupied with other things but four people gave their names and left the following comments:

4.4 Green spaces

We need to protect our parks/green spaces for the benefit of people's holistic well-being and, of course, physical health. Not everyone has a garden that they can retreat to.

We need to protect village life and the fact that I chose to live here for the peace and tranquility not so it becomes a suburb of Leicester.

No more encroachment into green spaces/buffers please.

4.5 Transport, traffic & parking

Bollards or similar are needed along right hand side of Woodgate so that people don't park on the pavement and on the double yellows, causing problems/dangers for pedestrians, especially children.

Safe routes with wider pavements to help children walking to school – North Street, by Woodies, by Bluebell Inn.

4.6 Community facilities

Is it time to consolidate some of the venues into fewer but more attractive facilities. In particular, the Rothley Centre and Village Hall.
Doctor's surgery needed desperately.

HOW THE ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED

All issues, priorities, concerns and comments put forward at this event were considered, along with those from the earlier consultation events, at workshop meetings of Rothley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and used to:

- c) *Inform the development of the overall vision and objectives for the plan*
- d) *Guide the structure, format, and content of subsequent consultation and engagement. In particular the questionnaire survey carried out at a later date (see below)*

SECTION 5: YOUTH CONSULTATION

5.1 An overview of this consultation is provided below.

5.2 This youth consultation was undertaken to:

- *Raise awareness of the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan among children and young people who reside within the parish and what the plan aims to achieve.*
- *To identify children and young people's local issues, priorities and their aspirations for the future of the Parish.*

- 5.3 A member of the Steering Group (a retired teacher) arranged to meet two teenage groups from the Church youth club on 6th July 2016. They ranged from 14 to 17 years old. It was explained to the teenagers that it would be good to know of their opinions on local facilities.
- 5.4 After an initial discussion and explanation teenagers were asked to rank a variety of village facilities on the basis of 'how important they are to you?'
- 5.5 The rankings were:
vital (5pt) really important (4pt) quite important (3pt) not very important (2pt) not bothered (1 pt)
- 5.6 Using a points system the results of the top 5 or 6 issues in each category were as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUTDOOR • Bus stops 59pts • Litter bins 58pts • Open spaces 54pts • Parks 54pts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPORTS & RECREATION • Soccer 48pts • Swimming pool 46pts • Tennis courts 46pts • Basketball 42pts 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUILDINGS • Churches 63pts • Post Office 57pts • Village store 53pts • Corner shop 51pts • Pubs 50pts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDICAL • Doctors surgery 63pts • Dentist 53pts • Old peoples home 45pts 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUCATION • School 53pts • Playgroups 45pts • Youth Club 43pts • Breakfast/after school 31pts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOUSING • Houses small 51pts • Houses big 50pts • O.A.P. housing 40pts 	

ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS RAISED

- 5.7 Based on the scores the following priority issues were identified from the young people's consultation.
 - Doctors surgery 63pts
 - Churches 63pts
 - Bus shelters 61pts
 - Bus stops 59pts
 - Litter bins 58pts
 - Post Office 57pts
 - School 53pts
 - Dentist 53pts

HOW THE ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED

5.8 All issues, priorities, concerns and comments put forward at this event were considered, along with those from the earlier consultation events, at workshop meetings of Rothley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and used to:

- *Inform the development of the overall vision and objectives for the plan*
- *Guide the structure, format, and content of subsequent consultation and engagement. In particular the questionnaire survey carried out at a later date (see below)*

SECTION 6: QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

6.1 Purpose

The purpose of the questionnaire survey was to obtain the views of residents on issues identified through earlier consultation events in a structured way delivering results that could be analysed and enumerated.

6.2 The questionnaire survey was undertaken in April/May 2017. The questionnaire (CE035) was designed by the steering group at a workshop facilitated by a consultant from People and Places. People and Places also uploaded the questionnaire to the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan website so that responses could be made on-line. Hard copies were printed and distributed to every residential and commercial building in the parish, along with a pre-paid, addressed envelope. Further copies were available from the Parish Council office and the Community Library.

6.3 A full analysis of responses received both in hard copy and via the website was undertaken by People and Places and a comprehensive report produced (CE037).

6.4 In total 485 responses were received.

HOW THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED

6.5 The responses to the questionnaire survey have, to a large extent, determined the policies included in the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan.

SECTION 7: PUBLIC FEEDBACK EVENT

7.1 A public feedback event was held in the Old School Rooms, School Street, from 10am to 12noon on Saturday 4th November 2017. The aims of the event were to provide feedback to residents on the conclusions from the initial open days and the questionnaire survey (see above).

7.2 The event was publicised by means of a poster (see CE039) displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and in various other locations in busy parts of the village centre. The same poster was posted on the Facebook pages of the following groups: 'Save Rothley' (197 members),

- 'Spotted Rothley' (2510 followers) and 'The Woodies' (1621 followers). The poster was also emailed to Rothley Parish Councillors, to two contacts in the Planning Department of Charnwood Borough Council and to our 'statutory consultees'.
- 7.3 At the event information was presented to local residents by means of a poster display (see CE039). One poster related to the 'launch events' held in June 2016 and 14 posters contained summary information regarding the results of the questionnaire survey carried out in April/May 2017.
 - 7.4 The event was attended by 19 residents (see attendance list CE041).
 - 7.5 Those attending were invited to leave comments of any kind (see comments list CE042).
 - 7.6 Those attending were also invited to add any further proposals for small sites suitable for housing development. This question had previously been asked as part of the questionnaire survey. No further suggestions were forthcoming.
 - 7.7 Photographs of the displays in situ can be seen in CE043).

SECTION 8: INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH RPC AND CBC

- 8.1 A draft Neighbourhood Plan was sent to Rothley Parish Council and Charnwood Borough Council on 7 November 2018 with a request for informal comments. No comments were received from RPC. Comments were received from CBC (see document CE0051) and amendments made to the draft accordingly.

SECTION 9: FORMAL APPROVAL OF DRAFT BY ROTHLEY PC

- 9.1 At a meeting of the full parish council on 15 April 2019 RPC formally approved a draft plan for use in the pre-submission consultation (see minutes: <https://www.rothleyparishcouncil.org.uk/uploads/20190415-april-minutes-of-the-parish-council-meeting.pdf>).

SECTION 10: PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

- 10.1 As required under Part 5, Section 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Rothley Parish Council undertook a 6 week Pre-Submission Consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan in April/May 2019.
- 10.2 Through the consultation process the Parish Council:
 - a) *Publicised the draft neighbourhood plan to all that live, work, or do business within the parish.*
 - b) *Outlined where and when the draft neighbourhood plan could be inspected.*
 - c) *Detailed how to make representations, and the date by which these should be received.*
 - d) *Consulted all statutory consultation bodies (referred to in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) whose interests may be affected by the proposals within the draft neighbourhood plan – a list was provided by Charnwood Borough Council.*

- e) *Sent a copy of the proposed neighbourhood plan to the local planning authority and invited comments.*

WHO WAS CONSULTED

- 10.3 All residents and businesses within the parish boundary were consulted together with statutory consultees.

HOW WERE PEOPLE CONSULTED

- 10.4 A printed leaflet (see document CE0046) was distributed to all premises within the parish boundary and the same leaflet was posted on notice boards around the village. The leaflet was also sent electronically with a covering email to all statutory consultees. The leaflet invited consultees to read the draft plan on-line on the Parish Council's website or to read a hard copy at the Parish Council office or the Community Library. Comments were invited by email to a dedicated email address or in hard copy to the Parish Council office.

ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS RAISED

- 10.5 Details of all comments made in relation to the draft Neighbourhood Plan can be found in documents CE0048a to CE0057).

HOW THE ISSUES, PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED

- 10.6 All representations received were recorded (see documents CE0048a to CE0057) and summarized (see document CE0047).
- 10.7 The comments received informed and guided a series of amendments and additions to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The revised Plan was considered by Rothley Parish Council on 20 Jan 2020 (see below).

SECTION 11: FORMAL APPROVAL OF POST-CONSULTATION DRAFT BY ROTHLEY PC

- 11.1 At a meeting of the full parish council on 20 Jan 2020 RPC formally approved a post-consultation draft plan for submission to Charnwood Borough Council.

SECTION 12: CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The publicity, engagement and consultation completed throughout the production of 'The Rothley Neighbourhood Plan' has been open and transparent, with many opportunities provided for those that live, work, and do business within the Neighbourhood Area to feed into the process, make comment, and to raise issues, priorities and concerns.
- 12.2 This Consultation Statement and the supporting consultation reports referenced in the text have been produced to document the consultation and engagement process undertaken and are considered to comply with Part 5, Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Appendix 1: Consultation Results / Reports

Full copies of all of the consultation results and reports referred to within this Consultation Statement are available in supporting documents CE047 to CE057.

Summary of consultation responses CE0047

Consultation responses:

- Davidsons CE0048a
- Davidsons CE0048b
- School CE0049
- Gladmans CE0050
- CBC CE0051
- National Grid CE0052
- Historic England CE0053
- Severn Trent CE0054
- Highways England CE0055
- Natural England CE0056
- Sport England CE0057