



DESFORD

Neighbourhood Plan Review

Consultation Summary

22 April 2023

Introduction

Desford Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group organised a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning at the Village Library in Desford which was held on Saturday 22 April 2023 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

The aim of the event was to help engage the community in the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging review topics – including important open spaces and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; transport and employment.

The drop-in event was promoted through posters placed around the village, social media postings and through word of mouth.

In total, 85 people attended the event.

Format of Event

Attendees were welcomed on arrival and asked to complete a contact sheet or to tick a box to record their attendance. The arrangements for the day were explained.

The first displays introduced neighbourhood planning and described the process that is being followed by the Parish Council. Copies of explanatory booklets were available for reference and a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and appendices were available for people to read as they walked around the displays.

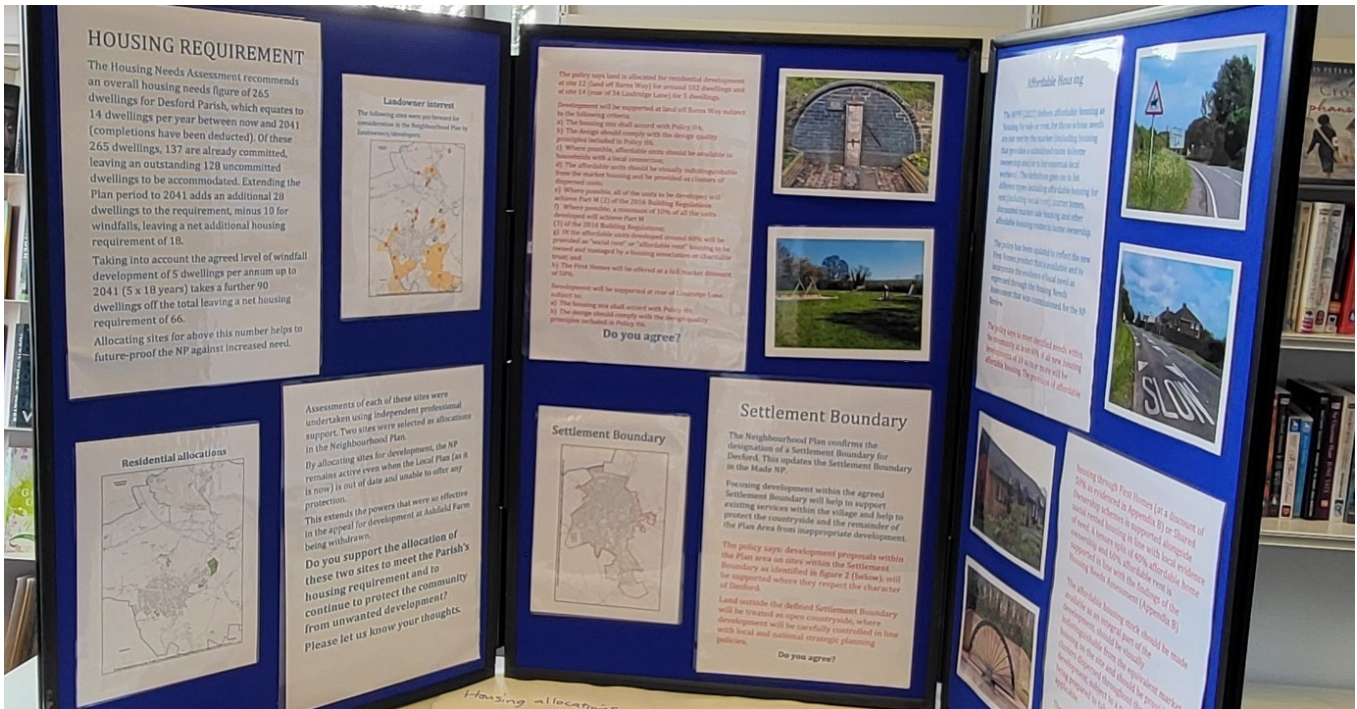
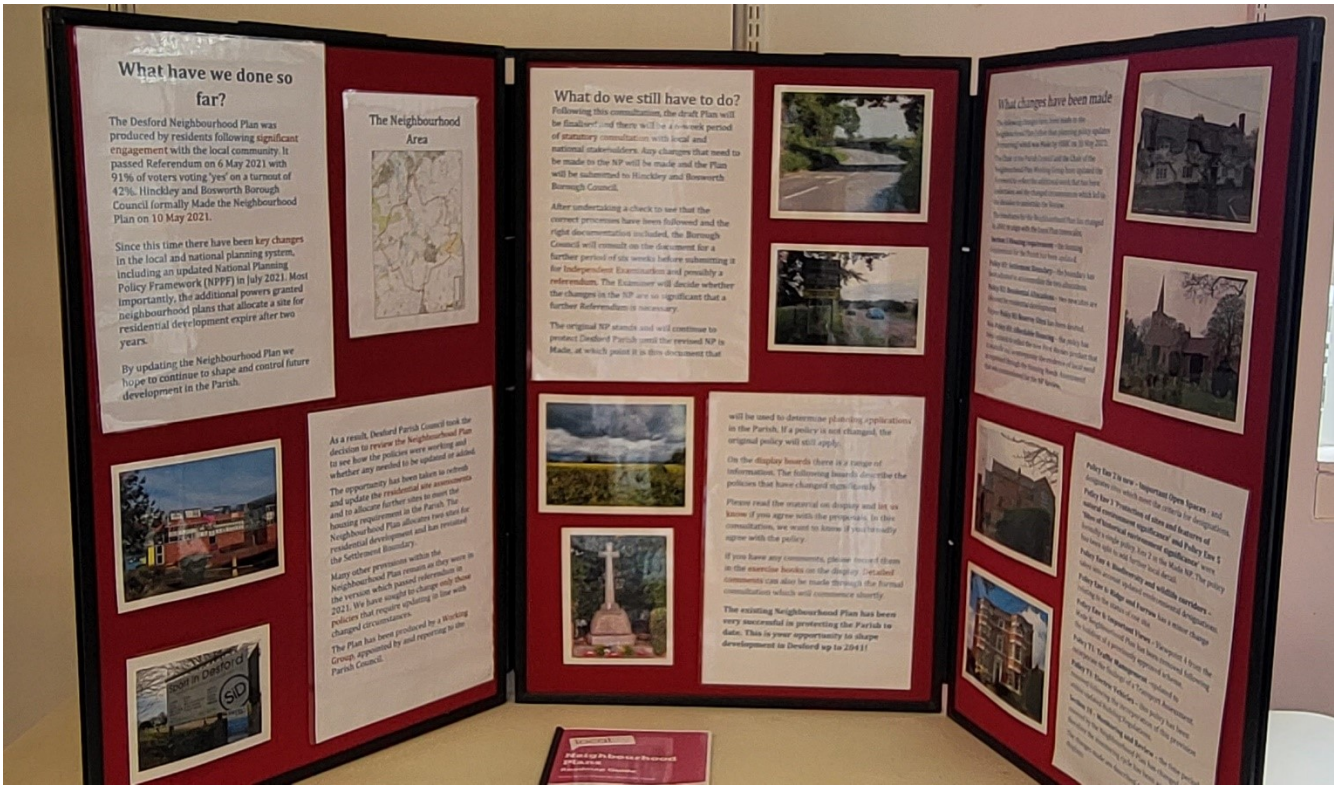
Consultation on key issues

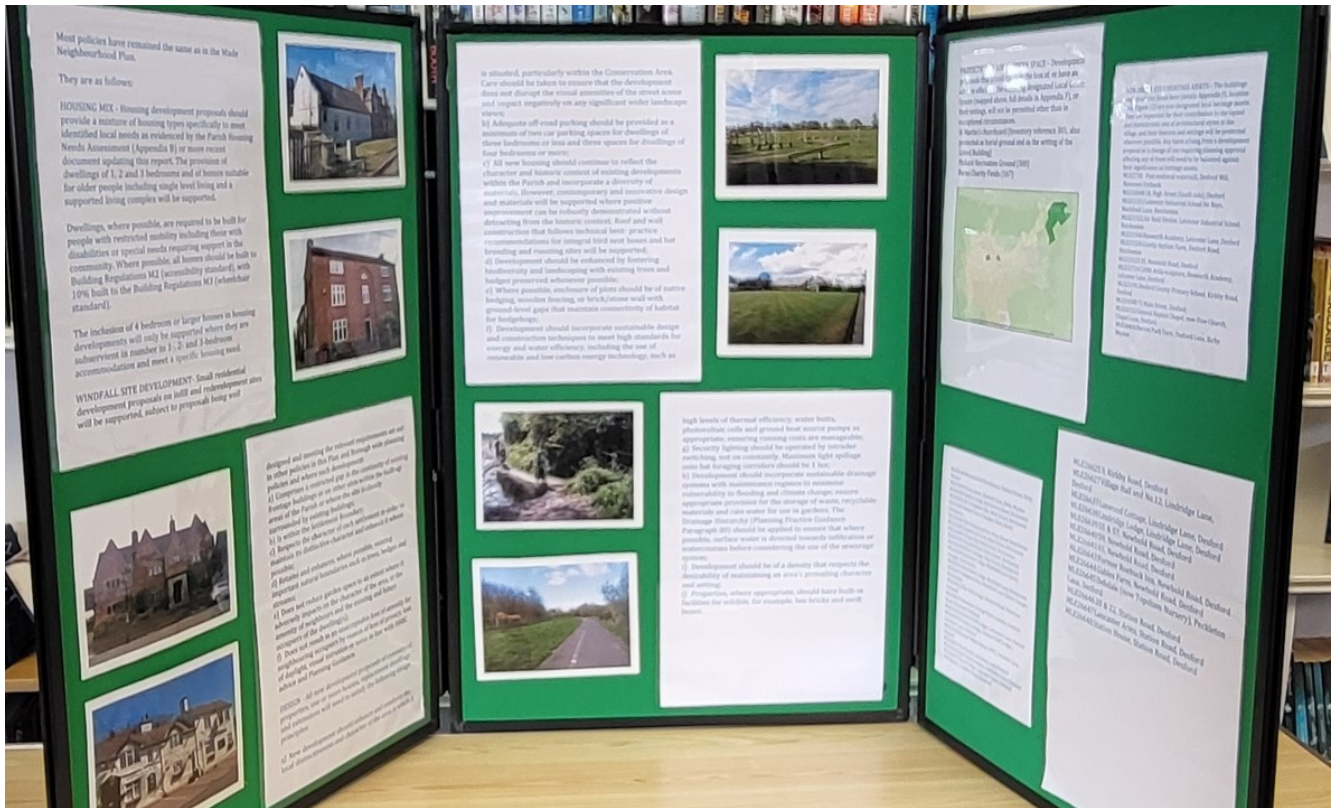
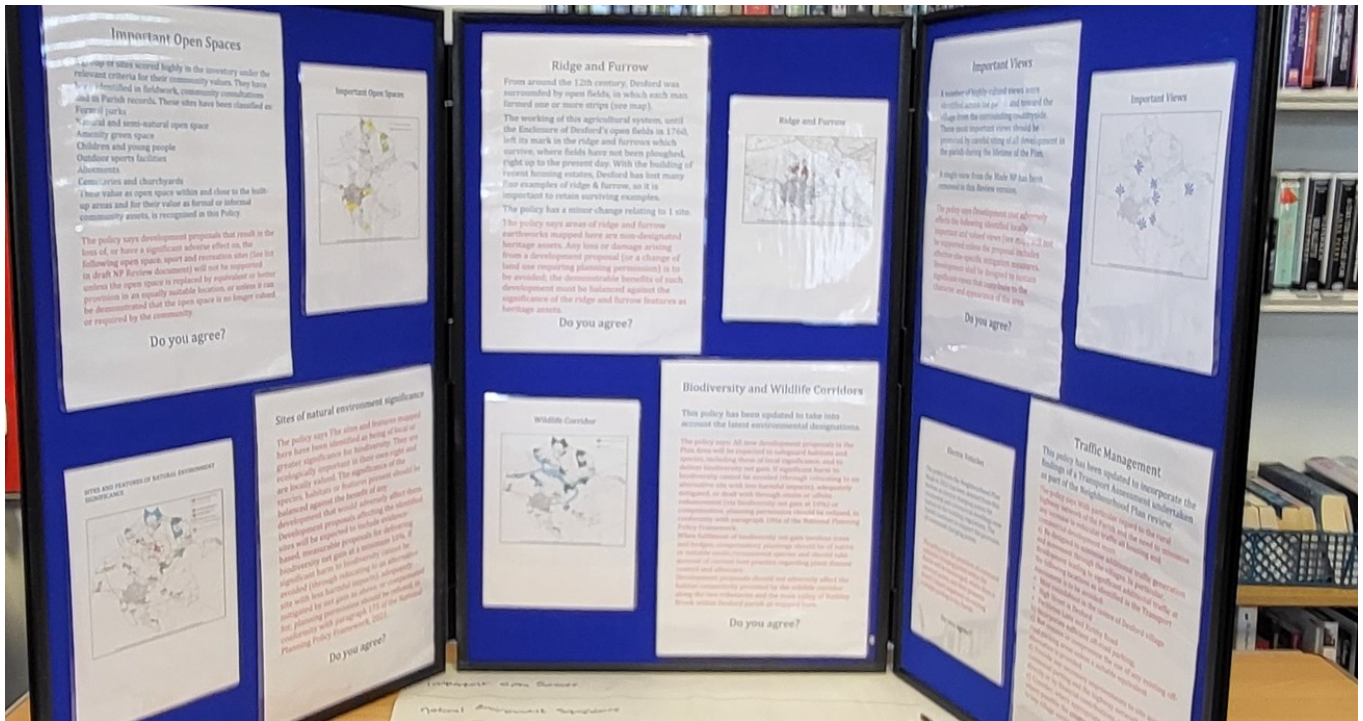
A series of display boards were spread across the room, describing the process that has been followed and explaining the new policies, which included the new residential allocations, settlement boundary, affordable housing, important open spaces, sites of natural environment significance, biodiversity and wildlife corridors, ridge and furrow, important views, traffic management and electric vehicles.

People were invited to read the displays and the information available and say whether or not they approved of each of the new policies, including the residential allocation. Notebooks were available for people to record their comments, but people were encouraged to comment when the Neighbourhood Plan reached Regulation 14 stage.

Display Boards

The following pages give a sample of the boards that were on display at the event. The boards posed questions which people were invited to comment on.





Having read the displays, attendees were asked to say whether or not they agreed with each of the new policies. These are the responses:

Housing allocations – 46 yes, 1 no
Settlement boundary – 45 yes, 3 no
Affordable housing – 41 yes, 3 no
Important open spaces – 54 yes, 0 no
Natural environment significance – 55 yes, 0 no
Ridge and furrow – 48 yes, 0 no
Biodiversity – 47 yes, 0 no
Important views – 47 yes, 0 no
Traffic management – 66 yes, 1 0
Electric vehicles – 42 yes, 1 no.

Comments:

- We need single level living housing for older people who could then sell their large homes to younger people.
- Also affordable housing for our younger residents.
- I agree with the above comments. Also it is imperative and building is on Leicester side of the village to avoid increasing the traffic flow through it. How will the infrastructure cope?
- Infrastructure to support the number of homes in Desford is key but at the moment comes last. Homes for older or less mobile residents also need to be nearer to the facilities.
- Ridge and Furrow should be kept.
- Our open spaces should only be allocated as a very last resort. Wildlife should be respected.
- Traffic can be at a standstill now so no more housing without infrastructure is essential.
- FULLY SUPPORT. HOUSING AND TRAFFIC THROUGH VILLAGE ARE MAIN COINCERNS.
- Minor amends to the inventory need to be made. This is to reflect changes to the first plan. Thanks.
- Policy 5 – how can we protect areas of environmental value so that we do not get a repeat oif the tree chopped down by the Griffen development?
- Traffic through village my major concern. Also many roads now used as ‘rat runs’. The speeding on 30 miles an hour roads needs to be addressed.
- Add Newbold Road to traffic management.

Summary of findings:

There was overwhelming support for all of the Review policies. Concerns that were expressed include the need for better infrastructure to accompany any new housing and the impact of traffic if housing is inappropriately located. Neighbourhood plan priorities for smaller housing and bungalows for older people is specifically

referenced.