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(For official use only)

SWANNINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Submission Consultation – Response Form

After assessing responses to the ‘Pre-Submission’ consultation, Swannington Parish Council has now formally submitted the ‘Submission’ version of the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan to North West Leicestershire District Council. In accordance with Section 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, we are consulting on the Neighbourhood Plan for six weeks, from **Monday 5 September to Monday 17 October 2022**.

The submission plan and supporting documents can be viewed at https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/swannington_neighbourhood_plan.

Please complete this form and either email it to planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk or post it to Planning Policy, North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville LE67 3FJ.

We must receive responses must by the end of Monday 17 October 2022.

*Including amendment regulations; The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

PART A – Personal Details

If you are responding on behalf of yourself, or your own organisation, please fill in all the 'Personal Details' fields. If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation boxes in the Personal Details column, but complete all the 'Agent's Details' fields.

	Personal Details	Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Mrs	
First Name	Eilish	
Last Name	Gardner	
Job Title (where relevant)	Green Infrastructure and Planning Officer	
Organisation (where relevant)	National Forest Company	
Address Line 1	Enterprise Glade	
Address Line 2	Bath Yard	
Address Line 3	Moira	
Address Line 4	Swadlincote	
Postcode	DE12 6BA	
Telephone	██████████	
Email address	planning@nationalforest.org	

Do you wish to be notified of the Council's decision on the Neighbourhood Plan proposal?

Yes

No

PART B – Your Representation

In the left column below, please state which part of the Neighbourhood Plan your representation relates to (for example which section, page or policy). In the right column, please submit your comments.

You can comment on as many different parts of the Neighbourhood Plan as you wish (please add more lines if required).

Section, page or Policy (please specify for each comment)	Comments
General comments	<p>The National Forest Company (NFC) has no record of being consulted at an earlier stage of the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan and hence we have the following comments to raise.</p> <p>The NFC leads the creation of the National Forest, a publicly-funded multipurpose forest for the nation across 200 square miles in central England. The NFC was established in 1995 and is a charity and Non-Profit Institution within the Public Sector sponsored by the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The National Forest Strategy 2014-24 is endorsed by Government and sets out the approach for the creation and management of the Forest over the next phase of its development. In excess of 9 million trees have been planted to date creating around 8,000ha of new habitats, transforming one of the least wooded areas of England. Around 25% of this has been delivered through Forest creation as part of new development.</p> <p>The area covered by the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan is wholly within the National Forest.</p> <p>The NFC support the Parish's wish to create a Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
Page 6-7 'Swannington Parish'	<p>The NFC consider that the introduction to the Parish should clearly state that the Parish and Plan Area are wholly within the National Forest. Paragraph 15 could be amended as follows:</p> <p>'Located in North West Leicestershire between Ashby-de-la Zouch, Coalville and Loughborough, and within the National Forest, the village is accessible from.....'</p>
Page 6, paragraph 17	<p>The first reference to the National Forest is at paragraph 17 in the sentence, '<i>The public footpaths cross natural countryside, farmland</i></p>

	<p><i>and go through woodlands, part of the National Forest’.</i></p> <p>The NFC consider this is misleading as it reads that only the woodlands are part of the National Forest. As discussed above, it is the whole of the Parish and Plan Area that are within the National Forest.</p>
Page 12, paragraph 53: An environmental role	<p>The NFC consider that this paragraph should include a bullet point stating that development is expected to contribute towards the creation of the National Forest (as reflected in paragraph 146 of the National Planning Policy Framework and set out in Policy EN3 of the NWLDC Local Plan).</p>
Policy H4: Design Quality	<p>There is no reference to the requirement for the design of new development to appropriately reflect the location and character of the National Forest both in terms of the provision of new native tree planting in accordance with National Forest planting guidelines and through design and the use of materials which respect the context of the Forest and create a National Forest identity. This is set out clearly in Policy EN3 of the NWLDC Local Plan.</p> <p>The NFC considers that Criterion e (relating to biodiversity) should be amended to make reference to the need for new development to <i>plant new native trees, woodland and hedgerows</i>, in addition to the retention of existing trees and hedges.</p>
Policy ENV3: Sites and Features of Natural Environmental Significance	<p>Figure 8 does not include all those sites within the Plan area that the form part of the National Forest, i.e. all those areas of National Forest planting, but relies on national data form the National Forest inventory.</p> <p>The NFC can provide details of National Forest sites in the Plan area if this would be of assistance.</p>
Policy ENV4: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity	<p>The NFC are pleased that the Plan’s area within the National Forest is referred to in the supporting text.</p> <p>The NFC considers that the Policy must refer to developments <i>‘protecting and enhancing’</i> biodiversity.</p> <p>The NFC consider that the policy could be strengthened by referring to habitat connectivity.</p>
Policy ENV8: Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways	<p>The NFC considers that the Policy should refer to developments <i>‘improving and enhancing’</i> footpaths, bridleways and byways.</p>
Policy E5: Tourism	<p>There is nothing about sustainable design within the Policy. The NFC considers this Policy could be strengthened by referring to the NFC’s</p>

	<p>Sustainable Tourism Accommodation Design Guide (STAG).</p> <p>Developing a sustainable destination National Forest</p> <p>The STAG sets out a rationale to encourage tourism development which contributes to a distinctive National Forest character and sense of place and makes a case for investing in the National Forest as a sustainable tourism destination.</p>
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Declaration

I understand that all comments submitted will be considered in line with this consultation, and that my comments will be made publically available and may be identifiable to my name / organisation.

I acknowledge that I have read and accept the information and terms specified under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Statement.

Signed: Eilish Gardner

Date: 13/10/2022

DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

The personal information you provide on this form will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018. It will be used only for the preparation of the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan as required by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012*, save for requests of such information required by way of enactment. Your name, organisation and representations will be made publicly available when displaying and reporting the outcome of this statutory consultation stage and cannot be treated as confidential. Other details, including your address and signature, will be treated as confidential.

You should not include any personal information in your comments that you would not wish to be made publicly available.

Further information about the Council's privacy policy and how we collect, store and use your personal data can be found [here](#).

*Including amendment regulations; The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

Please send completed forms to planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk or Planning Policy Team, NWLDC, Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville LE67 3FJ

The deadline for responses is the end of Monday 17 October 2022.