

HUGGLESCOTE AND DONINGTON LE HEATH

Neighbourhood Plan



This is your chance to help plan the future development of YOUR Parish

OPEN DROP-IN EVENT

Saturday 23 September 2017

Hugglescote Community Centre

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Share your views about the future of the Parish:

- What special open spaces should be protected?
- What do you think about the proposed new housing?
- Do you want to influence the mix and design of housing?
- Do you want to encourage employment opportunities?
- What heritage assets should be safeguarded?
- What are the transport issues in the Parish?
- What other community facilities are needed?

Refreshments Provided

Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Neighbourhood Plan



23 September 2017
Consultation Summary

Introduction

Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council, through the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee, organised a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 23 September 2017. The event took place between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Community Hall.

The aim of this event was to help engage the community in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging topics – including Local Green Space and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; transport and employment.

The drop-in event was promoted in a variety of ways:

- ✓ **Press** - Advertised in the community magazine.
- ✓ **Posters** – placed on parish and community noticeboards, leaflets delivered to each household through the community magazine.
- ✓ **Banner** - advertising the event and placed outside the venue.
- ✓ **A sandwich board** was in place outside the venue on the day.

A total of 45 people attended the event.



Format of Event

Members of the Advisory Committee welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the day were explained.

The first displays introduced neighbourhood planning and described the process that is being followed by the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Parish Council. Copies of explanatory booklets were available on the display stands.

Copies of finalised Neighbourhood Plans were available for people to read as they walked around the displays and enjoyed the refreshments that were available. Large scale maps of the Parish identifying issues such as heritage sites and areas of flooding were on display around the room.

Consultation on key issues

A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focused on a different topic related to planning and development, including:

- ✓ Housing – mix, design and heritage
- ✓ Environment – existing designations and Local Green Space criteria
- ✓ Transport, Employment and Community Facilities Displays

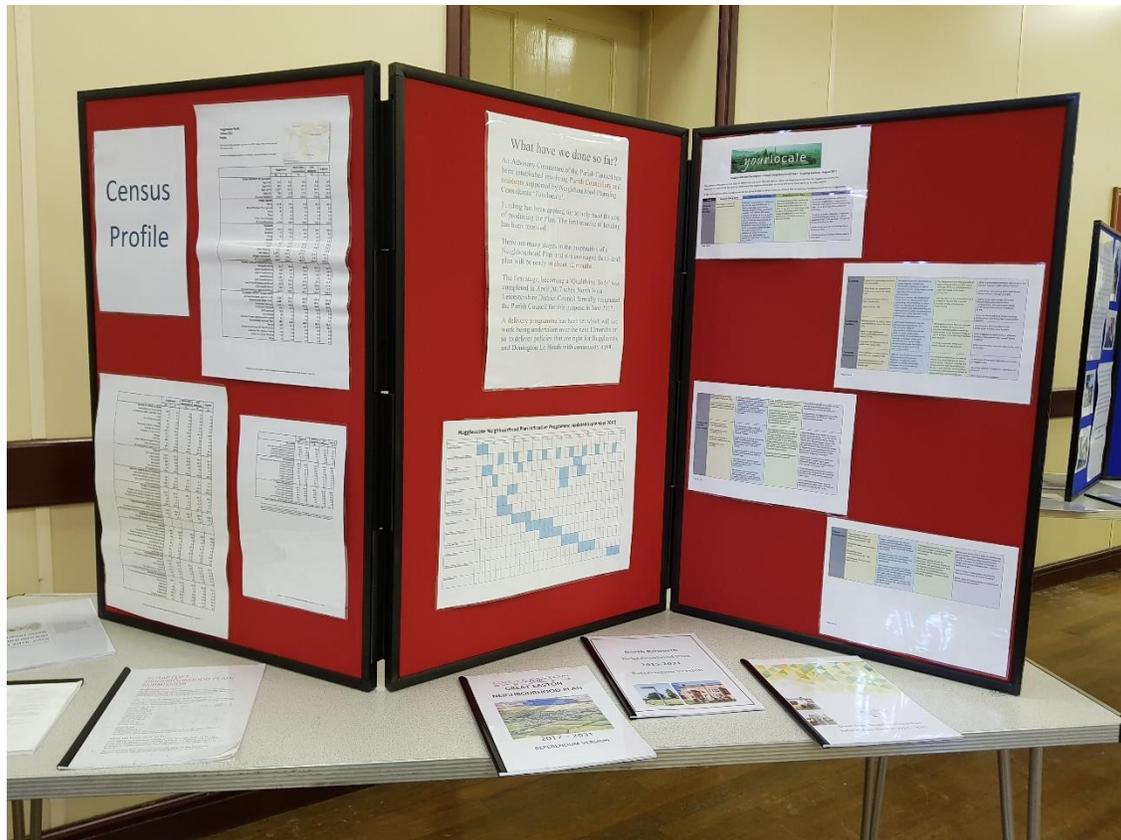
People were invited to read the displays and the information available and to make comment on 'post-it' notes.

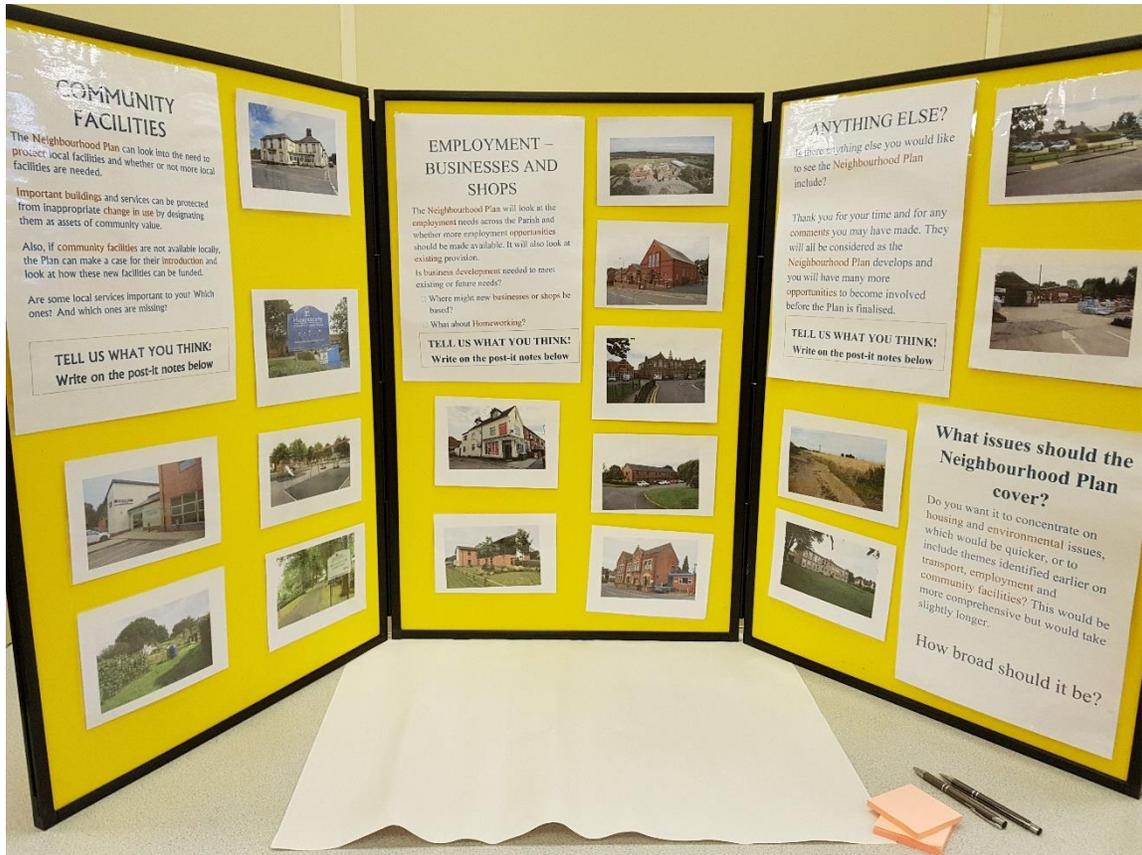
In addition, people were invited to identify open spaces which are important to them by placing up to 3 green stickers on a map of the parish which they value for views; and up to 3 blue stickers on areas good for recreation.

The comments received will be used to feed into the Neighbourhood Plan as it develops

Display Boards

The following pages give a flavour of the boards that were on display at the event:





Having read the displays, attendees were asked to comment on each topic using post-it notes and to place them on flip-chart paper alongside each display.

A large map of the Parish was available and people were invited to place up to 3 blue dots on areas of recreation and up to 3 green dots in places enjoying good views.

The following is a summary of the comments made:

Summary of findings

Comments were made by the parishioners of Hugglescote which reflected a variety of opinions. Respondents generally favoured new development on a limited scale, with the proviso that the parish's infrastructure needs to increase in line with building levels. Respondents felt this infrastructure should include increases in capacity for the delivery of health, education, social, leisure and community services, along with the protection of existing well-used buildings and resources, as well as the alleviation of traffic congestion and safety issues.

Housing Need:

Out of a total of 7 comments on housing need in the parish, 2 respondents reiterated the points made earlier regarding the development of village infrastructure (schools, GP and parking capacity) in line with the new build environment. The remaining 5 comments all cited the need for Coalville's housing, town centre and infrastructure to be improved first, before Hugglescote.

Design:

4 of the 9 responses called for any development to provide sufficient driveway parking. Another respondent asked for renewable energy designs to be a prerequisite for new house building, and 2 others that the designs should be creative, appealing and attractive to live in.

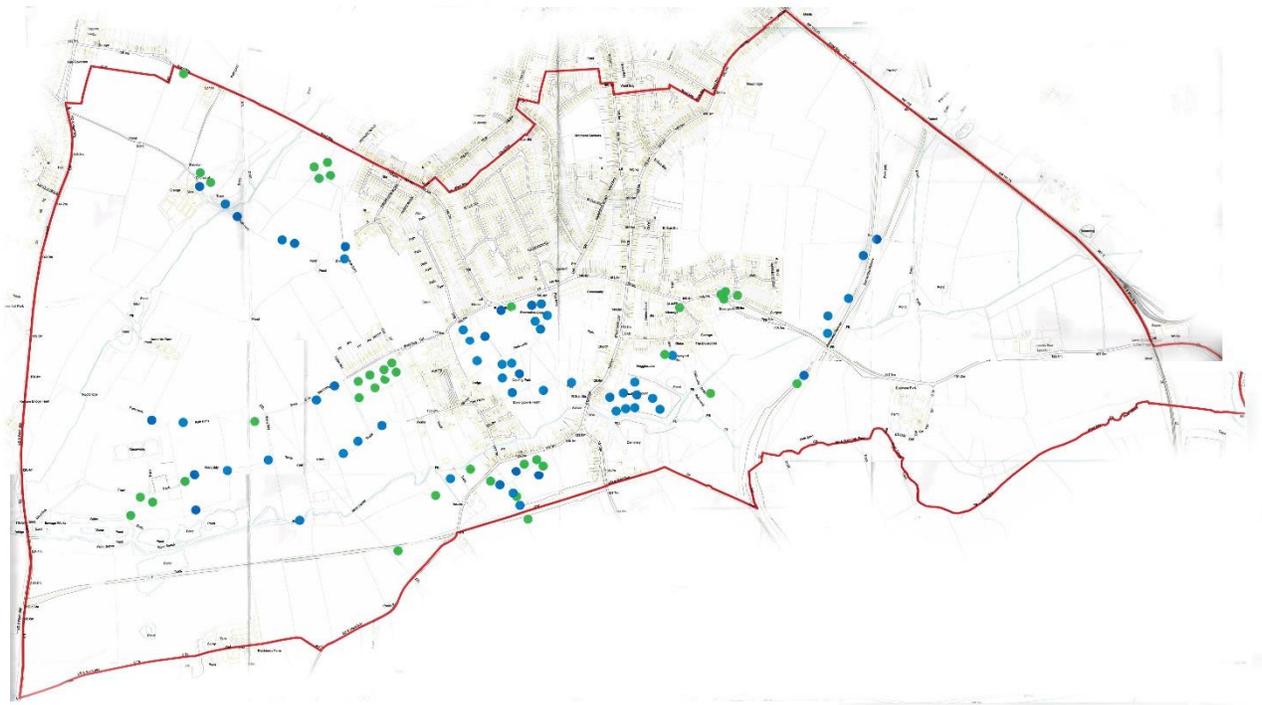
Affordable Housing:

There were 3 responses to this section, all of which supported affordable housing, with an overall preference for flats to house both young and older residents.

Environment:

6 comments were made on the environment section. Half of the respondents were exercised by the lack of dog waste bins, inappropriately sited in the village. 2 responses called for the protection of wildlife, green spaces, trees and hedgerows, along with the development of biodiversity. One person stated that there should be "better appreciation of what local community can achieve".

A 'dot' exercise invited participants to place up to 3 blue dots in areas in the parish that are good for recreation, and up to 3 green dots in places with good views. The result was as follows:



Developer Contributions:

Of the 7 villagers who responded to this section, 3 expressed confusion over what a developer contribution actually is. A further 3 enquired where and how developer contributions had been spent or allocated. One parishioner called for “proper facilities” and village parking as areas to benefit specifically from developer contributions.

Access and Highways:

This area of the consultation drew the greatest number of responses with a total of 19. In the event of development, all respondents highlighted the need to provide more traffic calming, traffic management and adequate, safe parking areas in an already congested village. A number of specific areas in the village were named in relation to these concerns. Grange Rd and its environs was highlighted by 5 respondents. 2 others called for improved public (bus) transport linking the parish with local towns in the event of housing development. One other asked for a by-pass that was planned originally for the Bardon area. One respondent promoted the idea of a cycle walkway access from new and existing houses to schools and shops.

Heritage:

Of the 10 responses to this section, half were in strong support of Hugglescote’s Community Centre being protected based on the fact that it is a well-used and appreciated local amenity. The Manor was close behind with 4 mentions in the context of being regarded as important to the

heritage of the village.

Community facilities:

The 15 comments generated by this section generally reflected that parishioners wish to see the protection of the well-used community facilities they already have, such as the Community Centre and the Community Café. Alongside this, some respondents highlighted the need to account for additional pressure on school and GP capacity/infrastructure as the population grows. There were also calls from 3 respondents for the improvement of parking facilities, road structure and local shopping facilities respectively.

Employment:

2 of the 3 respondents to this section requested, respectively, for more employment opportunities and affordable and reliable jobs outside of the parish. The third respondent observed that they had worked from home successfully for over 10 years in Hugglescote, but was dependent on appropriate work space within a large garden.

Anything Else/Scope?

The 6 responses reiterated some of the points already raised in the preceding sections- for example the need to improve Coalville town centre, better maintained roads and hedges, and improved public transport links (including provision for cyclists) and litter facilities in Hugglescote. One respondent requested no more housing development on green belt land.

Detailed comments

HOUSING NEED:

- Before developing Hugglescote let's get Coalville up to date – it has nothing!!
- Coalville needs more people who shop and go out locally to justify cinema and better shops
- Coalville town centre needs an uplift to encourage new residents to want to spend money in the town
- Improve the housing in Coalville!
- Coalville needs investment to support increase in residents and support local economy rather than travelling to Leics etc
- More schools; more doctors' surgeries
- More resources for parking. Parking
- The sooner we get a Neighbourhood Plan in place the greater our chances appear to be of influencing any future building / housing developments within the Parish.

DESIGN:

- Developers need to plan houses with enough parking for its occupants – not just 1.5 cars!
- Get rid of “little boxes” – a little creativity will make houses more appealing
- Developers need to make parking more convenient for home owners plus visitors
- Housing that councillors/officers would want to live in – NOT those awful Fairfield Rd properties
- Design for new show house on Grange Rd is not practical – did a man design the kitchen?
- Renewable energy per house (e.g.. Solar, geothermal, wind) – should be a condition of the permission
- Parking for occupants
- Absolutely - parking. 2 spaces off road per house
- Signage: National Forest signs at both ends of the village. Grass verges cut regularly

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- More affordable housing for young local residents
- Affordable housing in different styles – flats, etc
- Need more small flats 1-2 bed for young and old

ENVIRONMENT:

- Protection for wildlife and more development of biodiversity
- Protection of green spaces, trees and hedgerows being lost through development
- Emphasis on village communities – better local transport infrastructure. Better appreciation of what local community can achieve
- Please take dog fouling more seriously. Bins on routes used by dog walker – bin on Crescent Rd just inside public footpath
- Dog fouling – speaking as a dog walker there’s definitely a need for more dog waste bins in the park off Ashburton Rd
- Need a dog bin at both ends of park on Ashburton Rd near the school as people use ordinary bin
- We need to ensure Donington Fields continues to be protected - and maintained.
- We need to press for the maxim possible open / environment spaces in any Grange Road development.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Where are they?
- Yes – where are they?
- ???
- What happens to them? Should benefit and enhance the community
- What has the money been used for?

- What have they agreed to contribute to community needs?
- Increased commercial development has increased commercial transport. Proper facilities and parking should be provided

ACCESS and HIGHWAYS:

- Street parking is creating serious access and safety issues in many streets
- Loss of parking is an issue. As new houses on Grange Rd development are occupied this will get worse, particularly at peak times with surgery open
- Parking and congestion: Grange Rd and Central Rd can be a nightmare and with increased housing developments will only get worse
- Terrible congestion of Grange Rd and traffic lights at peak times
- Congestion on Grange Rd – no expectation of moving once more cars on the road
- Grange Rd surgery needs a bigger car park now the layby has been lost! Parking near the junction of Wainwright Rd is dangerous!
- Parking needs controlling where yellow lines in force
- Worries about Crescent/Highfield Rds with new housing access – more dangerous
- Speed bumps on Grange Rd or a camera
- Please NO SPEED BUMPS – but illuminated speed advisory signs at Standard Hill/Grange Rd entrances to Hugglescote – and regular speed checks at dangerous places (e.g. top of Standard Hill)
- One-way system around Crescent Rd and streets in that area
- More railings around primary school to stop people not using the correct crossing
- Need crossing at junction of The Green and Station Rd – it is dangerous crossing the road
- Cycle walkway access from new and existing houses to school/shops etc (this does not mean signs)
- Enforce existing weight restrictions: Station Rd/Ashburton Rd!
- Weight restrictions – Richmond Rd/Manor Rd/The Green
- We need a by-pass as originally planned down Bardon Rd area
- Need much better bus service provision eg Ashby to Leicester axis (Ashburton Rd/Grange Rd)
- Improved public transport – 4 buses a day (2 just before lunch/2 just after lunch) doesn't support locally! Forces car usage
- Transport: wouldn't it be good to have a rail link re-established.
- We need to ensure all our local footpaths and bridleways are properly recorded on the Leicestershire Definitive Map, before these community rights are lost in 2026.

HERITAGE:

- Key buildings in village which need protection, even if not listed: Community Centre; former chapels; Gate Inn; Dennis St (Club) – potential for local listing?
- Community Centre – so well used!
- Community Centre; Manor House
- The Community Centre. Any “old” established building

- Definitely the Community Centre
- The Manor House and Grange Rd graveyard and area of Whitwick mining disaster – Louella Stud top field?
- Manor House, Donington – le – Heath
- Hugglescote Community Centre – great useful building. Old School
- Manor House and associated events. Dennis St old houses
- Railway line, Coalville to Ellistown – keep as proper footpath (with additional access points?)

COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

- Community Centre – key resource for the village, which needs to be supported and protected
- Community Centre needs to remain centrally – many groups use it
- Give every support to Community Centre – it is a key “centre” in Hugglescote
- I can’t find out how the community centre is run. No way to contact anyone
- Oasis Community Cafe: a great place to eat and drink and meet others at very reasonable price
- The Oasis is a great community facility
- Oasis Community Cafe (Central Rd)
- Hugglescote Community Church
- Primary School and High School – more houses need more school places. Community Centre – needs to stay at the heart of the community
- What about new housing pressure on local surgery? And schools? And community centre?
- Primary school; HCC; playgroup; High School
- Nothing for teenagers. 1 person agreed, and added: “Never has been. Make your own entertainment
- Improved parking facilities and improved access etc at Surgery
- Additional local shopping facilities, i.e. butchers? Bakery?
- Improvement of road structure
- Local allotments need to be preserved and expanded; we share the farming community's concerns about the future of food production and farming (and food costs) generally post-Brexit.
- It would be good to have a Children's Centre in the Parish ... but, alas, feel the days of Sure Start are well and truly over. A major false economy on the part of Government.
- We need to continue to press for more school places and medical facilities locally in view of all the proposed housing developments.

EMPLOYMENT:

- Need more opportunities
- I’ve been a home-worker for 10 plus years here – works very well but need to have houses with enough space to have a dedicated work space for me – our garden was large enough for a cabin/office – it makes all the difference!

- Affordable and reliable jobs outside of Parish

ANYTHING ELSE/SCOPE?

- No more housing on greenbelt land
- Continuous improvement of Coalville town centre
- The town centre in Coalville is depressing. It needs an uplift with branded retailers to encourage shoppers!
- Regularly “de-weed” kerbsides and trim hedges. More litter bins (regularly emptied)
- Improve/maintain roads, i.e. hedge cuts/lane markings to improve safety/signage etc. Improve road markings on carriageways
- Transport links from housing developments to employment hubs. Public transport and foot/cycle paths, not just roads

Post-event comments:

The following comments were received by an individual who was unable to attend the event:

Housing Developments: We think you know our views on additional housing & associated development, but the sooner we get a Neighbourhood Plan in place the greater our chances appear to be of influencing any future developments.

Open Spaces: we need to ensure Donington Fields continues to be protected - and maintained. We need to press for the maxim possible open / environment spaces in any Grange Road development.

Community Facilities: four points here:

(a) local allotments need to be preserved and expanded; as NFU and Rare Breeds members (we retain our membership and Defra registration even though we no longer have the goats) we share the farming community's concerns about the future of food production and farming (and food costs) generally post-Brexit.

(b) it would be good to have a Children's Centre in the Parish ... but, alas, I feel the days of Sure Start are well and truly over. A major false economy on the part of the Government.

(c) we need to continue to press for more school places and medical facilities locally in view of all the proposed housing development.

(d) Transport: wouldn't it be good to have a rail link re-established ..

Heritage Assets: We're beginning to despair of the denuded County Archaeology services, and

particularly in relation to planning. A resident has been allocated a place at a Heritage England Seminar at Leicester University on Thursday 21st. It is specifically for Leicestershire Fieldworkers involved in Community Archaeology and how we may contribute to historical & archaeological data and have access to 'Grey' Reports. We will see what comes of it, and how it may be of help to us locally in Hugglescote & Donington.

The denuded County Archaeology services are no longer in a position to fully protect our heritage, particularly in relation to the monitoring planning applications. Community Archaeology is now a major contributor to protecting our local historical and archaeological heritage – and, for example, helping preserve the Parish’s place as the location of Leicestershire Museum’s Donington-le-Heath Manor House.

The following pages show some images from the event







