

# Swannington Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

June 2022

## Introduction

This Consultation Statement for the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:

- a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan
- b) explains how they were consulted
- c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted
- d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

## Aims of consulting on the Plan

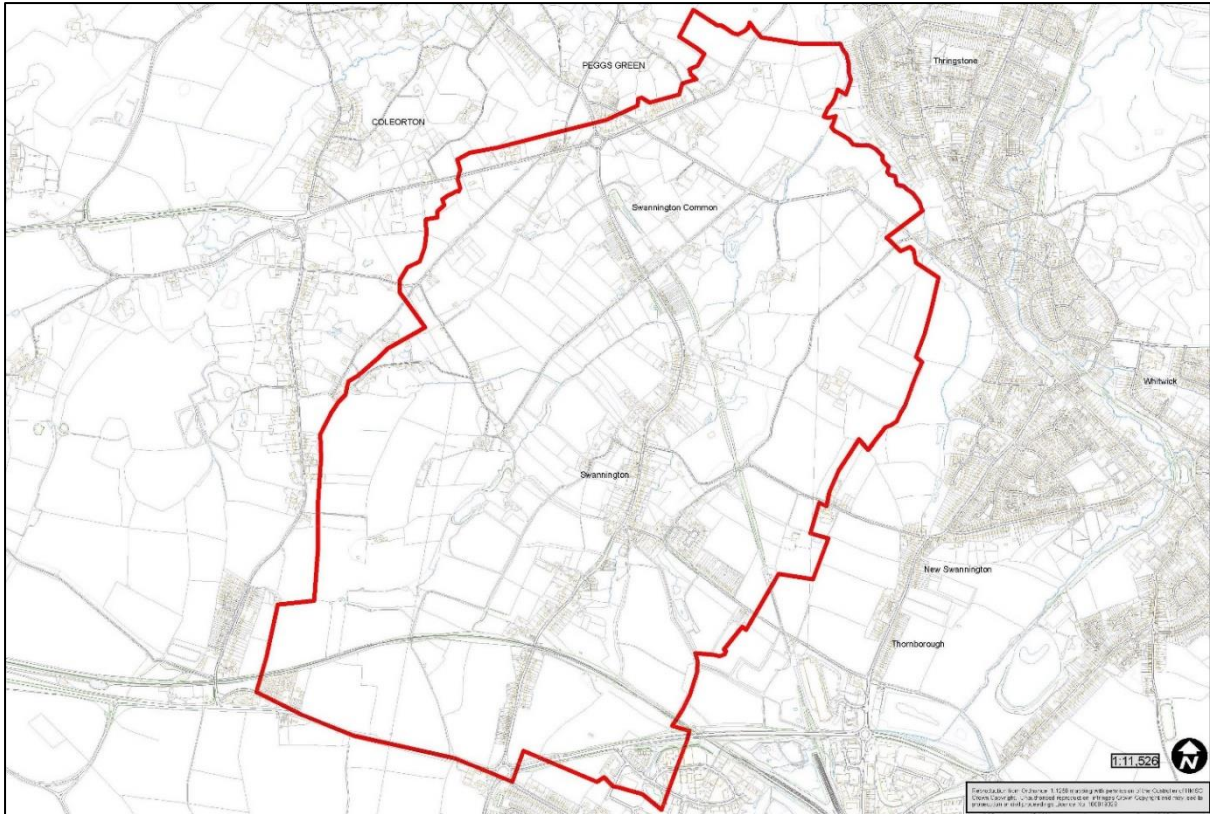
The aim of the engagement process was to:

- Inform residents, local businesses, and other stakeholders about the neighbourhood planning process and to invite their participation so that local opinion informed the plan
- Ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process.
- Ensure that as wide a range of people as possible were involved, that they could receive information and could provide feedback in a way that suited them.
- Ensure that information was readily available and accessible to everyone.
- Make sure that consultation feedback was available as soon as possible after events

## Background to the consultation - Initiating the Neighbourhood Plan

The whole of the parish was formally designated by North West Leicestershire District Council for neighbourhood planning purposes on 7 January 2019.

# Swannington Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation Statement



Swannington Parish Council established a Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee, whose mandate was to drive the process, consult with the local community, gather evidence to support emerging policies and prepare the Plan for consideration and ultimately approval by Swannington Parish Council.

A community questionnaire produced in the autumn 2019 represented the comments of residents of the Parish, and this helped to identify some of the key issues that would need to be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Advisory Committee also gathered statistical information about the parish from a range of sources to provide a body of evidence on which to base the Plan's emerging Policies.



*Open Event 31 August 2019*

An open event took place on 31 August 2019 which was attended by 63 residents. This provided an opportunity for people to comment about what should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan and to explain the process.



From October 2019 onwards, 'Theme Groups' were formed of members of the Advisory Committee along with other residents and stakeholders. The groups met over the following 6 months and gathered the evidence needed to progress ideas and to formulate policies.



*Theme Group Launch 9 October 2020*

These groups undertook a range of work including field surveys and data analysis in order to build the content of the Neighbourhood Plan and to ensure that the evidence gathered was robust.

The Neighbourhood Plan was developed from these discussions, from all the other consultations and interviews conducted by members of the Advisory Committee and from research and evidence collected.

#### Appendix a Pre Submission Feedback Comments

- b Community Questionnaire
- c Questionnaire Results Summary
- d LCC Consultation Response
- e Coal Authority Response

## Advisory Committee Meetings

The Advisory Committee met regularly and in accordance with Parish Council regulations.

### Theme Groups

Three Theme groups were formed to manage Neighbourhood Plan policy development with focus on the Environment. Local Amenities and Housing Requirements. Each Theme group was supported by a YourLocale facilitator with expertise in the relevant field. Other members of the community volunteered to participate in the Theme Groups.

The aim of these groups was to explore in detail the issues that had been raised by villagers at the first consultation event held in the parish Church in April 2018 and to collate evidence and identify emerging priorities. Their expertise, local knowledge and commitment was invaluable in making sure that the Plan reflects the requirements of Swannington and represents the views of the parishioners. They met regularly over the duration of the project, conducted research and collated a significant amount of evidence to that formed the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan policy development.

## Ongoing Communication with Parishioners

At each Parish Council Meeting the Neighbourhood Plan was an Item on the Agenda. The PC Website also referred to the ongoing Plan. The Pandemic did, of course, interrupt and prolong the process

## Funding and Support

YourLocale was appointed to provide professional support to the Advisory Committee.

Funding for YourLocale as well as community consultation and engagement, was by the Parish Council and by grants from the Locality.

## Consultation – list of people and bodies consulted

The following stakeholders were contacted at the start of the process and again prior to the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation:

- Leicestershire County Council
- The Coal Authority
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Historic England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- Highways Agency
- British Telecommunications Plc
- Open Reach
- East Leicestershire & Rutland CCG
- National Grid
- British Gas Properties
- Severn Trent Water Ltd
- Anglian Water Ltd
- Age UK Leicestershire & Rutland
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire
- CPRE
- Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership
- Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- Interfaith Forum for Leicestershire
- Chamber of Commerce
- Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living
- Harborough District Disability Access Group
- Leicestershire Police
- Leicestershire Fire and Rescue

### Local Planning Authority

- Leicestershire County Council, Policy and Community
- North West Leicestershire District Council

Adjoining Parishes

- Coleorton;
- Ravenstone with Swepstone;
- Coalville;
- Whitwick;
- Osgathorpe.

#### Member of Parliament:

- MP Andrew Bridgen

#### Landowners

Letters were sent to local landowners, informing them about the Neighbourhood Plan and inviting them to discuss their intentions for their land.

For further information please see the Housing Site Assessment statement.

### Summary of findings from the events and questionnaires

By involving residents, business owners and other stakeholders at key stages in the development of the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan, the plan is both evidence-based and has been shaped by local opinion, with policies being tested as they have been developed. There was a detailed analysis after the consultation event which has informed the next step in drafting the plan.

### Regulation 14, Pre-Submission Consultation

This consultation took place over a six-week period (November 9th to December 21st 2020). The comments received were collated by the Parish Clerk and after an initial review by YourLocale, the updated the plan was agreed and submitted to the Parish Council for final approval ahead of submission to North West Leicestershire District Council. The comments and responses are detailed below.

### Conclusion

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be submitted to North West leicestershire District Council who will publicise it for a further six weeks and then forward it, with accompanying documents and all representations made during the publicity period, to an Independent Examiner who will review it and check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions'. If the Plan successfully passes this stage, following any modifications, it will be put forward for referendum.

## Swannington Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation Statement

The referendum question will be a straight “yes” or “no” on the entire Plan, as set out by Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. People will not be able to vote for or against individual policies. If 50% or more of respondents vote for the Plan, it will be brought into force (‘Made’) and become part of District-wide planning policy.

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