



ELLISTOWN & BATTLEFLAT PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2018 – 2031 Submission version



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Introduction from the Chair of Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council

The Parish of Ellistown and Battleflat sits immediately south of the town of Coalville in the District of North West Leicestershire, the County of Leicestershire and within the National Forest.

We have a rapidly growing and ageing population, although the age profile of our residents overall remains younger than regional and national norms.

Levels of economic activity remain high within the Parish and Ellistown and Battleflat remains a popular place to live, with demand for new homes high. Residents have told us, through consultation, that they value the peacefulness of the Parish and its proximity to the countryside.

Residents wish to maintain these qualities, but also recognise that the Parish must continue to grow to reflect the need for development across the District. The Parish through major projects such as the South East Coalville Development Scheme will see a considerable amount of new housing and employment opportunities. The Parish Council understands the need for this development and wishes to make sure that growth occurs in a way that meets the priorities identified by people that live within the Parish and that any negative impact arising from the development activity is mitigated. We also recognise that there is a need to re-balance the housing stock with the provision of smaller homes and to introduce more affordable housing to enable older residents and those just starting out to remain in the Parish and to free up larger properties for families.

We embarked on the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to give us control over these important matters and to help address other issues that have been raised through the process.

I would like to thank Officers from North West Leicestershire District Council for their support as we have undertaken this work and for the grant funding received from Locality; Leicestershire County Council's Big Society and Big Lottery Awards for All, without which the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan would not have been possible.

Councillor Keith Merrie

Chair

Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council

November 2017

1. What is a Neighbourhood Plan and why are they important?

A Neighbourhood Plan is an opportunity for local people to create a framework for delivering a sustainable future for the benefit of all who live, work or visit our area.

The right for communities to prepare Neighbourhood Plans was established through the Localism Act 2011 and the rules governing their preparation were published in 2012. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that a Neighbourhood Plan gives the community “direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need” (NPPF para 183). It enables us to ensure we get the right types of development in the right locations; and to set planning policies that will be used in determining decisions on planning applications across the Parish of Ellistown and Battleflat.

A Neighbourhood Plan, once given statutory force, becomes part of the Development Plan for the area and this statutory status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than other local documents such as parish plans or village design statements. However, a Plan must also comply with European and National legislation and be in general conformity with existing strategic planning policy. Whilst every effort has been made to make the main body of this Plan easy to read and understand, the wording of the actual policies is necessarily more formal so that they comply with these statutory requirements.

Robust evidence is the foundation on which a Neighbourhood Plan should be based. This includes evidence of community engagement and consultation and how the views, aspirations, wants and needs of local people have been considered alongside stakeholder comment and statistical information to justify the policies contained within the Plan. A comprehensive Statement of Compliance with the Basic Conditions (Appendix 1) and a detailed Statement of Consultation (Appendix 2) have been produced to support this Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Why we need a Neighbourhood Plan for Ellistown and Battleflat Parish

The Parish Council is very keen to influence planning matters within Ellistown and Battleflat and to take the decisions locally that will serve the best interests of the community in the years to come.

There is recognition that sustainable development is not only necessary but desirable, as without it communities and economies will stagnate, but we want to influence and direct the shape and nature of the development and where within the Parish it takes place.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot be used to prevent development and we have been very clear from the outset that we will work within the broad development requirements specified by North West Leicestershire District Council. Having a Neighbourhood Plan gives us the opportunity to identify the best ways to deliver development, directing it towards the areas that the local community needs and wants, while protecting our natural environment and social and leisure assets and ensuring a more sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.

Throughout consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, concerns from the community have been raised in respect of the scale of development planned or already in the pipeline for the Parish. This includes major employment, housing and related developments, such as the South East Coalville Development scheme, which will see the development of hundreds of new homes and tens of hectares of new employment land in the Parish over the coming years. The capacity of the Parish to satisfactorily and sustainably accommodate this growth is a top issue for the community. The Plan therefore sets an expectation that only small scale new development schemes will be allowed in addition to that which is already planned.

This Plan has been prepared by the Parish Council with the support of members of the community with these goals in mind. We have embraced the NPPF's core principle of "a presumption in favour of sustainable development" and have approached our task as a "creative exercise in finding ways to

enhance and improve the places in which we live our lives” (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 17).

3. How the Plan was prepared

This Neighbourhood Plan was prepared under the direction of the Parish Council through a Steering Group supported by neighbourhood planning Consultants *Yourlocale*.

Its mandate was to drive the process, consult with the local community, gather evidence to support emerging policies and deliver the Plan.

A questionnaire was produced in early 2014 which was completed by 75 residents of the Parish and helped to identify some of the key issues that would need to be addressed through the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We also gathered statistical information about the Parish from a range of sources so that we had a growing amount of evidence upon which to base our emerging policies.

We followed this up with a session with school children at the local Primary School, and held an Open Event in the summer of 2014 within the Parish.

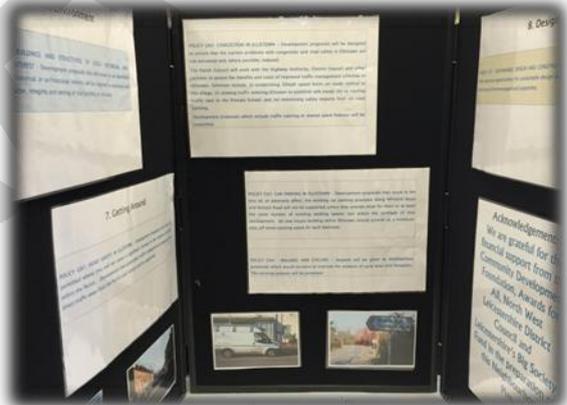
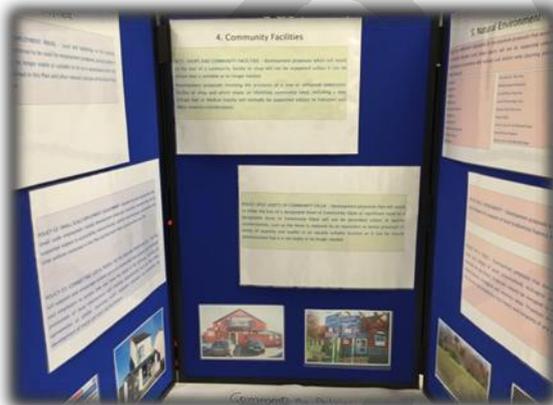


The Neighbourhood Plan was developed from these discussions, from all the other consultations and interviews conducted by members of the Neighbourhood Plan team and from research and evidence collected.

A further consultation exercise was held in the Parish in February 2015 where the emerging policies were put to the community.



The Plan policies were on display at the Remembrance Day service held in the Parish on Sunday 8 November 2015.



Progress with the Plan has not been as quick as first envisaged. The development, however, of a Neighbourhood Plan is not a straight-forward process. In particular, we were keen to dovetail its preparation with that of the overarching Local Plan, now Adopted, being developed by North West Leicestershire District Council. Understandable delays in the preparation of the Local Plan have also had an impact on the timetable for the preparation of this Plan.

Throughout the Plan's development, we have liaised with Officers from North West Leicestershire District Council to ensure not only that our policies are in general conformity with the Adopted Local Plan.

This included regular update meetings with Council Officers and attendance at Open Events called by the District Council to discuss issues of shared importance including the revised 'Limits to development'.

These consultation initiatives will be documented in the Statement of Community Consultation which will accompany the submission version of the Neighbourhood plan.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be put forward to the public and to statutory bodies for a six-week consultation period. Agreed amendments will be incorporated into the draft Plan prior to being 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, with any modifications, it will be put forward for referendum.

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 those voting vote in favour

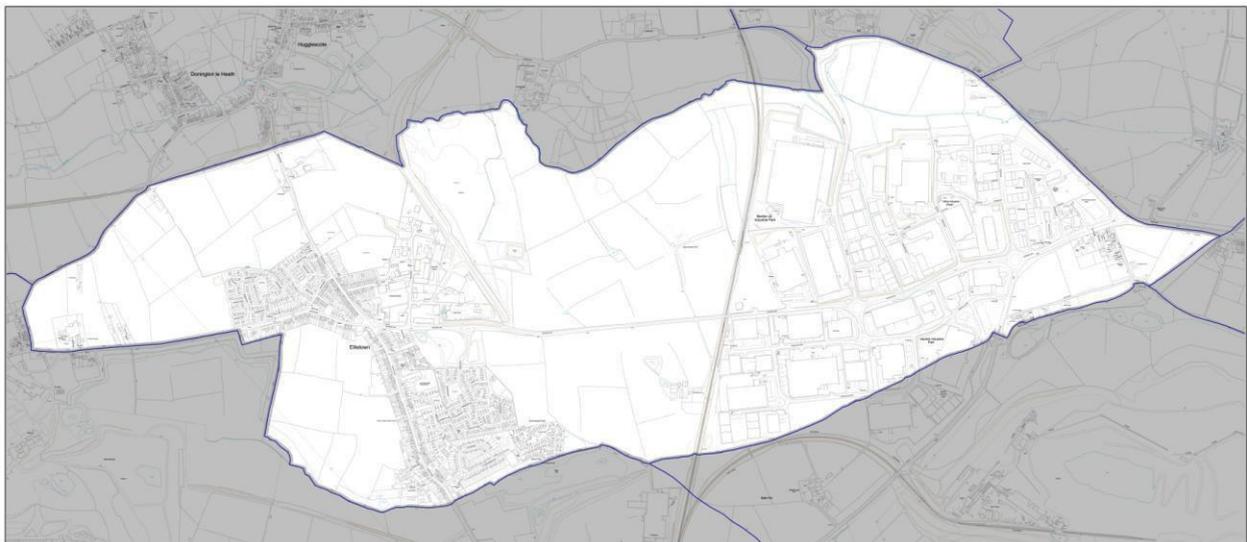
the Plan, it will be brought into force and become part of District- wide planning policy.

It is important to note that not having a Neighbourhood Plan does not mean that development won't happen. Development will still take place, but without the policies in this Plan, which set out the type of development that is in keeping with our area's character having any effect. Decisions will instead be primarily based on the District's policies rather than local criteria.

4. Our Parish

The Plan area comprises the whole of the Parish of Ellistown and Battleflat, within the District of North West Leicestershire, as shown in figure 1. High resolution versions of all figures are available in the supporting information.

Figure 1 – Parish of Ellistown and Battleflat – Designated Area



It embraces the villages of Ellistown and Battleflat and the surrounding area, as well as several industrial estates mainly to the east of the Parish. The village of Ellistown is currently the main location of housing and of facilities. Battleflat comprises three streets of fewer than 20 houses with a pub and hotel, as well as a large industrial estate.

Much of the Parish is rural in nature.

The Parish has a long and proud history and origins can be traced back to medieval times and beyond.

In 2011, the Parish had a population of 2,626. Reflecting the national trend, it has an ageing population. However, its overall population structure is younger than the national average – 26% of the population is aged under 18 in 2011; the equivalent figure for the District is 22% and England 23%. The population of the Parish is growing fast from 2,105 to 2,626 between 2001 and 2011, mainly the result of new house building bringing people into the area. At 20% the rate of increase that is well above the national average (7.9%).

The general health of the population is good, with 83% of the population describing their health as good or very good; a figure which is slightly higher than the District (80%) and national averages (81%).

Car ownership is high with the proportion of households with no car at 11.2% is less than half the national average (26%) and below the District wide average (15.6%).

Car journeys are also the dominant form of travel with nearly 87% of those in employment travelling to work by car or motorcycle, for example. This compares to 63% for the England as whole.

The housing stock is generally good. The main form tenure is owner occupied at 78% (this compares to 64% nationally). At 7.8% the proportion of households that rent their properties from social landlords is less than half the national average (17.7%). Between 2001 and 2011 the number of dwellings in the Parish rose from 967 to 1,111 mainly the result of new house building.

Levels of employment and economic activity in the Parish are high, and above national and District averages. About 75% of those aged between 16 and 74 in the Parish are economically active; which compares to 69% in the District and 67% for England.

The Parish has seen considerable development, especially employment and housing related, with more in the pipeline, including the major South East Coalville Development scheme, part of which is in the Parish, which will see the construction of hundreds of new homes, major employment areas as well as roads and green spaces.

Levels of deprivation are relatively low in the Parish, as are crime rates.

The Parish generally has a good built and natural environment. It is set within attractive countryside, and contains some important and good quality open spaces and buildings some of historic interest.

There are some community facilities in the Parish including a Scout Hut, Primary School, churches and sporting and play areas, though many residents have travel to surrounding towns and villages to access many community and other facilities such as shops.

5. What we want the Neighbourhood Plan to achieve

The Plan covers the period up to 2031, which is the same period as the Local Plan for North West Leicestershire. The Neighbourhood Plan is not intended to replace or supersede approved District wide planning policies, but rather it sits alongside it, to add additional or more detailed policies specific to the Parish. Where the Local Plan contains policies that meet the needs and requirements of the Parish these are not repeated here. Instead, it focuses on those planning issues which consultation shows matter most to the community, and which the Plan can add the greatest additional value.

Should the Neighbourhood Plan be 'Made', it would become part of the Development Plan for the District of North West Leicestershire.

After being 'Made', when North West Leicestershire District Council or any other body consider a planning decision, they will be required to refer to the Neighbourhood Plan (alongside the District's own Local Plan and other relevant documents) and check whether the proposed development is in accordance with the policies the community has developed.

This is the first time that communities have had the opportunity to create planning policies with this degree of statutory weight.

There are some restrictions to what Neighbourhood Plans can achieve. For example:

- They cannot promote less development than is set out in the Local Plan;

- They deal essentially with land use issues; they cannot address enforcement issues; and
- While issues such as improvements to a bus route do not directly relate to land use issues, Neighbourhood Plans can encourage funding for these through developer contributions.

The policies in the Plan must also support the NPPF's "presumption in favour of sustainable development" and be in general conformity with the District Council's strategic planning policies.

The Plan includes several elements, these include:

- A simple and clear vision for the Plan based on local consultation. This is "to set out policies for the years up to 2031 that will ensure that our area develops and grows in a way that is sustainable economically, socially and environmentally, and which enhances and improves the Parish in which we live";
- A small number of Ellistown and Battleflat Parish specific planning policies grouped around the key policy issues identified by the community as being of special importance to them; and
- that the residents of Elliston and Battleflat have a greater say over development affecting the Parish.

The Plan is not cast in stone and will be kept under review and may change over time in response to new and changing needs, priorities and requirements.

6. Meeting the requirement for sustainable development

The NPPF states that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: social, environmental and economic, all of which are important and interrelated.

a) Social

We have sought, through the Neighbourhood Plan, to safeguard existing open space for the future enjoyment of residents.

We are also seeking to protect existing community facilities and to deliver a mix of housing types so that we can meet the needs of present and future

generations and ensure that we support the community's needs and its health, social and cultural wellbeing.

b) Environmental

In order to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, we are seeking to ensure that:

- Housing development is of the right type in the right location, so that it does not harm but instead positively reflects the existing and historic character of the area;
- To protect the individual village identities and conserve the rural nature of their surroundings;
- Development recognises the need to protect and, where possible, improve biodiversity and important habitats; and
- Provision is made for improved pedestrian and cycling facilities.

c) Economic

Whilst the built-up parts of the Parish of Ellistown and Battleflat are primarily residential, there is a significant commercial element within the Parish and a desire to ensure that appropriate economic activity is maintained as long as the local infrastructure supports it. We therefore wish to encourage employment opportunities in our area by:

- Supporting appropriate existing business development and expansion where the local infrastructure would not be adversely affected by the proposals; and
- Encouraging start-up businesses and home working.

This document sets out local considerations for delivering sustainable development across Ellistown and Battleflat Parish. Development proposals should meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this Neighbourhood Plan and be in line with North West Leicestershire District and national policies.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Policies

1 – Strategy

1.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the approach to establishing the Strategic direction of the Neighbourhood Plan: taking into account the Adopted Local Plan.

1.2 Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

The purpose of the UK Planning System as set out in the NPPF is to achieve sustainable development.

The Government's definition of sustainable development reflects the need to ensure that providing for the needs of the current generation does not make life worse for future generations. In particular, the NPPF states that planning should „proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs“.

Securing sustainable development is at the heart of this Plan. This includes how much new development is required to meet the needs of the local community, where it should go and how it should be designed. This encompasses all proposals for development from the very smallest, such as a minor extension to a house, to major housing and employment developments.

The Parish Council will take a positive approach to the consideration of development proposals that contribute to sustainable development. This includes working with the District Council, County Council, local community, developers and other partners to encourage the formulation of development proposals, which clearly demonstrate how sustainable development has been considered and addressed.

When considering a development proposal, the Parish Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable

development contained in this Neighbourhood Plan, National Planning Policy Framework and North West Leicestershire Local Plan (November 2017).

1.3 Directing Development to the most Sustainable Locations

One of the key ways to achieve sustainable development is to direct significant development to the most appropriate locations which are or can be made sustainable.

To help this North West Leicestershire District Council has defined a settlement hierarchy to distinguish between the roles and functions of different settlements across the District and to guide the location of future development.

This hierarchy grouped settlements across North West Leicestershire into six main classifications, which, as Policy S2 of the Local Plan states:

“The following Settlement Hierarchy will be used when assessing the suitability of a settlement for new development, with the general principle being that those settlements higher up the hierarchy will take more growth than those lower down and that the type of development proposed is appropriate to the scale and character of the settlement and its place in the hierarchy.”

The six classifications are as follows:

- Principle Town
- Key Service Centre
- Local Service Centre
- Sustainable Villages
- Small Villages
- Hamlets

The main settlements of Ellistown and Battleflat in the Parish were included as part of this study. In respect of these, it concluded that:

- Ellistown fell into the fourth level of the hierarchy – “Sustainable Villages”. This means that it and other similar settlements have a limited

range of services and facilities where a limited amount of growth will take place within the defined Limits to Development”.

- Battleflat was placed in the lowest (sixth) level of settlements – ‘Hamlet’. This means a small group of “dwellings with no services and facilities and where development will be considered in the context of the countryside policy”.

In respect of the remainder of the Parish outside the village of Ellistown, the employment sites and the South East Coalville Development scheme, this is viewed in planning terms as open countryside, where there is a strong presumption against new development apart from in exceptional circumstances mainly related to schemes that are appropriate in a countryside location such as those associated to farming.

It is recognised that new development can bring benefits such as new jobs, helping to support and enhance local services such as shops and help to ensure a more stable, balanced and sustainable community.

However, whilst consultation shows that the community recognises the need and benefits of some new development, it also notes that the Parish has been the focus of considerable new employment, housing and other forms of development in recent years. A recent development has included a significant employment scheme adjacent to the built up area of Ellistown and the major South East Coalville Development Scheme has achieved planning permission. There is a concern about the ability of the Parish to absorb this development and its potential impact on the character of the Parish and its already stretched facilities such as health, education and the road network.

1.4 Ellistown Limits to Development

Limits to Development are a commonly used tool in planning documents such as Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans. They are used to define the extent of a built-up part of a settlement, and provide clear, defensible boundaries around settlements within which development will normally be confined.

They distinguish between areas where in planning terms development would be acceptable in principle such as in the main settlements and where it would

not be, generally in the least sustainable locations, such as in the countryside.

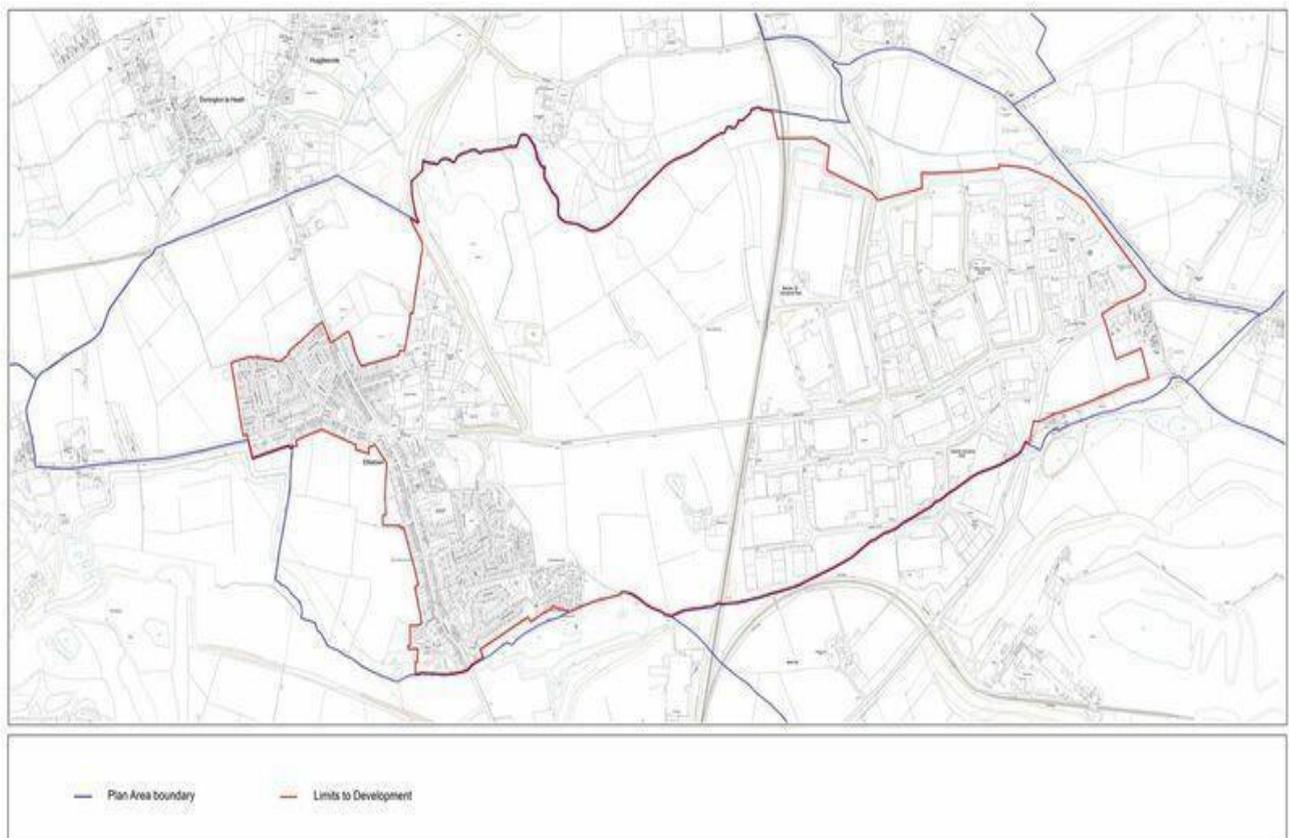
The existing Limits to Development were introduced by the North West Leicestershire Local Plan in 2002 and confirmed in the Adopted Local Plan (November 2017).

The consultation revealed that there is support for the continuation of the Limits to Development for Ellistown, especially to ensure that development is focused within the built-up area of the Parish as opposed to outside it.

Limits to Development have been reviewed and published by the District Council following consultation with the Parish Council and others (Fig. 2).

This incorporates the South East Coalville Development Scheme which is a strategic scheme where the District Council has made a 'resolution to grant planning permission', part of which falls with the Parish of Ellistown and Battleflat. The Limits to Development for Ellistown have been drawn around the built-up part of the village. The District Council's support for the strategic site along with approvals for employment sites within the Parish has meant that the Limits to Development for Ellistown have been extended to take these developments into account.

Fig 2 – Ellistown Limits to Development in the North West Leicestershire Local Plan



POLICY S1: ELLISTOWN LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT – In order to make a positive contribution to sustainable development and help meet local needs, future development proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan Area shall be focused within the built-up area of Ellistown as defined in Fig 2 by the Limits to Development. Development proposals on sites within the Limits to Development will be supported where they comply with the policies of this Plan.

1.5 Development outside the Ellistown Limits to Development

The Parish is rural in nature with the two main settlements of Ellistown and Battleflat generally surrounded by open countryside.

The North West Leicestershire Settlement Fringe Study (2010) reviewed the quality of the landscape surrounding the main settlements in the District. The landscape of the Parish is typified as: “Gently undulating landscape with effects of past and present coal and clay working. It displays a relatively dense pattern of former mining towns and village. The landscape is characterised by mixed farmland with a generally low woodland cover”.

In planning terms, land outside the main built up areas is treated as countryside. This includes any small groups of buildings or small settlements that may be found there.

It is established national and District wide planning policy that development in the countryside should be carefully considered. The NPPF states that “planning should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside”.

This approach is also supported by this Plan; in particular, as it will prevent the unplanned sprawl of Ellistown and Battleflat beyond the Limits to development. Development should be focused within the Limits to Development as Ellistown is identified as a sustainable village in the Settlement Hierarchy and is therefore deemed to be sustainable. This will help to safeguard the countryside for its own sake as an attractive, accessible and non-renewable natural resource. Any development in these countryside locations would primarily require the use of a car to access services and facilities and would be less sustainable.

POLICY S2: LAND OUTSIDE OF ELLISTOWN LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT – Land outside the Ellistown Limits to Development, as in Figure 2, is identified as countryside, where development will be carefully controlled in line with local and national strategic planning policies.

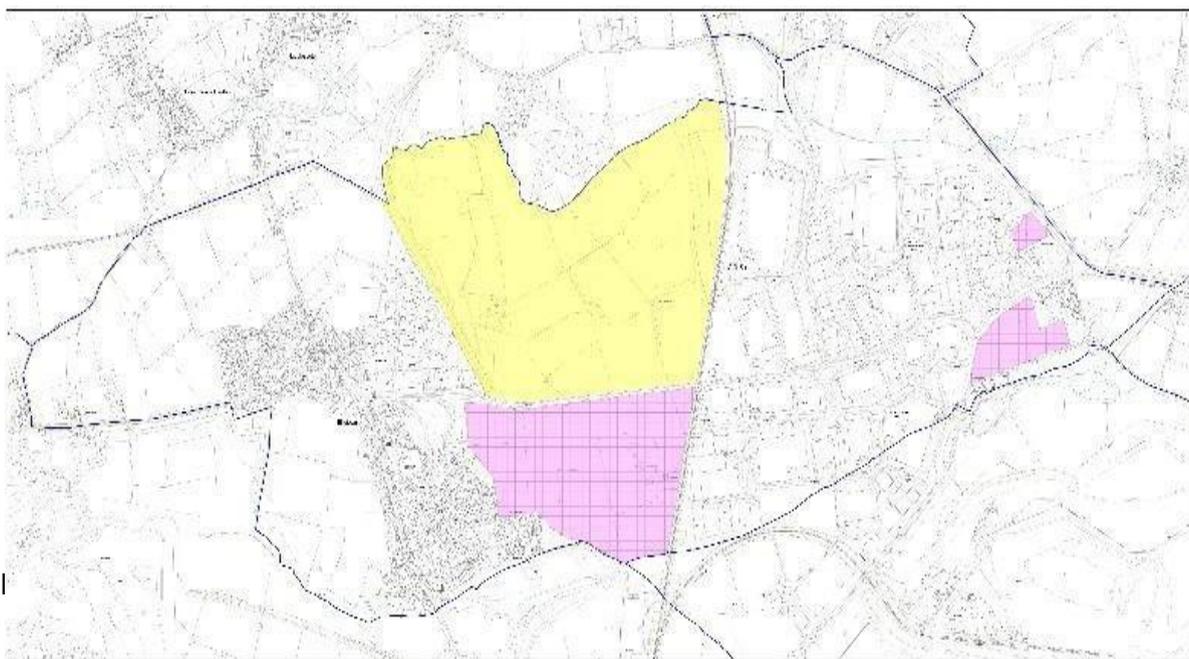
1.6 South East Coalville Development Scheme

NWLDC has made a ‘resolution to grant planning permission’ for a number of sites that collectively are known as South East Coalville Development Scheme. In total this is likely to generate more than 3,500 new dwellings, around a thousand of which will be in the Parish. It is anticipated that 1,600 of the 3,500 new dwellings will be constructed during the Plan period.

The proposal comprises new development on a largely greenfield site and makes provision for a new Primary School and local centre alongside improvements to the highways network and associated infrastructure, landscaping and public open space.

As the development is a strategic site, it would not be appropriate, nor do the rules governing the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan allow, for the Plan to seek to change or amend the ‘strategic’ elements of the development. Equally, as the strategic site is likely to represent the biggest development in and around the Parish for many decades to come it is imperative that the community plays its part in ensuring that this reflects local needs and priorities.

Fig 3 – South Eastern Coalville Development Scheme



The area shaded yellow is earmarked for residential development whilst the pink shaded area represents employment land.

New development can bring significant benefits to the local community, including new homes, jobs and facilities. It can also have negative impacts, for example, where additional demand is placed on facilities and services which are already at or near capacity. Local people are especially concerned about the impact of the proposed development on infrastructure, in particular the transport network especially in the village of Ellistown as well as community facilities, all of which are already under pressure. There is also a need to ensure that any benefits such as new housing, recreational and community facilities best meet and help meet the needs and aspirations of the community.

There is also a need to ensure that the development integrates into and responds positively to the character and sense of identity of the Parish. Through, for example, careful design and safe and secure pedestrian, cycle and transport links between the development and the Parish.

The provision of important infrastructure improvements through the planning permission granted on the scheme is welcomed. These include new bus routes and infrastructure, a network of footpaths through the site, the provision of ecological and biodiversity mitigation land, affordable housing, areas of public open space, a sum allocated for the provision and improvement of the formal recreation provision at South Street Recreation Ground and a civic amenity contribution. In addition, the policy seeks to ensure that the scheme mitigates the impact on Ellistown and Battleflat as it receives detailed permission.

POLICY S3: SOUTH-EAST COALVILLE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – In relation to the part of the South-East Coalville Development Scheme that is within the Plan Area, the Plan requires:

- a) That the development is functionally and physically integrated with the wider Parish;
- b) Adequate measures are put in place to mitigate the harm caused by any

significant increase in traffic through Ellistown village centre, especially along Whitehill Road, including signage to direct traffic away from Ellistown;

- c) Important areas of bio-diversity are conserved and opportunities to enhance its bio diversity through for example the creation of new wildlife habitat maximised;
- d) High quality design and layout which minimises its impact on the surrounding landscape and maintains and enhances existing woodland, trees and hedgerows;
- e) A mix of housing types and sizes, including affordable, to meet the current and future needs of people in the Parish and the wider area;

2 – Housing

2.1 Introduction

Ellistown and Battleflat Parish is a popular place to live. It is easily accessible from major towns and cities such as Coalville and Leicester, and has a good natural and built environment as well as community spirit. Average house prices, though high, are relatively more affordable than many of the surrounding towns and villages. Consequently, there is strong demand for housing in the Parish both to rent and buy.

2.2 New House Building

The Parish has seen a steady increase in the number of dwellings, primarily because of new house building. Between 2001 and 2011, for example, the number of dwellings in the Parish increased by 144 or 15%, a rate above the District and national averages.

This trend is likely to accelerate with the recent planning approval for approximately 1,600 new dwellings in the Parish as part of the South East Coalville Development scheme, although some of these dwellings are likely to be built after 2031.

However, consultations show that the community does not wish to see any further major new housing developments in the Parish above that already in the planning system. residents are especially concerned about the ability of

the Parish to absorb the massive scale of development already planned for the Parish. That this may result in a significant and adverse change in its character, will place a strain on already stretched services such as schools and roads, and lead to an increase in the need to travel by car and any further major development would make this situation worse.

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan is required to make provision for at least 9,620 new homes to be built across the District by 2031.

The Local Plan recognises that it is not working from a blank piece of paper, and that planning permissions already granted for housing development (equivalent to approximately 9,600 new homes) but which have yet to be built in the District it is some way towards meeting this target.

The Local Plan sets out a strategy of how the housing requirement will be met including through the allocation of sites.

In terms of the Parish, the Local Plan is not proposing any further significant increase in the amount of housing development above that already planned. This reflects the scale of housing development that has already taken place or in the pipeline, notably the “resolution to grant planning permission” in 2014 for major mixed development at South East Coalville, part of which is in the Parish. It is anticipated this will lead to the construction of three thousand homes over the next twenty years, over a thousand of which will be in the Parish. This is also in accordance with its position in the settlement hierarchy detailed earlier along with other factors. This is an approach endorsed by the Neighbourhood Plan and supported by consultation.

This does not mean that no other housing development will take place across the Parish. Windfall sites are small infill or redevelopment sites, normally a handful of dwellings that come forward unexpectedly and have not been specifically identified for new housing in a Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan or any other planning document.

Such sites have made a regular contribution towards the housing supply in the Parish at an average of 1 or 2 new dwellings per year. This is a trend which is expected to continue, as there remain opportunities for small scale redevelopment and infill windfall development over the lifetime of the Plan in the Parish, potentially bringing forward about 30 new homes over the lifetime of the Plan.

This scale of development is also in line with the amount that is required to meet local housing needs. In 2014 a rural housing needs study was undertaken for the Parish. Based on a survey of residents and analysis of data it concluded that there was a “need for up to 13 affordable homes and 5 open market (sale) homes for local people enabling them to be suitably housed within the community”.

The consultation shows that the community is generally supportive of small scale windfall sites within the village of Ellistown subject to any proposal being well designed and not affecting the amenity of neighbouring properties or leading to the over development of the site.

POLICY H1: HOUSING PROVISION – There is no specific housing requirement for Ellistown and Battleflat. Proposals for small scale windfall sites (defined as schemes of five or fewer dwellings) within the Limits of Development for Ellistown village, will be supported where the development proposal can demonstrate that it has considered how it:

- a) Respects the local character, having regard to scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials and access, as appropriate;
- b) Has taken into account and does not adversely impact upon the amenity of the neighbouring occupiers, including daylight/sunlight, privacy, air quality, noise and light pollution; and
- c) Has safe and suitable access to the site for all people, including those with disabilities.

2.3 Affordable Housing

The need for more affordable housing is a major concern for the Parish.

Average house prices have risen at a much faster rate than average earnings and therefore a high and growing number of people who wish to live in the Parish, including many residents, are unable to do so. According to the Land Registry the average price of a new house in the Parish in 2015 was £140,000. A figure well beyond the means of many local people wishing to enter the property market.

Furthermore, at 9% the proportion of properties that was 'socially rented' at the time of the 2011 Census was lower than the District (14%) and England (18%) rates.

This concern is highlighted in the findings of the consultation as well as the findings of an independent housing needs study of the Parish in 2014. This Study concluded that "there is an identified need for 13 affordable homes in Ellistown for those with a local connection." When asked in the questionnaire 'do you think the Parish needs any of the following types of housing', 63% prioritised housing to help local people stay in the area – significantly the highest response.

The Local Plan identifies affordable housing requirements for both greenfield and brownfield sites.

In relation to the South East Coalville Development Scheme, the Section 106 Agreement has an agreed affordable housing mix of 7.6% to meet the housing needs of the district.

The consultation also showed support for new affordable housing being allocated initially to people with a local connection, including those living, working or with close family ties in the Parish. Although the S106 agreement in relation to the South East Coalville Development Scheme has already been signed without the requirement for a local connection policy, this remains an important aspect which the policy seeks to promote wherever possible.

POLICY H2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Development proposals which include affordable housing should provide a mix of housing types and sizes to help meet the identified needs of the Parish. The provision of smaller homes, especially for young families and young people and for older people who

wish to downsize, will be supported, as is the provision of affordable housing for people with a local connection.

2.4 New Housing Mix

National and District wide planning policies emphasise to need to plan for a mix of housing to meet the different needs of the community both now and in the future.

In order to help do this, it is important that a range of house types and sizes are provided as part of new development, including affordable developments, within the Parish to meet local need and to ensure a balanced community.

As part of the development of the Plan a detailed examination of the available housing data from the 2011 Census (Appendix 3) and other sources such as a housing need assessment (Appendix 4) has been undertaken.

These studies show that the greatest proportion (36%) of residential dwellings are detached which is lower than the District (39%) but above the national (22%) norm. Semi-detached housing accounts for 28% of residential housing stock compared with 35% for the District and 31% for England.

Over 26% of properties are terraced which is above the District (18%) and National (25%) rates. At the time of the 2011 Census there were 95 caravans or other mobile/temporary structures situated within the Parish which represents 8.4% of household spaces and is significantly higher than the District (0.9%) and National (0.4%) rates.

The housing needs report also suggests that there is some evidence of some properties being under occupied. This is particularly evident in larger properties with just under a third (32%) of households with 4 or more bedrooms occupied by only one or two people.

Some of this need will be created by first time buyers trying to get onto the property ladder as well as by the growth in the number of households of retirement age, many of whom may wish to downsize.

Ensuring that homes are built to Lifetime Homes Standards will further help to provide for the needs of an ageing population wishing to live independently.

Consultation responses have indicated considerable support for the provision of smaller homes to deliver housing that meets the needs of an ageing population and to provide an opportunity for the population of the Parish to secure housing which is both smaller and affordable.

For example, when asked about what types of housing is most needed in the villages of Ellistown and Battleflat as part of the Housing Need Survey undertaken by Midlands Rural Housing in 2014, of those that believed more homes were needed, the preferred were small family homes, homes for elderly people and Homes for single people. Further data in support of the proposed housing mix is provided in the Census information (Appendix 3) and Housing Needs Report (Appendix 4).

POLICY H3: NEW HOUSING MIX – Housing development proposals should provide a mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to help meet the identified needs of the Parish. The provision of smaller homes, especially for young families and young people and for older people who wish to downsize, will be supported.

3 Employment and the Economy

3.1 Introduction

The Parish has a proud and rich employment history. It was the home of the former Ellistown Brick and Pipe Company and Ellistown Colliery and from which the modern origins of the settlement of Ellistown can be traced.

Traditionally it has acted as a centre of related employment activity not only for the Parish but for the wider area; a role it continues to perform.

3.2 Existing Employment Areas

The Parish remains a popular place for businesses to locate and prosper. It

is home to many large businesses. These are mainly based on existing purpose built employment sites such as the South Leicester Industrial Estate, Hill Top Industrial Estate and Interlink Business Park. In addition, there are numerous small businesses scattered across the Parish.

The continued popularity of the Parish for business development is reflected in the approval for a major 36 hectare employment related development off Beveridge Lane, now completed.

Levels of economic activity in the Parish are also high, with above average numbers of people in employment.

However, many people travel long distances, mainly by car, to work, and an above average number of people work in sectors of the economy where average wages are below the national average.

Consultation shows that the community is generally supportive of the existing employment provision in the Parish but is concerned about some of the adverse consequences associated with it, especially in terms of road safety and congestion, impact on the environment and encroachment onto important Greenfield sites.

They would also like to more to be done to ensure that local people benefit from these new economic and employment opportunities.

POLICY E1: SUPPORT FOR EXISTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – There will be a presumption against the loss of commercial and retail premises or land (A and B-class) which provides employment or future potential employment opportunities. Applications for a change of use to an activity that does not provide employment opportunities will be supported if it can be demonstrated that the commercial premises or land in question has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for employment generating uses and as demonstrated through the results both of a full valuation report and a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least six months.

3.2 Small Scale Employment Development

Ellistown and Battleflat Parish is home to some small-scale employment related development scattered across the Parish.

This includes offices, the conversion of existing buildings and homeworking. These businesses are an important source of jobs and help to diversify the economy.

Many of these businesses are situated in residential areas. This includes a growing number of residents that work from home. The vast majority of such businesses can operate and prosper in residential areas without issue.

Consultation shows that the community is keen to support and encourage such small-scale employment related development where it can be carried out in residential areas or the countryside without causing unacceptable disturbance to the residential amenity or a negative impact on the road infrastructure.

Though often this type of development, for example, homeworking does not necessarily need planning permission, where it is required the Plan is generally supportive of their provision where in a suitable and appropriate location.

POLICY E2: SUPPORT FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – New employment-generating opportunities will be supported where it:

- a) Falls within the boundary of the limits of development unless it relates to small scale leisure or tourism activities, or other forms of commercial/employment related development appropriate to a countryside location or there are proven exceptional circumstances; and
- b) Reuses land or buildings wherever possible; and
- c) Is of a size and scale not adversely affecting the character, infrastructure and environment of the village itself and the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the countryside; and
- d) Does not involve the loss of dwellings; and

- e) Does not increase noise levels to an extent that they would unacceptably disturb occupants of nearby residential property; and
- f) Does not generate unacceptable levels of traffic movement; and
- g) Contributes to the character and vitality of the local area; and
- h) Is well integrated into and complement existing businesses

The following types of employment development will be supported:

- a) The small-scale expansion of existing employment premises across the Parish;
- b) Small-scale new build development within the Limits to Development.

3.3 Connecting Local People and Businesses to the New Economic and Employment Opportunities.

A major theme of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation was to help local people and businesses benefit from the existing and planned economic development opportunities in the Parish and the wider area. In particular, it identifies a need to ensure that all local people (especially young people) have the skills needed to access jobs and meet the needs of employers.

To reinforce this the Plan will support and promote actions aimed at connecting local people to the new job opportunities and preventing the barriers such as training or transport that restricts them doing so. This benefits both businesses and local people.

POLICY E3: CONNECTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE TO THE NEW ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – The Neighbourhood Plan supports and encourage actions aimed at maximising opportunities for local people to access jobs and meet the needs of the economy, including the promotion of local employment and training opportunities such as local labour agreements or similar; improved public transport, cycling and walking provision; travel plans and supporting the development of micro and start-up businesses.

4 Shops and Community Facilities

4.1 – Introduction

Providing sufficient community facilities such as leisure, cultural, health, education and community facilities, shops and places of workshop are important in supporting strong, healthy and sustainable communities. They are also important for providing a sense of local community and community life as well as sustainable development.

4.2 Shops and community facilities

The Parish has some shops and community facilities, including a Primary School, two Churches, a pub, convenience store/post office, Scout hut, a newsagent and a fish and chip shop and some more are planned as part of the South East Coalville Development Scheme such as a primary school.

It lacks, however, a wide range and number of shops and community facilities that are available in neighbouring communities such as Ibstock and Coalville. For example, it does not have a doctor's surgery, chemist or a parish/community hall.

This under-provision of community facilities is underlined through consultation with the community – with 41% of residents taking part describing social, community and educational facilities in the Parish as poor. The lack of community facilities was also highlighted in consultation undertaken with young people alongside and as part of the development of the Plan. Specific questionnaires developed by and for young people in the Parish identified a range of shortcomings such as a skate park, the need for more football pitches, clubs and activities including a youth centre.

This means that many people travel, overwhelmingly by car, to the nearby centres of Coalville and Ibstock to meet their shopping and community facility needs. This contributes to the congestion in the Parish and carbon emissions, and can create challenges for those residents in the Parish that have a disability or do not have access to a car.

In addition, in recent years there has also been a decline in the number of

shops in the Parish, as some have been lost to non-core shopping uses including takeaways, whilst others have been converted into houses.

Consultation shows that the protection and enhancement of shops and community facilities is a top priority of the local community who wish to see the existing provision protected and enhanced.

POLICY SCF1: EXISTING SHOPS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES –Development proposals that result in the loss, or have a significant adverse effect on, an existing shopping use or community facility will not be permitted unless (i) appropriate alternative provision of equal or better community benefit is provided in the Parish, or (ii) it can be demonstrated to North West Leicestershire District Council in consultation with Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council that the facility is no longer required by the community and/or viable, and that suitable alternative community uses have been considered.

POLICY SCF2: NEW SHOPS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES – Development proposals that involve provision of new or the enhancement of an existing community facility such as a new village hall, medical facility or shop will be supported where it meets a local need and subject to transport, environmental, amenity and landscape considerations.

4.3 Assets of Community Value

The designation of a community facility as an Asset of Community Value provides an opportunity to protect buildings and land that are important to the local community and which they wish to protect from inappropriate development.

If an asset is „Listed“ the Parish Council or other community organisations will then be given the opportunity to bid to purchase the asset on behalf of the local community, if it comes up for sale on the open market.

The Parish Council will seek the designation of the Ellistown Miners Welfare Club, Charnwood Arms, St Christopher’s Church, Ellistown Community Primary School and Wesleyan Chapel as Assets of Community Value. Other designations may be sought by the Parish Council during the lifetime of the Plan.

POLICY SCF3: ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – The Parish Council will support the listing of Assets of Community Value, and once listed will work to support their longevity. Development proposals that support their longevity will be encouraged.

5 – Natural Environment

5.1 Introduction

The relatively green and open character of the Parish is one of its distinctive features.

Much of it is open in nature. This includes large areas of open countryside interspersing the villages of Ellistown and Battleflat as well as important green spaces within the built-up areas.

Consultation shows that protecting and enhancing these open and green spaces to be a top priority for the community, with 98% of residents in the community questionnaire describing open and green spaces as being important features of Ellistown and Battleflat. 85% of respondents cited loss of green spaces as the primary concern about future development in the Parish.

They are important to the distinctive character of the Parish as they add to its beauty and distinctiveness and provide opportunities for leisure and recreation. They also contribute to managing climate change and conserving biodiversity.

5.2 Local Green Spaces

Green space is any open piece of land that is undeveloped (i.e. has no buildings or other built structures). It includes playgrounds, allotments, cemeteries, parks, recreational fields, ponds and generally any green space (that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation or water).

There is a good network of green spaces across the Parish, including children's playgrounds, sporting and recreational areas and an allotment site.

Consultation shows that these green spaces are prized by the community not only for the attractiveness, but also for their wider role and contribution to the character and well-being of the Parish. They wish to see them protected.

Local and National Planning Policy enables a Neighbourhood Plan to protect important local green spaces from inappropriate development, where it meets certain specified criteria, such as where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community, is demonstrably special to a local community and is not an extensive tract of land.

Based on the criteria set out in the NPPF and following consultation with the local community, two important Local Green Spaces have been identified as being special to the local community and requiring special protection from development. These are shown on the Local Green Spaces map (figure 4).

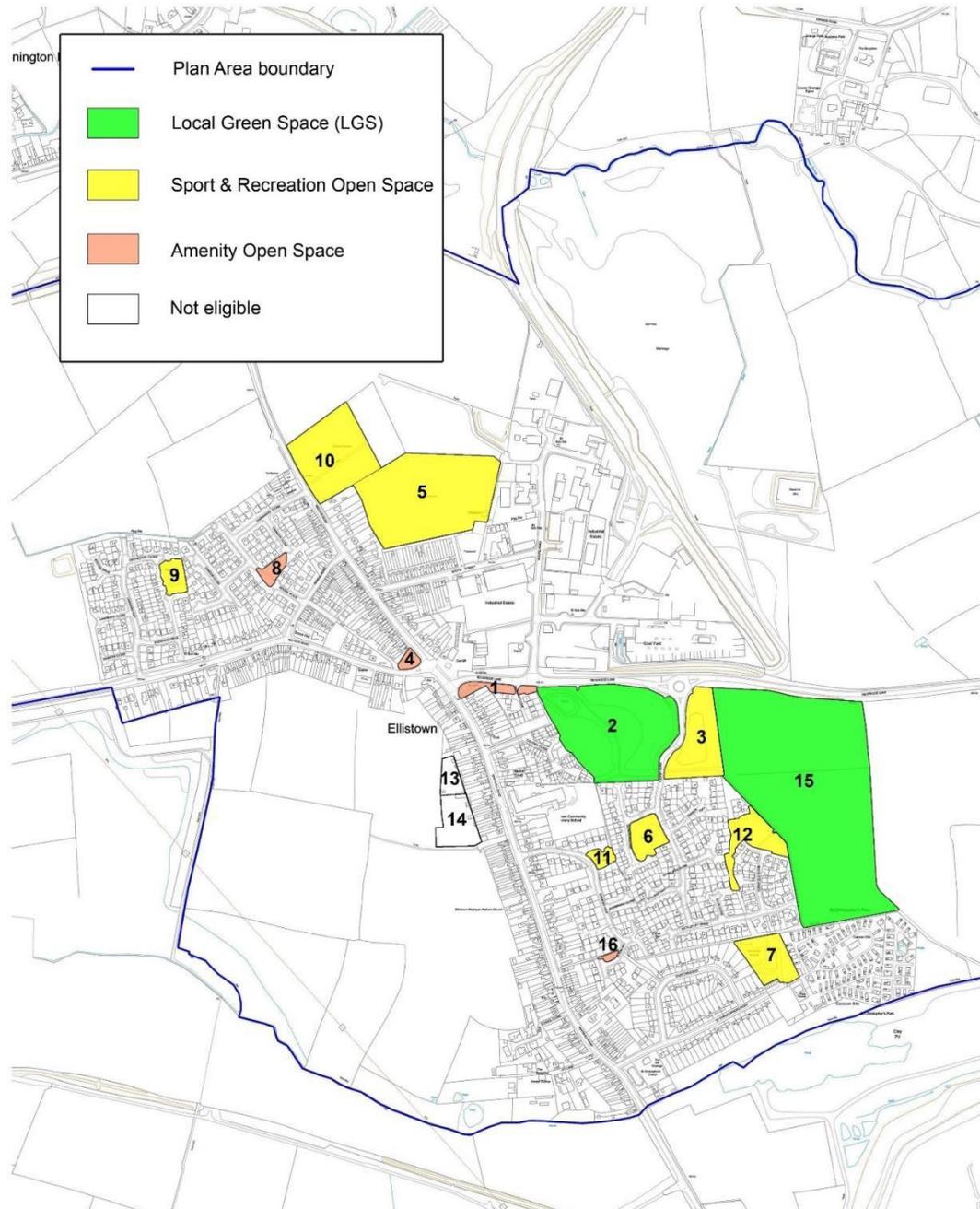
Figure 4 also shows areas of land shaded in yellow that are suitable for designation by North West Leicestershire District Council as Open Space Sports and Recreation Sites. Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council will work with the local planning authority to seek designation of these sites for this purpose. Also on the map, shaded in orange, are open spaces of amenity value to the local community. These sites are described in the Environmental Inventory (Appendix 5)

POLICY NE1: LOCAL GREEN SPACES: The following sites (Figure 4) are designated as Local Green Spaces, where development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances.

2 – Beveridge Lane Open Space

15 – Penny Wakefield Community Woodland

Fig 4 – Proposed Local Green Spaces



a. Biodiversity

Biodiversity includes all kinds of plants and animals, from the commonplace to the critically endangered. Protecting and enhancing bio-diversity is not only important from a wildlife and sustainable development perspective, but there are also wider benefits such as enhancing the distinctiveness, character and attractiveness of the Parish and the enjoyment of the natural environment.

Recent years has seen actions which have improved the bio diversity of the Parish. These include the regeneration of Ellistown Tip, which is now recognised as a locally important site of wildflower and wildlife value, as well as new tree planting across the Parish.

The Parish contains some sites that are of environmental and bio-diversity interest (see figure 5). These support a good and wide range of wildflowers and wildlife. This includes invertebrates, small mammals and other important species, including some significant and declining species such as Grey Partridge and Lapwing. None of these sites however have specific protection.

Consultation shows that the bio-diversity of the Parish is important to local people who wish to see it enhanced wherever possible.

POLICY NE 2: BIODIVERSITY – Development proposals which conserve, restore or enhance bio-diversity in and around them will be encouraged. Development proposals will be expected to maintain and, where possible enhance sites (especially Ellistown Tip), networks, hotspots and features (such as water courses, disused railways lines, trees and hedgerows) of bio-diversity importance.

b. Trees and hedgerows

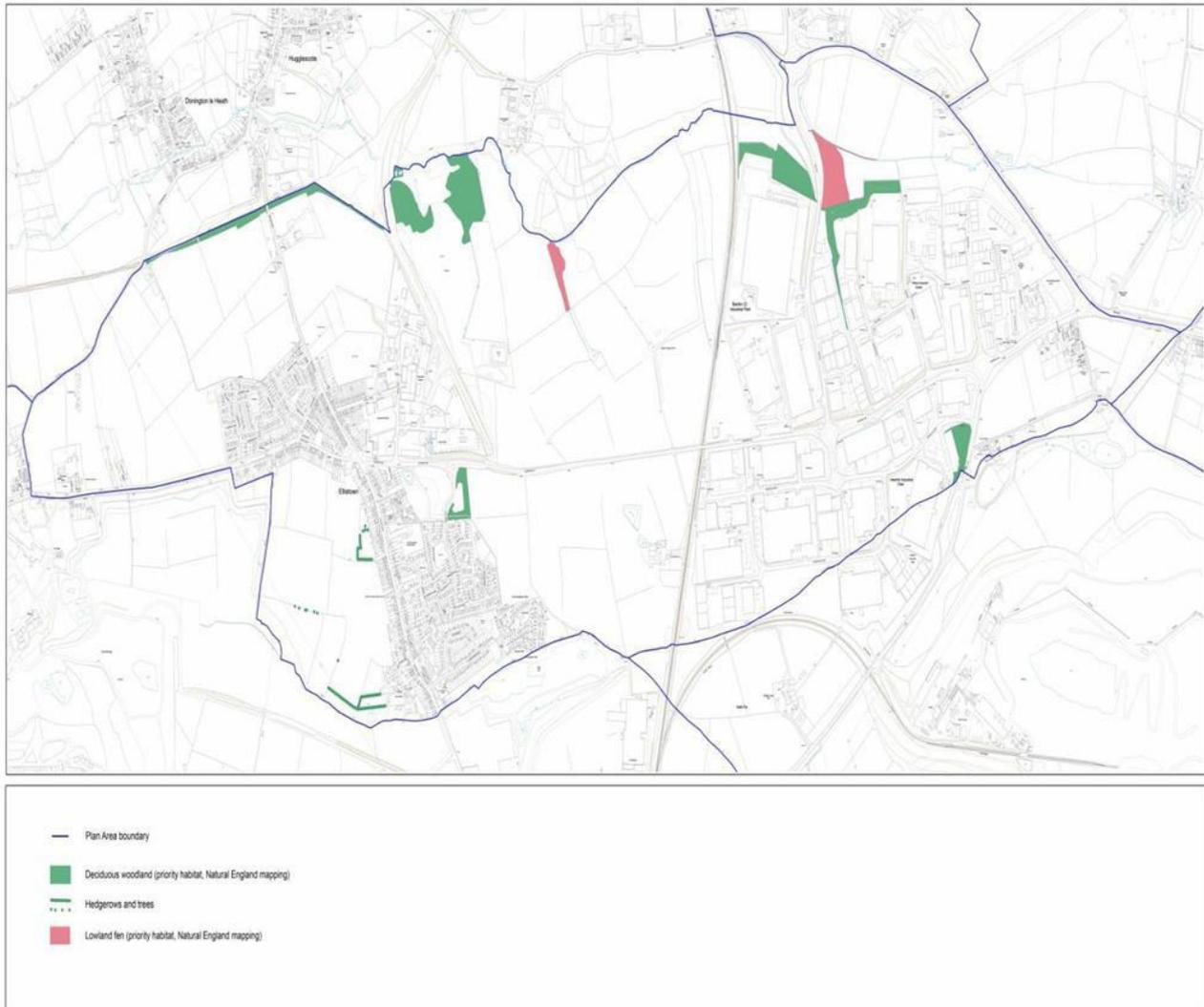
The Parish has a rich variety of trees and hedgerows. This includes woodlands which are mainly to be found in the north and east of the Parish as well as hedgerows, and individual trees which are to be found across the Parish (see Figure 5).

These are highly valued, especially as they make an important contribution to the character of the Parish and are of ecological value due to the species they support, including flora and bird species.

They are especially important as the Parish lies within the National Forest.

However, as studies such as The North West Leicestershire Settlement Fringe Study (2010) has highlighted, the Parish and the wider area is characterised by “generally low woodland cover”.

Fig 5 – Areas of Environmental Interest



A significant amount of local work has been undertaken by the Parish Council, National Forest and other partners to maintain and enhance tree and hedgerow coverage in the Parish such as tree planting in South Street Recreation Ground.

POLICY NE 3: TREES AND HEDGEROWS – Opportunities to enhance and promote the coverage of trees and hedgerows, including in partnership with the National Forest Company, will be encouraged. Trees and hedgerows of good arboricultural, biodiversity and amenity value should be protected from loss or damage as a result of development.

Wherever possible the planting of trees and hedgerows should be integrated into the design of development proposals.

6– Heritage Assets

c. Introduction

Ellistown and Battleflat’s heritage assets are unique and irreplaceable. They are valued by the community, and are important to the character, history and sense of identity of the Parish.

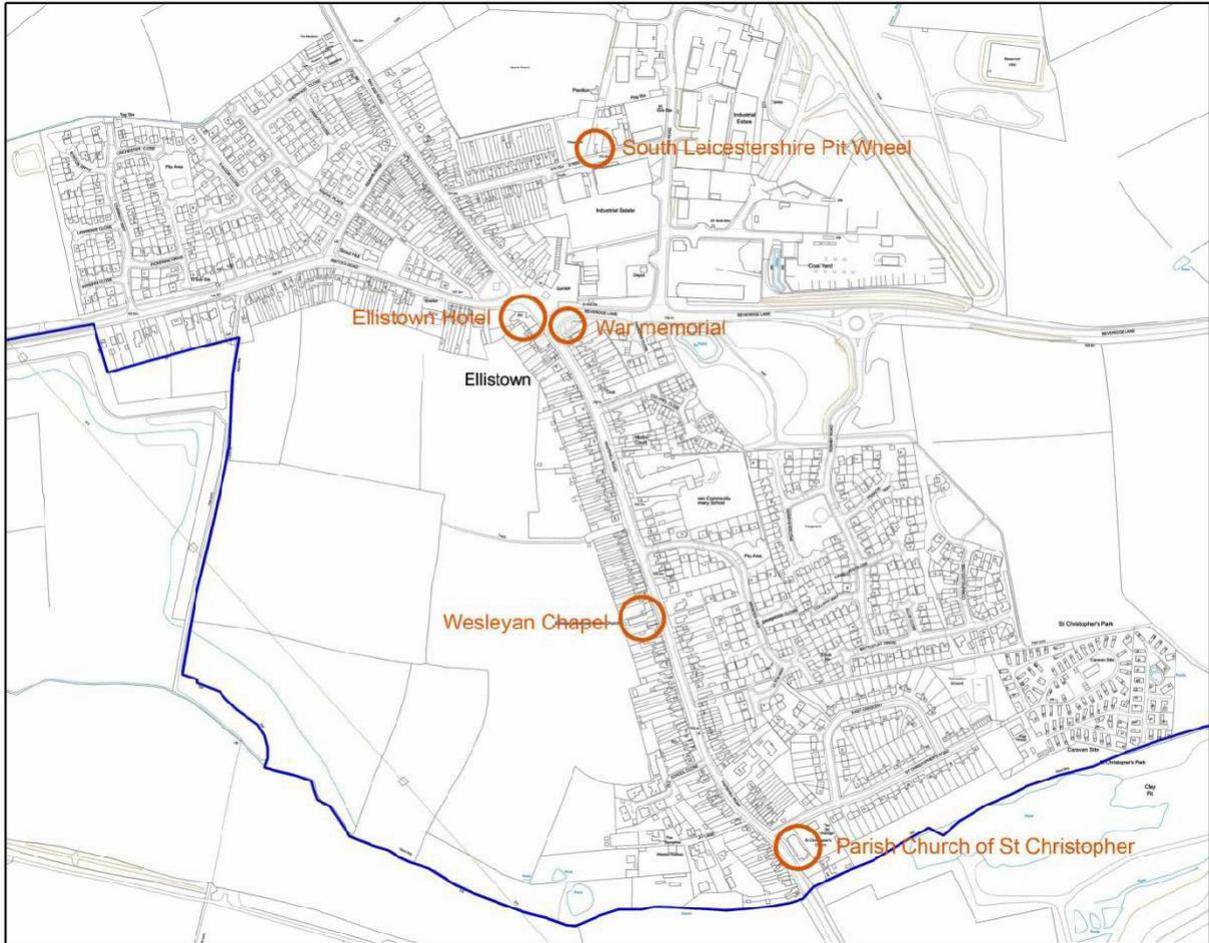
d. Important Buildings and Structures

Nationally, many important buildings and structures are protected through Listed Building and Ancient Monument status. These are buildings or other structures that have been identified by the Government and Historic England as being of special architectural, historical or cultural significance. Ellistown and Battleflat, is uncommon as there are no Listed Buildings or Ancient Monuments in the Parish.

There are many buildings which, whilst not meeting the criteria for national ‘Listing’, contribute to the special local historic and architectural character of the Parish, and are valued by the local community. These include the exterior of what was the New Ellistown Hotel; the Parish Church of St Christopher; the South Leicestershire Pit Wheel; the War Memorial and the Wesleyan Chapel.

Sometimes known as locally listed buildings, they have formal recognition in the planning system. These buildings are shown in Fig 6 and identified through the Neighbourhood Plan as non-designated heritage sites in accordance with national and local planning policies to ensure that all interested parties are aware of their local importance and merit, and the need to protect and enhance this. These buildings and structures are described in Appendix 6.

Figure 6 – Identified Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest



POLICY HBE1: BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OF LOCAL HERITAGE –
Development proposals that affect the buildings and structures of local historic or architectural interest listed below, or their setting, will be expected to conserve the historic and architectural interest in those development proposals.

New Ellistown Hotel;

The Parish Church of St Christopher;

The South Leicestershire Pit Wheel;

The War Memorial; and

The Wesleyan Chapel

7 – Getting Around

e. Introduction

Transport and accessibility is key to enable people to get to the locations, goods and services they need or want, and to foster a successful economy.

However, a balance must be struck between the importance of promoting accessibility and travel choice and a sustainable, vibrant and healthy Parish.

The issue of transport and accessibility is of special significance to the Parish. Its rural nature means that the vast majority of residents do not live, work or shop all in one place.

Many residents travel long distances to access key services such as work, education, healthcare, and shops.

The predominant means of travel is by car. There is no railway station in, or in close proximity to, the Parish. 89% of households in the Parish have access to one or more cars. A rate well above the national average at 76%.

The Parish's road network was not designed for high volumes of traffic and as such congestion is a problem on the main roads especially around and within the village of Ellistown. Ellistown village is generally congested during peak periods.

There is serious concern that further traffic growth arising from development, if left unchecked, would lead to more congestion and road safety issues that would deter future economic growth and increase the emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases as well as noise pollution.

It is recognised that the major new development in the Parish such as part of the South East Coalville Development Scheme will inevitable result in a major increase in transport movements especially by car and lorries. This however has been designed to encourage vehicle movements away from the village of Ellistown and towards the motorway network. It is important that this development requirement becomes a reality once the houses are built and become occupied.

Parking is also a major concern in the core of Ellistown. The roads and street pattern in the village have developed over many centuries, and are not suited to modern traffic. There is a serious issue with parking on the narrow streets in the village with the consequent detrimental effect on pedestrian and road safety and the ease by which traffic, including emergency and service vehicles, can travel within Ellistown.

The location and design of development, such as housing, employment, education, health, and retail and leisure facilities can have a significant impact on patterns of travel, and accessibility of such services and facilities, especially for those who do not have access to a car.

Residents expressed strong views about traffic issues, highlighting problems with congestion, road safety and issues with car parking. In the community questionnaire, 85% of respondents cited roads, traffic and parking issues as the primary concern over future development. In addition, at 86% the number of people who travel to work by car, for example, is well above the District (80%) and National averages (62%).

f. Road safety and congestion

Speed readings for Ellistown undertaken by the County Highways Authority demonstrate a pattern of recorded speeds being in excess of the speed limit for the area in question. This is particularly so in locations later highlighted for concerns in relation to parking on roads (Whitehill Road and Ibstock Road). Accident data for Ellistown confirms a total of 8 accidents in the village between July 2010 and July 2015, two of which were classed as serious and 3 of them being on Whitehill Road.

Accident data for Battleflat reveals a significant number of both slight and serious accidents since 2010. A total of 40 accidents, 5 of them classed as serious, have been recorded during this time period, demonstrating why transport related issues are so high on the list of concerns amongst residents in the Parish. Although Battleflat is a relatively small community of only a handful of houses, the Bardon Industrial Park is located within the area and the main A511 runs along the eastern boundary.

Congestion in Ellistown has been long recognised as a major concern, especially at peak times along the main road through the village.

This impacts negatively on community life and road safety and contributes to pollution. Consultation shows that residents wish to see it addressed, and are concerned about the impact the planned developments in the Parish will have.

To bring about improvements and to avoid a worsening situation, new developments are expected to help facilitate measures to address the issue of congestion in Ellistown.

POLICY GA1: ROAD SAFETY AND CONGESTION – Development proposals should be designed to ensure that the current problems with congestion and road safety are not exacerbated and, where possible, reduced.

The Parish Council will work with the Highway Authority, District Council and other partners to assess the benefits and costs of improved traffic management schemes. Schemes include: (i) establishing 20mph speed limits on roads central to the village; (ii) slowing traffic entering Ellistown to establish safe travel; (iii) re-routing traffic near to the Primary School; and (iv) minimising safety impacts from on-road parking.

The inclusion of traffic calming, or shared space features will be supported.

g. Car parking in Ellistown

Car parking is a serious issue in parts of Ellistown.

There is a serious issue with parking on some of the narrow streets in the village. It has a negative impact on quality of life, including noise, pedestrian and road safety and the ease by which traffic, including emergency and service vehicles, can travel within Ellistown.

Parking on roads is particularly bad on Whitehill Road from Beveridge Lane to St Christopher's Road where cars are often parked on both sides of the road and access is severely restricted, a situation that is exacerbated by cars pulling in to use the shops and to drop children off, or pick them up,

from the Primary School. Parking problems in this part of Ellistown can result in on-street parking on Spencer View, adding to the difficulties with safety and inconvenience to residents.

Parking is also bad on Ibstock Road at its junction with Kendal Road where the Scout hut attracts visitors most weekday evenings and cars can park on pavements alongside both a T-Junction and a bend in the main Ibstock Road which restricts visibility at a place where children are often walking.

The way in which car parking is designed into development will have a major effect on addressing this issue, in particular, the extent to which parking is provided within the curtilage of a development, and ensuring that the extent of existing car parking provision is protected and wherever possible enhanced.

POLICY GA2: CAR PARKING IN ELLISTOWN – Development proposals that result in the loss of, or adversely affect, the existing car parking provision along Whitehill Road and Ibstock Road will not be supported unless they provide for more or at least the same number of existing parking spaces lost, ideally within or adjacent to the curtilage of that development. Where it is not possible to provide car parking on or adjacent to the site a funding requirement will be sought toward providing public facilities or traffic management schemes in Ellistown.

h. Walking and Cycling

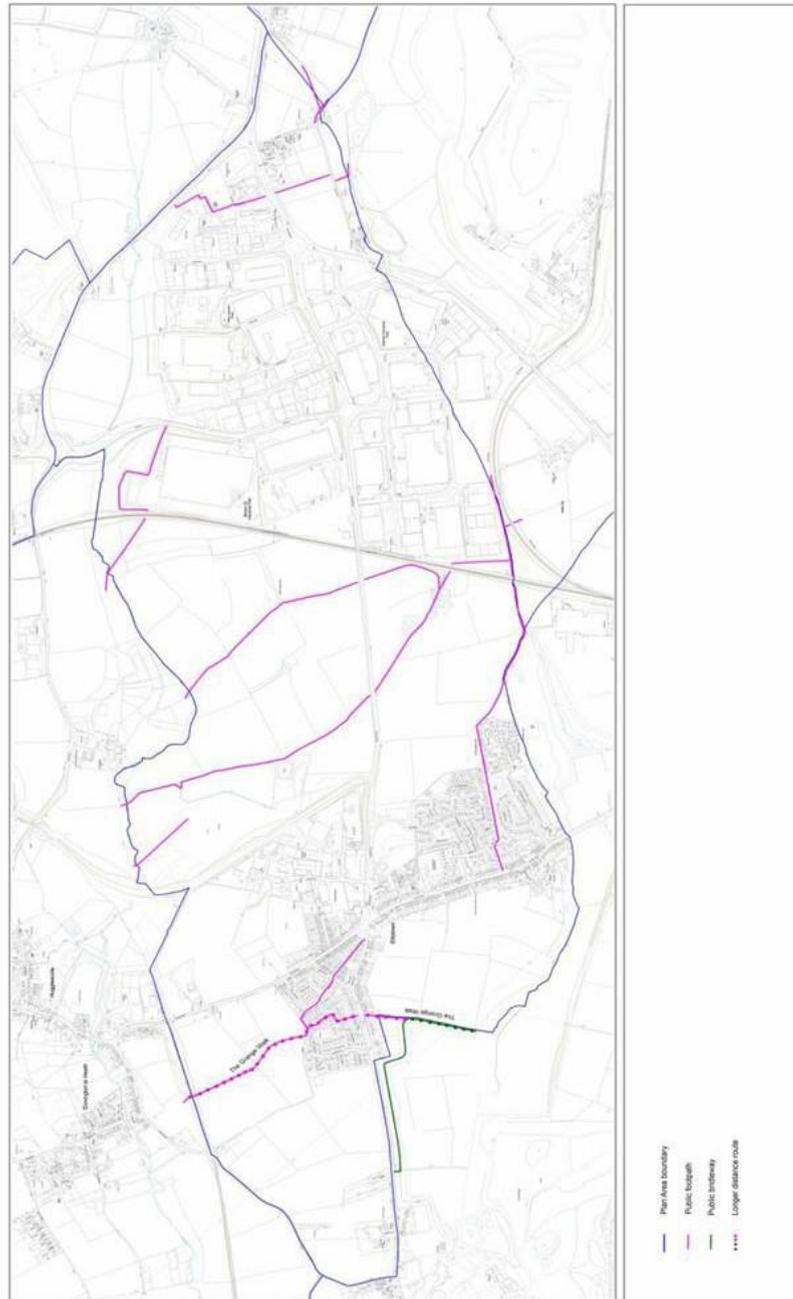
The Parish is well suited to walking and cycling. It is relatively flat and compact, for example. While it has some footpaths (see figure 7, including part of the Grange Walk a 14 mile circular long distance trail, the network is not as developed as you would expect for a Parish of its size.

There is all some evidence however that levels of walking and cycling by residents are below the national average with the number of people that walk or cycle to work less than half the national average.

Consultation shows that the existing network is highly prized by residents and that they would like ~~to~~ improvements, so that people are encouraged to walk or cycle rather than drive especially for short journeys.

In particular, it is considered that there is scope to provide safe and attractive routes to connect the village of Ellistown and the Parish more generally to the major new employment and residential planned developments in the pipeline.

Figure 7 – Public Rights of Way



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POLICY GA3: WALKING AND CYCLING – The provision of new and /or the enhancement of existing footpaths and cycleways will be supported especially where these provide safe and attractive routes to the new major employment and residential areas from Ellistown village and/or connect to the existing network of such routes.

8 – Helping to address Climate Change

a. Introduction

The Parish takes the challenges posed by climate change and sustainability very seriously.

b. Climate change

A Neighbourhood Plan can make an important contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by seeking to ensure that new and existing development across the Parish reduces carbon emissions and other factors that contribute to climate change and global warming. This could include incorporating high standards of energy efficiency in new developments including conversions and small scale renewable energy schemes.

Consultation shows that residents wish to see development proposals contribute to sustainable development. In the community questionnaire, 93% of respondents stated that they were in favour of renewable energy being incorporated into new housing.

At the same time, there are some indications that average household carbon emissions in the Parish are above the national average to a large degree linked to the very high dependency on cars for journeys.

POLICY CC1: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION – Development proposals will be encouraged to maximise opportunities for sustainable design, construction techniques and practices.

9 – Monitoring and Review

The Neighbourhood Plan will last for a period of 13 years. During this time, it is likely that the circumstances which the Plan seeks to address will change.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be regularly monitored. This will be led by Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council on at least an annual basis. The policies and measures contained in the Neighbourhood Plan will form

the core of the monitoring activity, but other data collected and reported at the Parish level relevant to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan will also be included.

The Parish Council proposes to formally review the Neighbourhood Plan on a five-year cycle commencing in 2023 or to coincide with the review of the North West Leicestershire Local Plan if this cycle is different.