



Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan

(Submission version)
2016 - 2029

FOREWORD

This is the Submission version of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan which has been developed through extensive public consultation and reflects the hard work of the Neighbourhood Plan Forum over the last 24 months.

For those who want to know a little more about Neighbourhood Plans and how they fit into the planning system, the following summary may be helpful:

- They are part of the new planning system and have been introduced by the Government under the Localism Act 2011 to give people a greater say about the location and scale of development in the area and to help to protect valued landscape and community assets.*
- They can establish general planning policies for the development and use of land.*
- Once adopted, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Local Development Plan for the local authority and are used to consider planning applications.*

Neighbourhood Plans can have real influence and they are an important means of engaging local people in decisions on how their area will appear and function over the next generation.

This is an important stage for the Neighbourhood Plan. After it is submitted to Northampton Borough Council an independent examination and referendum will follow. We will then need your support to get the Plan "Made" such that it has legal weight. On submission, the Plan will be placed on deposit by the Borough Council for 6 weeks for any formal representations to be made by local residents and businesses and statutory consultees. Any matters raised will then be considered by the independent examiner.

This Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan is a Policy Document. As well as policies, it includes a summary of the background research and the Vision and Objectives for the Plan. It is accompanied by;

1 The Statement of Community Involvement: This describes how local people, businesses and other bodies have been consulted on the plan and summarises the comments which have been received.

2 A Basic Conditions Statement: This explains how the plan meets legal requirements and it also summarises the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening.

In addition, evidence base reports, which have helped to inform the content of the Neighbourhood Plan, are available on request, as separate documents.

Finally, we will keep you in touch with progress on the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan as it moves through examination. We expect that, subject to modifications, it will be put to referendum in the autumn. Please remember, that the Neighbourhood Plan will help to shape the future of the area over the next 14 years and if it is supported by the local community, it will have real legal power. I and my colleagues on the Neighbourhood Forum look forward to a good turnout and a positive outcome in the referendum.

Andrea McAuliffe,
Chair of Growing Together
Neighbourhood Forum

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. HOW THE PLAN WAS PREPARED
3. POLICY CONTEXT
4. SUMMARY OF ISSUES
5. THE VISION AND OBJECTIVES
6. POLICIES
7. NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION

APPENDIX 1 – LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS

APPENDIX 2 – USE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

GLOSSARY

INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION

Plan Area and Purpose

1.1 This document is the Submission version of the Neighbourhood (Development) Plan for the Growing Together area, which comprises the communities of Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lingswood Park, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge (see Figure 1 below).

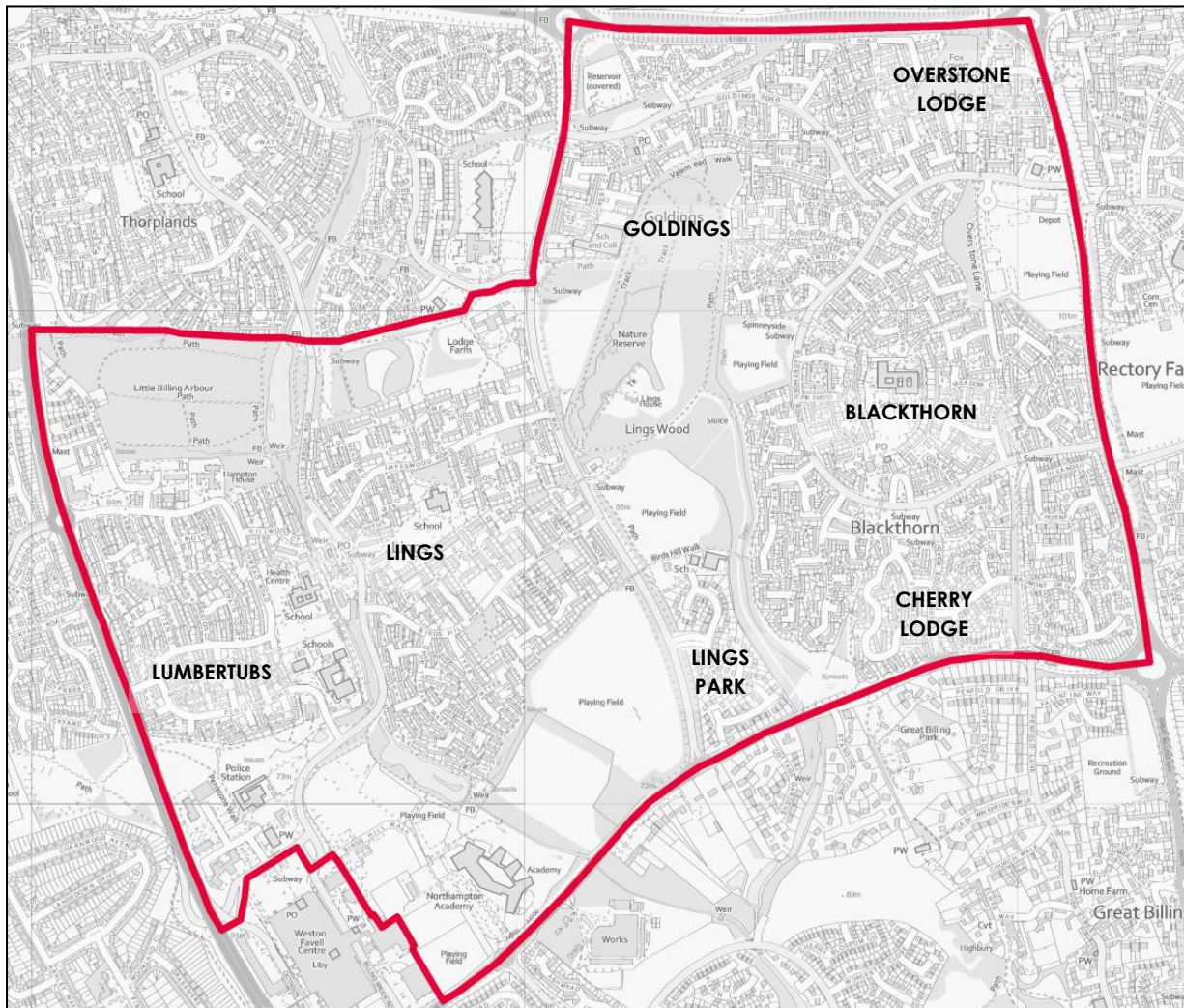


Figure 1: Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area

1.2 The Growing Together area lies to the north-east of Northampton town centre. Figure 2 shows wider context within which the Neighbourhood Plan area lies, and the key destinations which surround it.

1.3 Like much of east Northampton, the estates were originally developed on greenfield land in the late 1960s/early 1970s to house a “London overspill” population. This recent history does mean that there is often a sense of belonging that can be seen as unusual in an urban area, with older local residents from across the area able to refer to a shared past of migration.

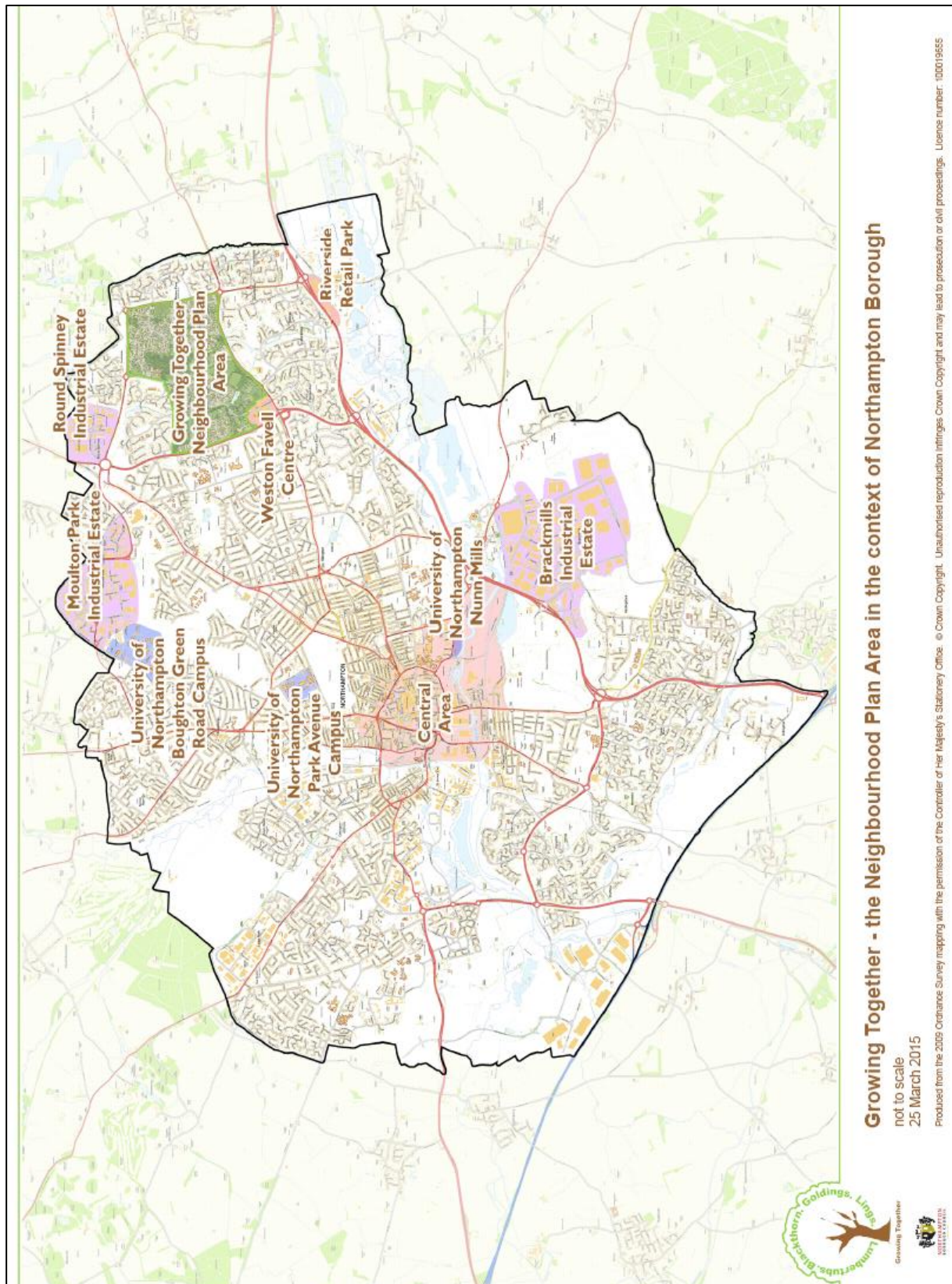


Figure 2: Growing Together in relation to wider borough context

1.4 A key characteristic of the Growing Together area is an abundance of dedicated pedestrian routes, which offer residents the opportunity to easily move throughout the area on foot or bicycle. Unfortunately, many of these pedestrian

routes, which were developed according to the Radburn housing layout principles, lack natural surveillance and consequently often feel unsafe and can be conducive to anti-social and criminal activity.

1.5 The countryside is never far away and many of the street names provide a direct link to the rural past: Old Barn Court, Great Meadow, the Paddocks etc. Some original farm buildings still stand. The area remains blessed with abundant open natural space. At the centre are the 22 hectares of Lings Wood, a designated Local Nature Reserve. The Wood is managed on behalf of Northampton Borough Council by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

1.6 Generally speaking, local retail, community and leisure facilities are provided on an estate-by-estate basis. Figure 3 shows the locations of the key local facilities provided in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area.

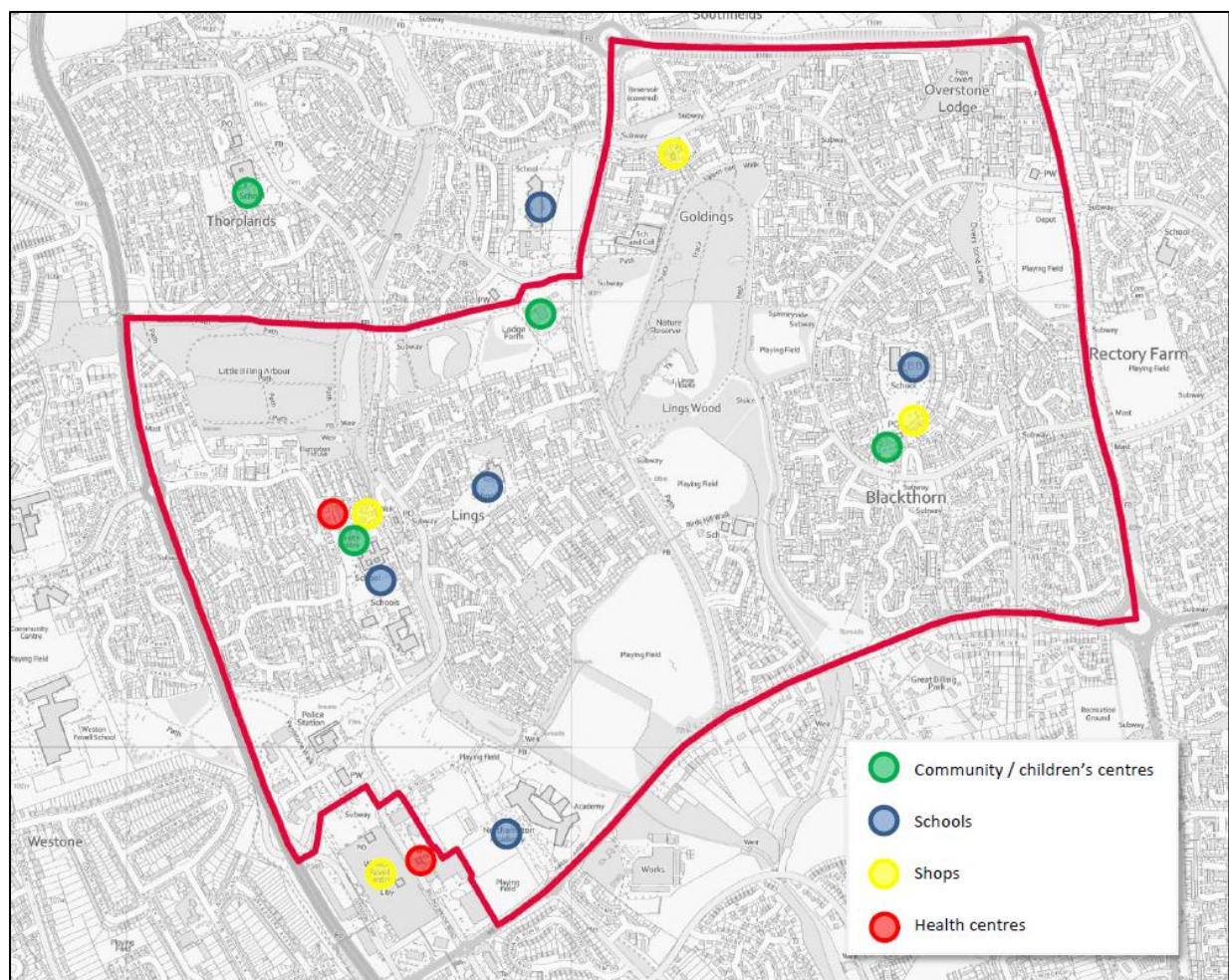


Figure 3: Key local facilities

1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2016 to 2029, corresponding with the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS – 2011 to 2029) and with that document the Neighbourhood Plan will become the planning framework for Growing Together. It is envisaged, therefore, that the Neighbourhood

Plan will provide a context for future planning decisions for the Growing Together area over a period of 14 years.

1.8 A Neighbourhood Forum made up of local residents, elected NBC Members and other organisations such as the Police and Wildlife Trust has prepared the Neighbourhood Plan. The process commenced in September 2013 with the designation of both the Forum and Neighbourhood Plan Area.

1.9 The preparation and development of the Neighbourhood Plan has been shaped by the opinions and feedback received from a series of public consultation events. Details of the approaches to public consultation are provided in the Consultation Statement document and a summary of work to date is given in Section 3 below.

1.10 The Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside the Lottery-funded Big Local project and associated Big Local Plan, which is being progressed to regenerate the Growing Together area and help the local community to achieve its aims.

HOW THE PLAN WAS
PREPARED



2. HOW THE PLAN WAS PREPARED

Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum

2.1 This Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum, which comprises the Growing Together Community Partnership plus a number of local stakeholders, including local residents, and also individuals from the voluntary and public sectors.

2.2 Throughout the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Forum has sought the views of those people who live and work within the Plan area. An overview of the community consultation undertaken to inform and underpin the content of this Neighbourhood Plan is given below.



Figure 4: The opinions of local people have helped to shape the content of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan

Community Consultation

Big Local Plan consultation (2012 and early 2013)

2.3 Prior to commencing work on the Neighbourhood Plan, an initial series of consultation events were held as part of the Big Local Plan exercise, the aims of which were to identify areas for the spending of £1million allocated to the area by the Lottery through their Big Local programme.

2.4 These initial consultation events were progressed in 2012 and early 2013. A number of approaches were taken to consultation, with the aim being to ensure as many local people as possible were given the chance to express their opinion. Consultation included:

- public consultation events – these were often held alongside other major community events such as the Jubilee celebrations and the passage of the Olympic flame. Others took place at half-term and school holiday events, and in the local shopping centre during the week before Christmas;
- focused consultation events for public and voluntary sector organisations working in the area;
- doorstep engagement and discussion; and
- targeted consultation with young people was undertaken through two local youth organisations, which included both direct engagement at scheduled activities and online via Survey Monkey.

2.5 From the feedback gathered through these consultation exercises, themes for investment of the Lottery money were identified. These themes included the following:

- Tackling crime and making the area feel safer
- Improved facilities, activities and opportunities for children and teenagers
- Enhancing the local environment
- Bringing the community together and encouraging active citizenship

2.6 In late 2013 the Forum undertook an exercise of reviewing these broad themes to identify which could be linked to land-use issues and potentially addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan. From this exercise, they identified six themes:

- Housing
- Green spaces
- Reclaiming underused / derelict buildings and spaces
- Creating safer places
- Transport and movement
- Community facilities

2.7 In addition, during this consultation period, there were a number of issues raised which the Forum felt could not be addressed through the Big Local Programme investment, but that should be explored during the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process. These included the issues of fuel poverty in the local area and the need to bring more people into employment.

Neighbourhood Plan consultation (Summer 2014)

2.8 Building upon the findings of the Big Local Plan consultation, the Forum undertook a community-wide consultation specifically focused on the Neighbourhood Plan during the summer months of 2014.

2.9 Many residents from the Growing Together area have not traditionally been involved in the planning system, and mail or web-based consultation methods have a track record of very poor return rates in this locality. For this reason the Forum agreed that a particularly personal and informal approach to consultation was required, where local people could speak to Forum members face-to-face and articulate their aspirations and concerns.

2.10 To facilitate this consultation, stalls were set up at the following key local venues:

- 19 July - Blackthorn Community Centre Fun Day
- 21 July - Blackthorn Children's Centre foyer
- 31 July - Foyer of Lings Forum sports centre and cinema
- 20 August - Weston Favell shopping centre
- 16 and 17 September - Emmanuel Church coffee shop

2.11 The above events were arranged to coincide with popular local events or during times when footfall would be highest. In total, these events represented 32 hours of contact time with the public.

2.12 At these consultation events, members of the public were asked to provide responses to the following four questions:

1. What areas could to be improved so they can serve their current purpose better?
2. What areas could accommodate alternative uses, and what would these uses be?
3. What additional facilities are required to support new / expanded activities?
4. What buildings and open spaces in the area should be retained and protected?

2.13 The responses received to the above four questions highlighted the following issues as being those which people living and working within the Growing Together area wished to see addressed in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan:

- Improvement of existing play spaces, and creation of new play space facilities.
- Enhancement of community spaces, including sports and recreation facilities, and creation of new community facilities (in particular a childcare centre).
- Protection and enhancement of green spaces.
- Enhancement of retail and community facilities within the existing neighbourhood centres.
- Improved pedestrian and cycle links.
- Redevelopment of key vacant and derelict sites, including the Silver Horse pub and the school sites (Lings Upper & Emmanuel Middle Schools and Blackthorn Middle School). Suggested uses included residential, community and retail.
- Opportunity to replace existing garages with new housing.

2.14 Underpinning much of the above feedback was a general desire for the Neighbourhood Plan to contribute to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour and to create an environment which is safe, pleasant and functional.

Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 consultation (Summer 2015)

2.15 Following a review of existing evidence and using the consultation feedback provided through the previous consultation exercises, the Forum prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan, which was published for Regulation 14 consultation between 15 June 2015 and 27 July 2015. During this consultation period representations (comments) were invited from those who live, work or carry out business within the neighbourhood plan area and from statutory consultation bodies whose interests may be affected by the plan.

2.16 Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum designed the Regulation 14 consultation in a manner which sought to engage and reach out to as broad a cross-section of the local area's population as possible. The strategy involved a number of approaches, including:

- uploading the Plan and supporting documents to both Northampton Borough Council's and Growing Together's websites;
- placing printed copies of the Plan in local community buildings, including Blackthorn Community Centre, Brookside Hall, Weston Favell Library, and Lings Primary School;
- producing a summary booklet, which provided an overview of the draft Plan content;
- producing a questionnaire form which allowed for respondents to simply communicate their level of support for the Plan Vision and policies, as well as provide more detailed comments;
- sending a summary booklet and questionnaire form to every household within the Plan area;

- providing an option to respond via an online questionnaire;
- contacting and inviting comments from all relevant statutory consultees and other relevant local organisations via email; and
- holding a series of public events where people could ask questions about the draft Plan and complete questionnaire forms.

2.17 Upon completion of the Regulation 14 consultation all of the responses were collated and analysed. A total of 55 responses were received during the Regulation 14 consultation. Of these, 45 were from local residents and 10 were from statutory consultees. The vast majority of respondents were supportive of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and policies it contained. Therefore, following careful consideration by the Neighbourhood Forum it was agreed to progress to submission of the Neighbourhood Plan subject to undertaking a number of minor amendments to the policy document.

POLICY CONTEXT



3. POLICY CONTEXT

Planning Policy context

3.1 The policies in this draft Neighbourhood Plan are required to deliver the Vision and Objectives (see page 21) in a manner which is consistent with national planning policies and guidance (including the National Planning Policy Framework) and the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.



Figure 5: Policy context for the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (2014)

3.2 The WNJCS sets out strategic planning policies for Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northants district. The WNJCS seeks to make West Northamptonshire an outstanding location providing diverse employment opportunities, high educational attainment, high quality housing for all and a superb quality of life for its communities. This will include the development of new homes, jobs services, infrastructure and green spaces in Northampton.

Status of Northampton Local Plan 1997 (Saved Policies)

3.3 The Northampton Local Plan was adopted in 1997. A number of the policies were 'saved' in 2007 by the Secretary of State to ensure they remained part of the development plan and could continue to be used in determining planning applications. Many of those saved policies have now been replaced by WNJCS policies. Other remaining saved policies are likely to hold limited weight in decision-taking due to their age and are regarded as non-strategic.

3.4 Northampton Borough Council has commenced work on the *Northampton Local Plan Part 2*. Once adopted, the document will replace the remaining saved policies of the Local Plan 1997.

Technical note: Supporting documentation, including a review of Northampton's Development Plan, accompanies the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan (submission version).

SUMMARY OF ISSUES



4. SUMMARY OF ISSUES

4.1 Having reviewed the policy context, relevant evidence and statistics, and the comments and feedback received through consultation with the local community, the issues below have been identified.



Figure 6: Issues to be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan

VISION AND OBJECTIVES



5. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 In response to the **Issues** identified in the previous chapter, an overarching **Vision** has been prepared and a set of **Objectives** defined.

The Vision

The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan will conserve what is best about the existing built and natural environment and will encourage development that contributes to making the area a better place in which to live and work for all residents and businesses.

It will ensure that the area's network of green spaces, which offer significant educational, health and recreational benefits to the locality, remain the area's defining characteristic, whilst encouraging development which brings forward quality housing that responds to local need, increased employment opportunities, and a wider range of recreation, retail and community facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan also recognises that the Growing Together area is not an island, and on this basis, supports development that will enhance the area's reputation and improve links with the wider community of Northampton and beyond.

Objectives

5.2 Objectives are more specific than the vision and set out what the Neighbourhood Plan aims to achieve.

1. Built and natural environment

To create and support opportunities for improving the local environment for residents, visitors, and businesses.

2. Open space

To protect key local open spaces and create opportunities for the enhancement of these spaces.

3. Play space and recreation

To create and support opportunities for new play areas and recreation facilities, which cater for a range of age groups and can support a variety of sport and recreation activities.

4. Community facilities

To create and support opportunities for new community facilities, and to support the improvement and enhancement of existing community facilities.

5. Housing

To create opportunities for new high quality housing, and improve the condition, appearance and energy efficiency of existing housing.

6. Movement and connections

To promote the creation of a well-connected community, through supporting the enhancement of the existing network of footpath and cycle routes and the introduction of new links.

7. Employment

To support the creation of new employment generating uses suitable for the local community.



Figure 7: Objective 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan relates to the provision of quality play and recreation facilities

POLICIES



6. POLICIES

6.1 The policies detailed in this section stem directly from the Vision and Objectives, which themselves are the outcome of community consultation, a review of relevant evidence and statistics, and an understanding of the policy context for the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area.

6.2 These policies have been developed to manage future development within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area.

6.3 Each policy is contained within a coloured text box, and is supported by supplementary text which outlines both the 'intent' of the policy, and the 'justification' for the policy. The objective(s) which the policy seeks to fulfil is also identified within brackets underneath the policy title.

6.4 The Proposals Map on page 25 shows the locations and extents of those area-specific policies contained within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.



Figure 8: The policies contained in this section are aimed at ensuring new development meets the needs and aspirations those who live and work in the Growing Together Area

Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan - Proposals Map



Produced from the 2011 Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: 100019655

Policy section 1: Design quality

Policy DES1: High quality design

(Objective(s): 1, 2, 5 and 6)

New development within the Growing Together area should be designed to:

- a) Recognise and reinforce local character in relation to height, scale, and spacing of buildings.**
- b) Respect and protect heritage assets and their settings.**
- c) Enhance pedestrian and cyclist connectivity. This can include the improvement and upgrading of existing routes.**
- d) Create well defined, attractive and secure streets and spaces, faced by active frontages and benefiting from good levels of natural surveillance and lighting.**
- e) Retain mature or important trees of good arboricultural and/or amenity value.**
- f) Integrate refuse and recycling storage facilities to mitigate the visual impact they may have on the public realm. The storage and collection of refuse and recycling materials must be considered as part of the initial design process for all new developments, and these facilities should be designed as an integral part of the built form of development proposals.**
- g) Incorporate the principles of 'Secured by Design', or any equivalent standard which might amend or replace it in the future.**
- h) Provide adequate levels of parking taking into consideration the type of development, the accessibility of the location, and the requirements of borough parking standards. Parking should be designed to minimise its visual impact upon the townscape, however developments which propose parking courts will not be supported.**
- i) Respond to and enhance the setting of Local Green Spaces and other valued green spaces.**
- j) Achieve high levels of environmental performance and energy efficiency, minimising reliance on fossil fuels through the progression of renewable energy technologies. Proposals for small scale home energy generation, including wind and solar power, will be supported subject to there being no adverse impacts on local residential amenity.**

Intent

6.5 This policy sets out the key design principles new development within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area should seek to adhere to. It aims to ensure that development proposals are designed in a manner that contributes towards the enhancement of the local area, and the creation of a neighbourhood which is attractive and functional, as well as safe and secure.

Justification

6.6 This policy provides a positive framework for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development, as required in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 57). Through this approach, development will be welcomed where it can be shown that it helps to establish a strong sense of place and contributes positively to the creation of a well-functioning, visually attractive, safe and accessible environment.

6.7 Through following these design principles new development will help to eradicate the flaws associated with the existing housing layout, particularly the prevalence of poorly designed pedestrian routes, which lack natural surveillance and do not feel particularly safe to those using them (see Figure 9). In this regard, criterion 'd' of Policy DES1 is particularly key, with the need for more well defined, attractive and secure streets and spaces being critical to overall enhancement of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area.

6.8 Much of the Growing Together area suffers from high levels of income deprivation, a consequence of which is that many households struggle with fuel poverty, finding themselves unable to maintain a comfortable and warm home. Criterion 'j' of Policy DES1 seeks to address this issue through ensuring new development achieves high levels of energy efficiency, and by encouraging proposals for local energy generation through renewable technologies. This policy steer will also help the Growing Together area better adapt to the wider issue of climate change.



Figure 9: Many pathways found within the Growing Together area are edged by back gardens and suffer from poor levels of natural surveillance.

Policy section 2: Housing

Policy H1: Housing mix

(Objective(s): 5)

Proposals for new residential development should provide a mix of homes (taking into account identified housing needs and changes in population profile). Housing proposals should seek to maximise the proportion of affordable housing (including social rent properties) having regard to Local Plan policy and subject to viability.

Proposals that will deliver smaller (1 and 2 bed) affordable house will be particularly welcome.

Intent

6.9 This policy seeks to encourage the provision a mix of new high quality housing within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area, which meets the needs of the local population, with a particular focus on ensuring that adequate levels of affordable housing, including social rented properties, are brought forward. On this basis, development by Housing Associations will be particularly welcome within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Justification

6.10 The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area has a shortage of affordable smaller sized homes, in particular 1 and 2 bed dwellings. This is preventing individuals, couples and those with smaller families from down-sizing into more appropriately-sized accommodation. In many cases this has resulted in financial burden to these residents due the recently introduced 'bedroom tax'. More small affordable accommodation is required to address this issue.

Policy H2: Small-scale housing development

(Objective(s): 1 and 5)

Proposals for small-scale housing development (1-9 dwellings*), will be supported where they:

- a) are of a scale and form which would be complementary to surrounding properties and would not result in the loss of amenity for existing residents;**
- b) comply with the requirements of Policy H1 'Housing Mix' and Policy OS2 'Outdoor amenity space'; and**
- c) meet the criteria contained in Policy DES1 'High quality design'.**

Suitable sites for such small-scale housing development may include:

- infill sites;**
- redundant garage sites; and**
- low value / underused open space.**

*** 1-9 dwellings represents the threshold for applying this policy**

Intent

6.11 This policy promotes the efficient use of land within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Planning Area by encouraging the introduction of new small-scale housing development on sites and areas of land which are vacant or underused.

Justification

6.12 Northampton Partnership Homes, the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) that manages the Council's housing stock, has identified in their estate profiles for Blackthorn, Lings, Lumbertubs, Goldings and Overstone Lodge a number of opportunities to deliver new housing on underutilised and redundant spaces and buildings. These include a number of Council owned garage sites, which suffer from high vacancy rates – of 671 garages, 282 are vacant, which equates to a vacancy rate of 42%.

6.13 Feedback provided through public consultation also suggested local support for the introduction of new housing on poorly utilised spaces, including the garage sites.



Figure 10: Underused garage sites could be redeveloped to provide new housing

Policy section 3: Regeneration opportunities

Policy DEV1: Priority development areas

(Objective(s): 1, 4, 5 and 7)

The redevelopment of the following previously developed sites for mixed use development which meet the needs of the local community* is supported;

- **Former Silver Horse Public House**
- **Blackthorn Middle School**
- **Lings Upper and Emmanuel Middle School**

*** Uses which would meet the needs of the local community include:**

- **housing (C3)**
- **community facilities (D1 and D2)**
- **small-scale retail (A1) and restaurants / cafes (A3)**
local employment (B1)

Proposals for the redevelopment of these sites should:

- a) ensure the amenity of nearby residents is protected;**
- b) demonstrate that they would not adversely impact upon the vitality or viability of existing neighbourhood centres; and**
- c) meet the criteria contained in Policy DES1 (High Quality Design).**

Intent

6.14 This policy promotes the redevelopment of a number of derelict, previously developed sites within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area (see Figure 11 for locations) for uses which would contribute to the wider regeneration of the local area and meet the needs of the local community.

Justification

6.15 Each of the three sites identified in this policy have lain derelict for prolonged periods of time. They represent missed opportunities in their current undeveloped and stagnant state. This policy seeks to bring these sites back into use, for purposes which would meet the needs of the local population and promote the regeneration of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area, in line with the overarching aims of Joint Core Strategy Policy RC1 'Delivering Community Regeneration'. For further details on the acceptable uses outlined within Policy DEV1, see Appendix 2.

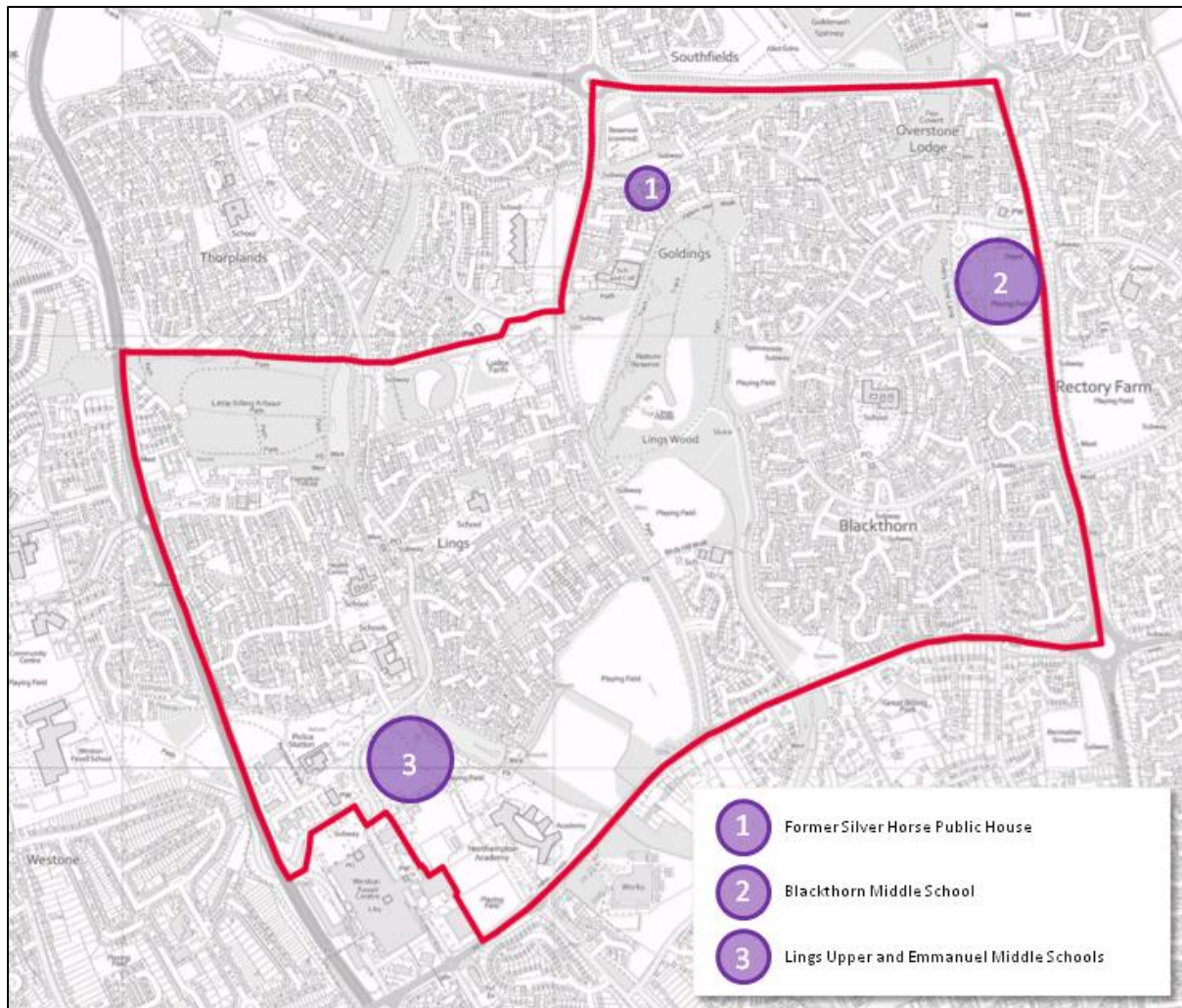


Figure 11: Location of priority development areas

Policy section 4: Community uses

Policy CO1: Provision of community facilities

(Objective(s): 1, 3, 4 and 7)

Proposals for the development of new or improved community facilities will be supported provided that their scale and design would be in keeping with the character of their location and that the impact on the amenity of surrounding residential properties would be acceptable.

Proposals which contribute to the community's play and youth facilities, childcare and educational offer*, will be particularly welcome.

In the context of this policy, community facilities means play areas, sports and recreation facilities, and other non-residential institution (Use Class D1) and Assembly and Leisure (Use Class D2) uses.

*** new educational facilities are encouraged to offer learning opportunities for all age groups.**

Intent

6.16 This policy seeks to promote the creation of a mix of new community facilities within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area. It seeks to ensure that such uses are brought forward in a manner which complement the existing area and does not adversely impact the amenity of local residents.

Justification

6.17 Community consultation feedback indicated a strong desire for new and improved community facilities within the local area. Specifically, there was a desire to see more community facilities to cater for the Growing Together area's large youth population, and also more learning-orientated facilities, which could help enhance local education and skill levels, leading to greater employment opportunities for local people. For further details on the acceptable uses noted within Policy CO1, see Appendix 2.

6.18 The area suffers from a lack of childcare facilities, which can be seen as an additional barrier to employment, with local people unable to access work due to parenting commitments.

6.19 Many existing community facilities are dated and could benefit from investment to enhance their appearance, functionality and overall offer to the local community.

Policy CO2: Loss of community facilities

(Objective(s): 3, 4 and 7)

The loss of community facilities will not be permitted unless:

- **it can be demonstrated that the community facility is no longer viable; or**
- **the proposed alternative use would provide equal or greater benefits to the local community*.**

In the context of this policy, community facilities means play areas, sports and recreation facilities, and other non-residential institution (Use Class D1) and Assembly and Leisure (Use Class D2) uses.

*** see 'Priority Projects' within Section 8 'Next steps and implementation' for a list of community-orientated projects and uses which would be of benefit to and welcomed by the local community.**

Intent

6.20 This policy seeks to ensure that existing community facilities are retained within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Justification

6.21 Community consultation feedback indicated that in addition to encouraging the introduction of new community facilities, existing community uses should be protected due to the significant role they play in strengthening community cohesion and offering local people essential leisure, recreation and educational opportunities. For further details on Use Class D1 and D2, as referred to within Policy CO2, see Appendix 2.

Policy section 5: Retail and neighbourhood centres

Policy RE1: Neighbourhood centres

(Objective(s): 1, 4, 5 and 7)

Proposals which contribute to the vitality and viability of the following three neighbourhood centres (as identified in Figure 12) will be supported:

- **Blackthorn**
- **Goldings**
- **Lings/Lumbertubs**

The loss of existing retail floorspace within these recognised neighbourhood centres will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that:

- 1. the existing retail floorspace is no longer viable and alternative users cannot be secured; and**
- 2. that the proposed new use would contribute to the Centre's role as key local destination and provide a tangible community benefit.**

Retail development outside these neighbourhood centres will only be supported where it can be clearly demonstrated that there would not harm the vitality and viability of any of these existing Centres.

Intent

6.22 This policy seeks the enhancement of the three neighbourhood centres of Blackthorn, Goldings and Lings, and the strengthening of their retail offer.

Justification

6.23 These neighbourhood centres accommodate the majority of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan Area's retail and community facilities offer. In addition to providing these essential local services, they also play an important role in maintaining and strengthening community relations, providing residents with central meeting places where they can relax and engage within each other. It is therefore critical that these centres continue to prosper, and that new development enhances their vitality and viability.

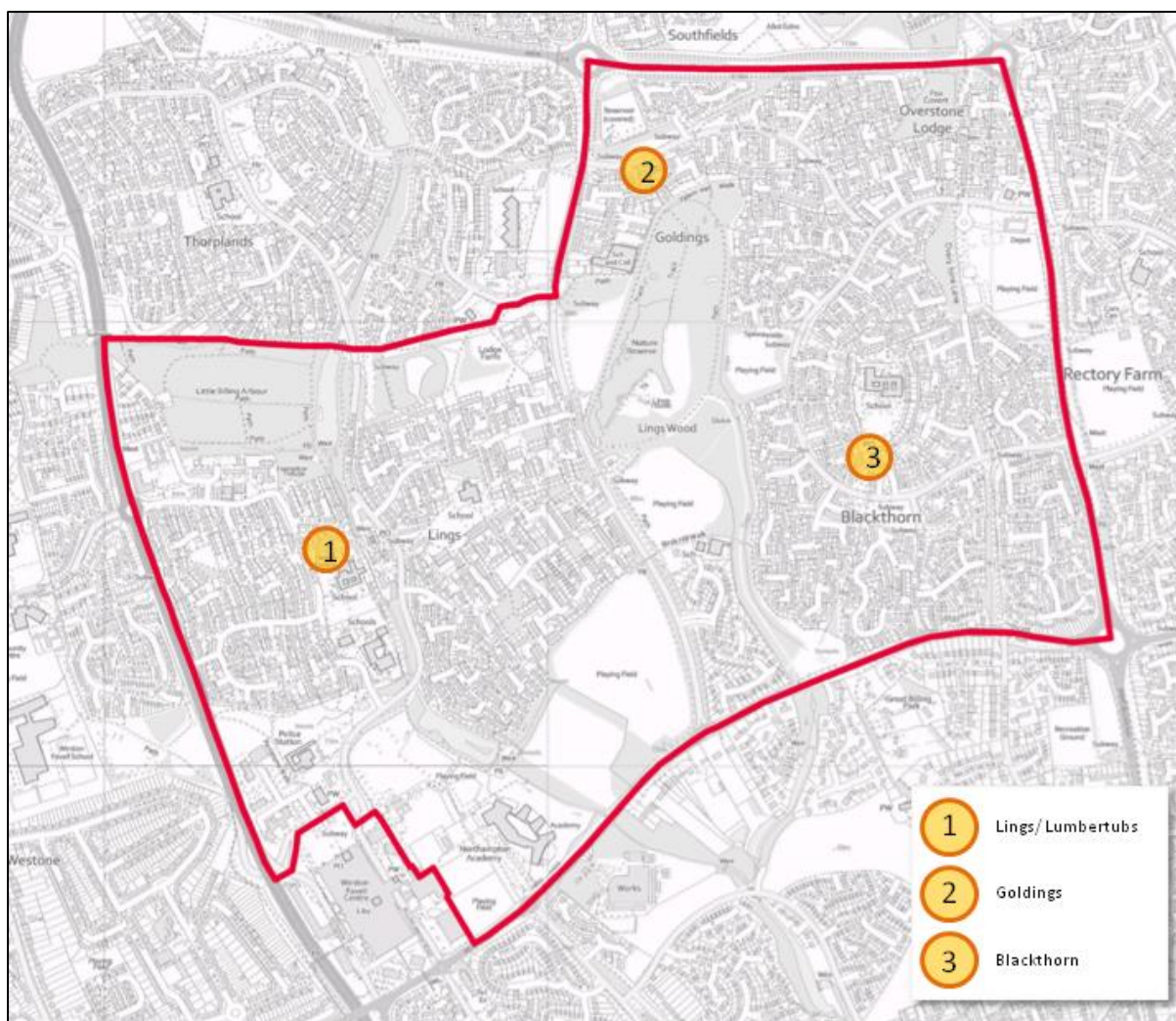


Figure 12: Neighbourhood centres



Figure 13: Policy RE1 seeks to enhance neighbourhood centres within the Growing Together area

Policy section 6: Open space, play and recreation

Policy OS1: Local Green Spaces

(Objective(s): 1, 2, 3, and 4)

The following green spaces, which have been demonstrated to be of significance to the local community, are designated as Local Green Spaces:

1. Billing Arbour
2. Swanhaven Park
3. Lodge Farm Field
4. Lumbertubs Park
5. Birds Hill Road Play Area
6. Lings Playing Fields
7. Lings Wood
8. Foxcovert Wood
9. Overstone Lane Wood
10. Blackthorn Recreation Ground
11. Blackthorn Community Centre green space

Development on Local Green Space be resisted unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

The location and extents of the above Local Green Spaces, are shown on the map in Figure 14.

Intent

6.24 This policy seeks to protect valued local green spaces from inappropriate development, and ensure that the Growing Together area retains those key local green spaces which offer significant benefits to the local community, which are one of the Neighbourhood Plan area's defining characteristics and greatest assets.

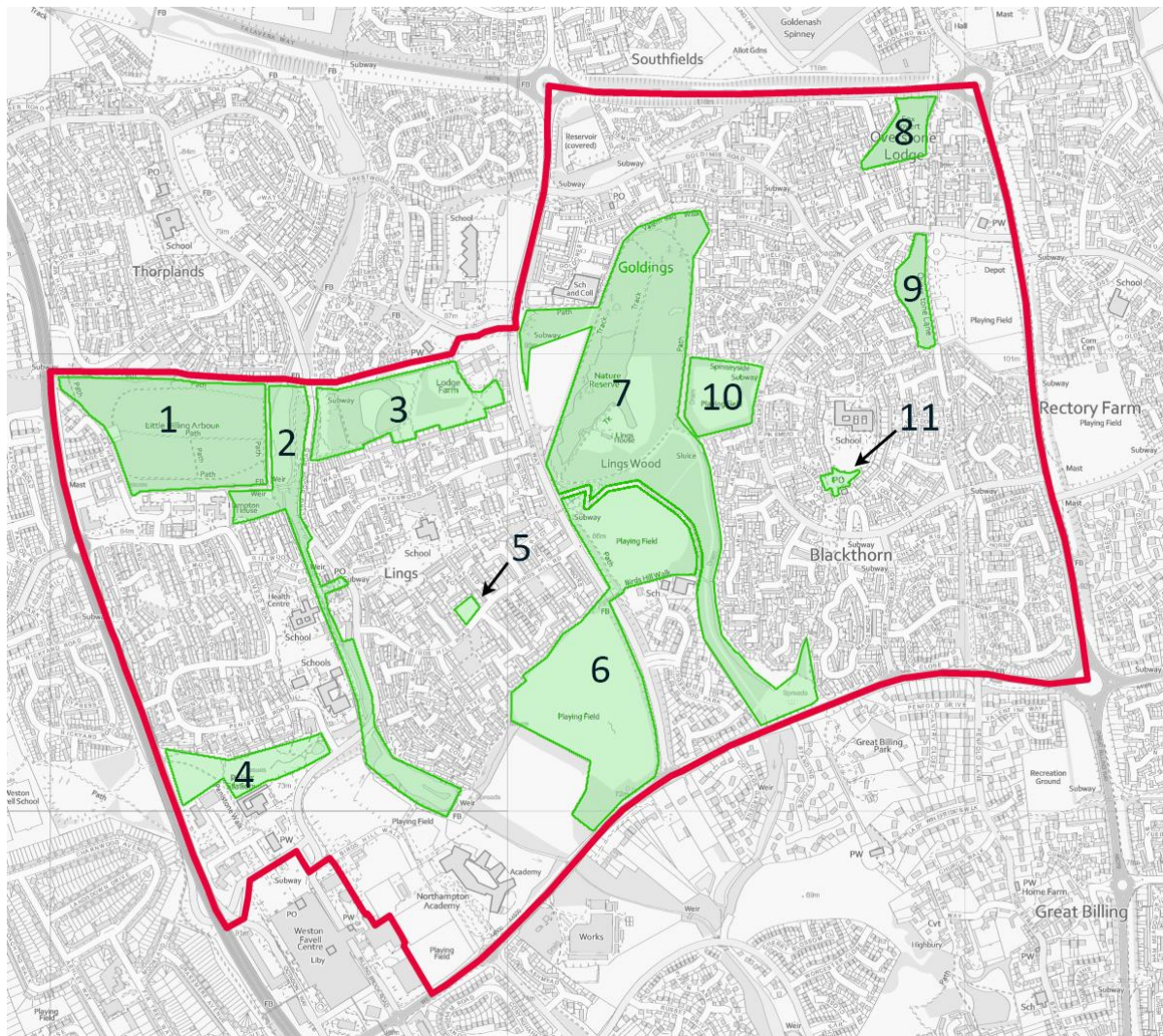


Figure 14: Map of designated Local Green Spaces

Justification

6.25 The Growing Together area benefits from a network of valued and well-used local green spaces, which play a significant role in contributing to the character of the local area, and provide residents with a variety of leisure and recreation opportunities.

6.26 The NPPF makes provision for neighbourhood plans to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to local communities and rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. The NPPF sets out the following requirements a green area or open space needs to meet in order to be considered suitable for Local Green Space designation:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic

significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and

- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

6.27 Each Local Green Space designation contained within Policy 1 has been assessed against these criteria, and deemed to meet the requirements of the NPPF. Full details of this assessment are contained in Appendix 1.

Policy OS2: Outdoor amenity space

(Objective(s): 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Proposals for new residential development should provide good quality outdoor amenity space in the form of either private gardens, terraces or balconies, or a shared communal amenity space.

Areas of existing amenity space that provide opportunities for leisure and recreation should be retained and enhanced.

Intent

6.28 This policy seeks to ensure that new residential development provides adequate private amenity space to meet the needs of new residents, and that existing amenity spaces of value are retained and enhanced for the benefit of local residents.

Justification

6.29 This policy requires that an element of usable private amenity space (excluding parking and turning areas) is provided for occupants. This is particularly important for those likely to spend a large part of their day in their home environment, such as those with young families, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. Gardens, balconies and terraces provide private outdoor areas which significantly enhance amenity and well-being.

Policy section 7: Movement and connections

Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network

(Objective(s): 1 and 6)

Support will be given to proposals which would add to or improve the existing network of cycle routes and footpaths (see Figure 15).

The loss of existing footpaths and cycle routes will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the particular route is:

- Poorly used and does not play an important role within the wider pedestrian and/or cycle network; and/or
- Poorly designed, facilitating crime / anti-social behaviour ; and/or
- Alternative routes, of better quality, are available or will be provided within the development proposal.

Where the removal of an existing footpath and/or cycle way is proposed, justification must be provided, and it must be adequately demonstrated why the enhancement and retention of the route is either not feasible or desirable.

Development proposals should be designed to create natural surveillance of footpaths and cycle ways, and such routes should benefit from satisfactory lighting to ensure they feel safe and secure.

Intent

6.30 This policy promotes the retention and enhancement of key pedestrian and cycle routes, and the expansion of the existing footpath and cycle lane network.

Justification

6.31 The Growing Together area currently benefits from a number of well-used pedestrian and cycle routes which allow residents and visitors to easily move between key locations via foot or bicycle. Many of these routes run through valued green spaces and woodland where they offer scenic and tranquil walks while also enhancing accessibility into these areas.

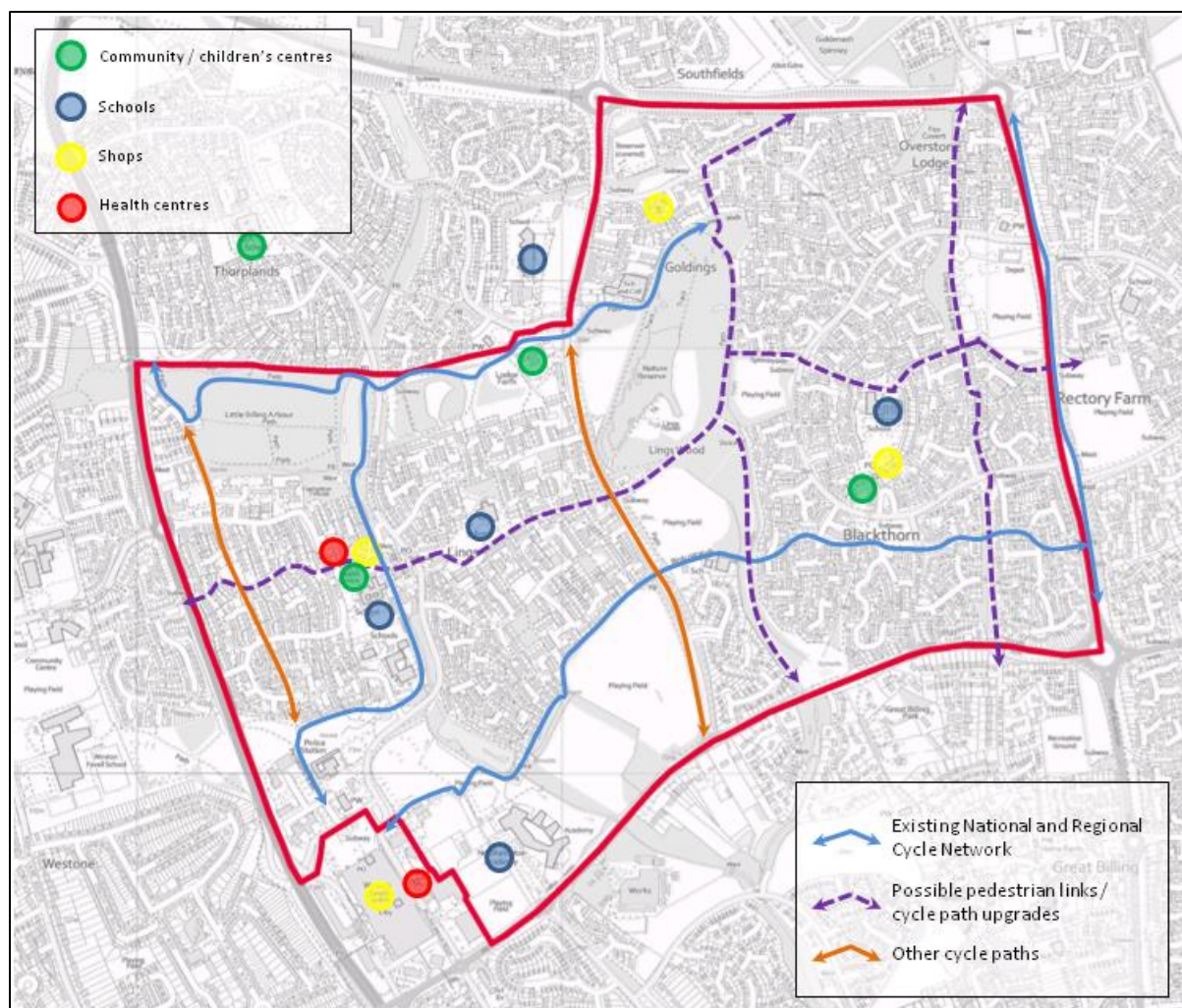


Figure 15: Pedestrian and Cycle routes map

NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION



7. NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation

7.1 In addition to influencing decisions on future planning applications by the Borough Council, based on the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan and monitoring their effectiveness, the focus on implementation will include partnership working, seeking external funding, a focus on priority projects and the use of other (planning and non-planning) mechanisms.

Working in Partnership

7.2 Partnership working will be a key element in the successful implementation of the Plan. The main organisations and the roles that they can play are summarised below.

- Growing Together Community Partnership – Big Local Plan project delivery.
- Northampton Borough Council.
- Northampton Partnership Homes – the new arms-length management organisation (ALMO) responsible for the management of council house services.
- Northamptonshire County Council – Highways, Education & Social Services.
- Northamptonshire Local Enterprise Partnership - Infrastructure & business support.
- Homes and Communities Agency – funding for new family housing.

7.3 This list of organisations reflects local aspirations for partnership working and does not constitute or suggest agreement with those organisations.

Funding

7.4 Funding will be sought from developers through either S106 obligations or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for infrastructure and local facilities, linked to new development, focused on assisting the delivery of the specified projects as a priority.

7.5 The Forum will also seek to influence other budget decisions by the Borough and County Councils on housing, open space and recreation, economic development, community facilities and transport. In addition, we will work with other organisations (including the Homes and Communities Agency, the Lottery, UK Government and EU Funds and LEP programmes, Nene Valley Catchment Partnership) to obtain funding to help to achieve Neighbourhood Plan objectives.

Priority Projects

7.6 Northampton Borough Council have adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule, and 25% of CIL receipts collected by NBC from CIL

liable development in the Growing Together area will be spent on projects identified as priority by the local community. The following projects have been identified as potential priority projects for the spending of such CIL monies:

- Enhancement of existing pedestrian and cycle routes and introduction of new connections;
- Provision of new community facilities including:
 - Childcare facilities
 - Education, leisure and recreation facilities
 - Community gardens and allotments
- Enhancement of existing open spaces and provision of new play spaces for children.

Other Mechanisms

7.7 The Forum, working with appropriate partners, will also consider the use of other initiatives to achieve Neighbourhood Plan objectives, including Neighbourhood Development Orders, Community Right to Build, Assets of Community Value and community led housing developments. It is recognised, however, that in several case these measures will require other legal processes to be followed, some of which are outside the planning system and separate to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 1 – Local Green Space Designations

1. Assessment against NPPF criteria (by Growing Together Forum)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced a new form of special protection called Local Green Space, which can only be designated in a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. As outlined in paragraph 77 of the NPPF, the Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and it holds a particular significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

This over the following pages each of the 11 Local Green Space designations are considered and tested against the above NPPF criteria.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| Site No. | 1 | Site Name | Billing Arbour |
| Current Land Use | | Wooded public open space | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|---|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Directly adjoins housing on three sides (Lumbertubs and Thorplands estates), with the fourth edge bordering a well-used footpath along the side of Cygnet Lake. There are a number of access points along the space perimeter, ensuring that surrounding residents can easily access the area. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Beauty – This thickly wooded area provides an attractive setting to those residential dwellings which surround it, providing a green and mature backdrop to these properties, and is intrinsic to the character and beauty of the local area. It is also a highly prominent and attractive feature in views from the surrounding footpath and road network, and represents a key visual asset to the local area.</p> <p>Recreational value – The area is utilised by local mountain bike users, providing a rugged challenge course. It is also used by local joggers and walkers.</p> <p>Tranquillity – Within the thick woodland of the space, there is little indication of the wider urban setting, with few views out and traffic noise minimal. The space therefore provides valued, tranquil retreat for local residents who seek a break from the pace of urban life.</p> <p>Richness of wildlife - As a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS) the space is a recognised asset for biodiversity, providing habitat for numerous species including bats, woodpeckers and owls.</p> |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Site No. | 2 | Site Name | Swanhaven Park |
| Current Land Use | | Linear public park | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

Compliance with NPPF criteria

| | |
|---|--|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Dissects the western side of the Neighbourhood Plan area, running in a north-south direction between the Lumbertubs and Lings estates, and can be easily accessed by residents of each estate. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Recreational value – The area is used extensively by dog-walkers and runners. The edges of both lakes are popular locations for picnicking in the summer months. A MUGA and children's playground located towards the northern end of the area offers play and recreation opportunities for children of all ages. Outdoor exercise equipment lines the water's edge.</p> <p>Beauty – The two lakes (Cygnet Lake to the north, Dragon Fly Lake to the south), each edged by mature trees, are unique to the neighbourhood plan area, and represent attractive and distinct natural features which make a significantly positive contribution to the character of the area.</p> <p>Richness of wildlife - The two lakes and the trees which occupy their setting are known to accommodate a variety of species including, herons, kingfishers, little egret, swans, Canada geese, mallard ducks, coots, moorhens, seagulls, and bats. This variety and richness of wildlife is highly appreciated by the local community, and school groups and families regularly visiting the lakes to observe the animals. The southern end of Swanhaven Park is a Potential Wildlife Site (PWS).</p> |
| Local in character? | The space has a strong physical and visual connection with the local area, running through the heart of a sizeable stretch of the neighbourhood plan area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| Site No. | 3 | Site Name | Lodge Farm Field |
| Current Land Use | Public park | | |
| Current planning application on site? | No | | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | No | | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|--|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Directly bordered along its northern and southern edges by areas of housing (Lings and Thorpland estates), residents of which can easily access the space. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Recreational value – The space is used extensively by dog-walkers and runners. It also provides informal recreation opportunities and a gathering place for young people. It is a popular location for family picnics and recreation in the summer months.</p> <p>Beauty – The space displays a gently undulating topography, rising and falling at different points, and accommodates a number of sizeable clusters of mature trees. Combined, these characteristics form an attractive, semi-natural space, whose beauty is valued by local residents. Furthermore, the tree clusters accommodated on the site make a valuable contribution to the character and visual appeal of the wider area, emerging in views from the surrounding townscape.</p> |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



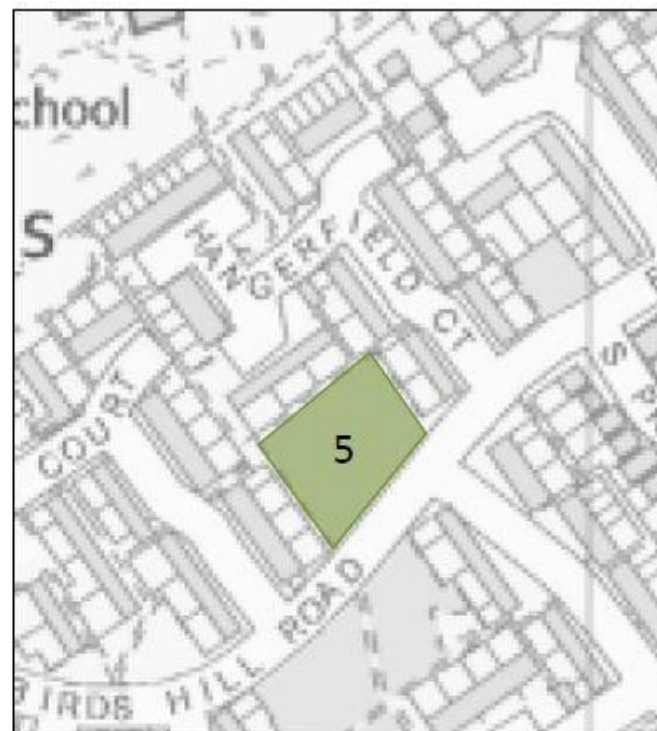
| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Site No. | 4 | Site Name | Lumbertubs Park |
| Current Land Use | Public park | | |
| Current planning application on site? | No | | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | No | | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|---|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Bordered on northern side by Lumbertubs estate and to south by Quartercroft social housing flats at Pyramid Close, with residents from both areas benefitting from easy access to the space. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | Recreational value – The area is used extensively by dog-walkers and runners. The space a popular location for relaxing, picnicking and informal games and recreation in the summer months. The recreational value of the space is particularly appreciated by residents of the Quartercroft social housing flats which lie to the south of the space, as these properties have no private outdoor space of their own. This part of the neighbourhood plan area also accommodates some of the densest areas of housing development, and therefore the recreation opportunities offered by this space are particularly vital to the locality. |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Site No. | 5 | Site Name | Birds Hill Road Play Area |
| Current Land Use | | Children's play area | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|--|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Surrounded on three sides by housing and very close to the local school with footpath to/from school running along one side. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | Recreational value – The space accommodates a play area for 3 - 8 year olds, making this a key destination location for local children and families. |
| Local in character? | The space is well-defined and nestles to the rear of the properties of Ellfield Court and Hangerfield Court, enhancing and contributing to the setting of these buildings. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Site No. | 6 | Site Name | Lings Playing Fields |
| Current Land Use | | Public playing fields | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

Compliance with NPPF criteria

| | |
|---|--|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | North-west side is bounded by Lings estate, whilst Lings Park housing area sits directly to the south and east. Both housing areas benefit from direct access to the space via public footpaths. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Recreational value – The space accommodates 9 football pitches and skate park, all of which are very well-used by local residents. The football pitches are used throughout the year by a number of local football clubs, including Thorplands United. The space is also enjoyed by local children for informal ball games.</p> <p>Tranquillity – The space is enclosed by a band of mature planting along its edges, which screens views of the wider, more urban environment. This, combined with the open and spacious character of the space, provides residents with a tranquil retreat away from the more built-up, urban parts of the neighbourhood plan area.</p> |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Site No. | 7 | Site Name | Lings Wood |
| Current Land Use | Wooded public open space | | |
| Current planning application on site? | No | | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | No | | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|---|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Located right in the middle of several housing estates, including Goldings, Blackthorn and Lings. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Richness of wildlife - Lings Wood is a Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site, which accommodates plantations of mature sweet chestnut, douglas fir and larch as well as areas which are returning to more native woodland with naturally regenerating birch, rowan, oak and holly. The area also includes scrub, ponds and acid grassland providing a habitat for numerous species - dragonflies, damselflies, frogs and newts all breed in the ponds at the site. The Wildlife Trust's Northampton Office is based within the reserve, and Lings Wood Watch Group, a local youth group, use the woods for exploring and learning about the natural world.</p> <p>Recreational value – The space is used regularly by local walkers and runners.</p> <p>Tranquillity – Within the thick woodland of the space, there is little indication of the wider urban setting, with few views out and traffic noise minimal. The space therefore provides valued, tranquil retreat for local residents who seek a break from the pace of urban life.</p> <p>Beauty – This thickly wooded area provides an attractive setting to those residential dwellings which surround it, providing a green and mature backdrop to these properties, and is intrinsic to the character and beauty of the local. It is also a highly prominent and attractive feature in views from the surrounding footpath and road network, as well as from the nearby playing fields, and as such represents a key visual asset to the local area.</p> |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| Site No. | 8 | Site Name | Foxcovert Wood |
| Current Land Use | | Wooded public open space | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|---|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Lies within Overstone Lodge estate and is surrounded by housing on three sides. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Recreational value – The space is used regularly by local walkers and runners, and also accommodates two climbing boulders which were installed to provide a physical challenge for young people. The installation of a community play area is imminent, which will further enhance the recreational value of the space.</p> <p>Richness of wildlife – The space is a Potential Wildlife Site (PWS).</p> |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Site No. | 9 | Site Name | Overstone Lane Wood |
| Current Land Use | | Wooded public open space | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

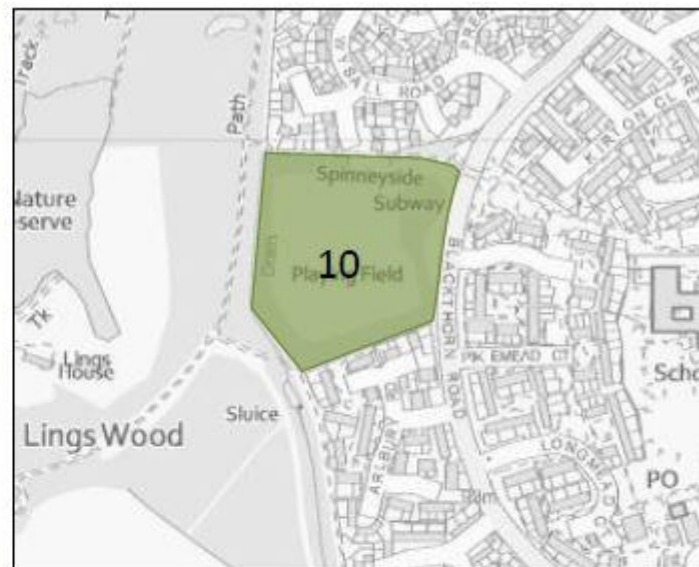
Compliance with NPPF criteria

| | |
|---|---|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Lies adjacent to Blackthorn estate and can be easily accessed by residents of these properties. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | <p>Recreational value – The space is used regularly by local walkers and runners.</p> <p>Beauty – This thickly wooded area provides an attractive setting to those residential dwellings which surround it, providing a green and mature backdrop to these properties, and is intrinsic to the character and beauty of the local.</p> |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



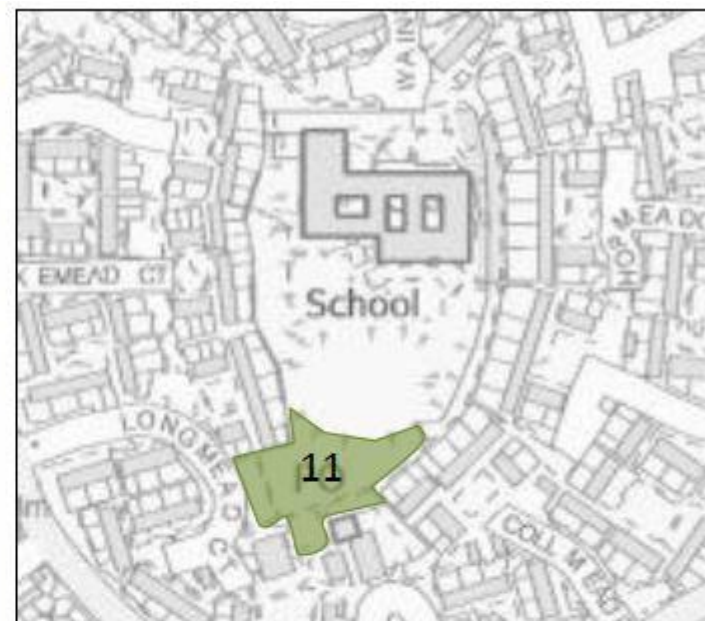
| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Site No. | 10 | Site Name | Blackthorn Recreation Ground |
| Current Land Use | | Wooded public open space | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|--|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Is edged on two sides by housing of the Blackthorn estate, and also linked by an underpass to housing on the other side of Blackthorn Road. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | Recreational value – The space accommodates three playing pitches and a children's play area, all of which are well-used by the local population. It is also used for dog-walking and informal sports activities. Future plans to install outdoor gym equipment will further enhance the spaces recreational value. |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined, integral component of the local character, with a strong physical and visual connection with the local area. |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Site No. | 11 | Site Name | Blackthorn Community Centre green space |
| Current Land Use | | Wooded public open space | |
| Current planning application on site? | | No | |
| Extant planning permission on site? | | No | |

| Compliance with NPPF criteria | |
|---|---|
| Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves? | Located at the heart of Blackthorn estate and neighbouring the local primary school, Community/Children's Centre and housing areas. |
| Demonstrably special to the local community with a particular significance? | Recreational value – Due to its central location and positioning beside the community centre and school, this space hosts several community events a year. A community garden is also located here, which further adds to the spaces recreational value to the local community. |
| Local in character? | The space is a well defined and a key component of the local school and community centre's wider setting. |



2. Policy context / evidence base assessment by Northampton Borough Council

- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit - An Update Report by PMP (Sept 2009)

| NP Site ref | Site Name | Site ID * | Open space type | Related policies Northampton Local Plan 1997 & West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy | Current policy context (March '15) and conclusions |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Billing Arbour | 267 | Natural / Semi-Natural Open Space | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Nature Conservation Value - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>;</p> <p>BN2 – Biodiversity; and</p> <p>BN4 – Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.</p> | <p>The OSSR Audit identifies the site as offering natural/semi-natural of good quality and average accessibility. Former and current planning policies suggest the site is a community facility offering open space for recreation/leisure; and is an asset for biodiversity and nature conservation.</p> <p>Former NLP'97 Policy L1 safeguarded the site as a "Larger Public Open Space". This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but (as a strategic policy) does not identify specific sites or facilities. Former NLP'97 Policy E18 safeguarded the site from development which would cause adverse effects upon its nature conservation value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policies BN2 and BN4. JCS policy BN2 seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity but does not make site allocations. JCS policy BN4 seeks to protect the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits European sites and is not directly relevant to this site.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure and/or biodiversity/nature conservation purposes is likely to be consistent with JCS policies RC2 and BN2.</p> |
| 2 | Swanhaven Park | 989; 720; 495; 510; 268; 1681 | Amenity Green Space; Children's play areas; Facilities for young people; Parks and gardens; Natural and semi-natural | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Nature Conservation Value - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire</u></p> | <p>The OSSR audit identified a range of typologies within this site, which effectively functions as a linear park. Of the various typologies, there is a range of quality and accessibility scores (refer to OSSR audit or Neighbourhood Plan evidence base). Proposals should seek to ensure all typologies achieve a consistently good standard for quality and accessibility throughout the linear park.</p> <p>NLP'97 Policy L1 safeguarded the site as a "Larger Public Open Space". This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but does not identify specific sites or facilities. NLP'97 Policy E18 safeguarded the site from development which would cause adverse effects</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | open space | <p>JCS JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>;</p> <p>BN2 – Biodiversity; and</p> <p>BN4 – Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.</p> | <p>upon its nature conservation value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policies BN2 and BN4. JCS policy BN2 seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity but does not make site allocations. JCS policy BN4 seeks to protect the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits European sites and is not directly relevant to this site.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure and/or biodiversity/nature conservation purposes is likely to be consistent with JCS policies RC2 and BN2.</p> |
| 3 | Lodge Farm Field | 332 | Parks and gardens | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire</u> JCS JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>;</p> | <p>The OSSR Audit identifies the site within the “parks and gardens” typology and achieves a good quality and good accessibility standard. Former and current planning policies suggest the site is a community facility offering open space for recreation/leisure. NLP'97 Policy L1 safeguarded the site as a "Larger Public Open Space". This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but (as a strategic policy) does not identify specific sites or facilities.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure purposes is likely to be consistent with JCS policies RC2.</p> |
| 4 | Lumbertubs Park | 325 | Amenity Green Space | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Nature Conservation Value - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire</u> JCS JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>; BN2 – Biodiversity; and</p> <p>BN4 – Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identifies the site as amenity green space. The OSSR audit recognises the important role amenity green spaces can offer in providing informal play opportunities and suggests that such spaces could be ‘formalised’ and enhanced to improve their recreation value. The site achieves a good standard for both quality and accessibility.</p> <p>NLP'97 policy L1 seeks to safeguard open spaces which offer recreation facilities or offer established amenity/landscape value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but does not identify specific sites or facilities. A small area in the eastern section of the site was safeguarded by NLP'97 policy E18 for its nature conservation value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policies BN2 and BN4. JCS policy BN2 seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity but does not make site allocations. JCS policy BN4 seeks to protect the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits European sites and is not directly relevant to this site.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure; amenity/landscape value and/or biodiversity/nature conservation purposes is likely to be consistent with JCS policies RC2 and BN2.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|----------|---------------------------|---|---|
| 5 | Birds Hill Road Play Area | 1063 | Amenity green space | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Primary residential area – H6 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> H1 – Housing Density and Mix and Type of Dwellings.</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identifies the site as amenity green space. The OSSR audit recognises the important role amenity green spaces can offer in providing informal play opportunities and suggests that such spaces could be ‘formalised’ and enhanced to improve their recreation value. The site achieves an average standard for both quality and accessibility. Proposals should seek to achieve a good standard.</p> <p>The NLP'97 did not allocate this site as an open space. The site is located within the existing residential area. Policy H6 sought to resist development which would result in the loss of recreational facilities or land of significant amenity value within the primary residential area, where there is a need for such land and facilities. JCS policy H1 has replaced NLP'97 policy H6. JCS policy H1 does not allocate sites, but does require new developments to consider the impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties.</p> <p>The site may potentially be suitable for allocation for recreation/leisure and/or amenity/landscape value. Alternatively other policy measures may be used to protect the site due to the clear relationship between the site and nearby housing.</p> |
| 6 | Lings Park & Lings Wood Playing Fields | 344; 984 | Outdoor sports facilities | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Nature Conservation Value - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Local Nature Reserve - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>;</p> <p>BN2 – Biodiversity; and</p> <p>BN4 – Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identifies these sites as providing outdoor sports facilities, achieving a good standard of quality and accessibility.</p> <p>NLP'97 policy L1 safeguards these sites as “Playing Fields”. This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but (as a strategic policy) does not identify specific sites or facilities. The site also includes part of Lings Wood Nature Reserve in the northern part of the site and an area of acknowledged conservation value, as indicated by former NLP'97 policy E18. This policy has been replaced by JCS policies BN2 and BN4. JCS policy BN2 seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity but does not make site allocations. JCS policy BN4 seeks to protect the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits European sites and is not directly relevant to this site.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure and biodiversity/nature conservation purposes is likely to be consistent with JCS policies RC2 and BN2.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------|--|---|--|
| 7 | Lings Wood | 331 | Natural / semi-natural green space | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Nature Conservation Value - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p>Site of Acknowledged Local Nature Reserve - E18 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>;</p> <p>BN2 – Biodiversity; and</p> <p>BN4 – Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.</p> | <p>The OSSR Audit identifies the site as offering natural/semi-natural of good quality and accessibility. Former and current planning policies suggest the site is a community facility offering open space for recreation/leisure and is an asset for biodiversity and nature conservation.</p> <p>NLP'97 Policy L1 safeguarded the site as a "Larger Public Open Space". This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but (as a strategic policy) does not identify specific sites or facilities. NLP'97 Policy E18 safeguarded the site from development which would cause adverse effects upon its nature conservation value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policies BN2 and BN4. JCS policy BN2 seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity but does not make site allocations. JCS policy BN4 seeks to protect the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits European sites and is not directly relevant to this site.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure and biodiversity/nature conservation purposes is likely to be consistent with JCS policies RC2 and BN2.</p> |
| 8 | Foxcovert Wood | 394; 1941 | Amenity Green Space; Facilities for young people | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> JCS policy RC2 - <i>Community Needs</i>;</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identifies the site as amenity green space and includes a small parcel of land offering facilities for young people. The OSSR audit recognises the important role amenity green spaces can offer in providing informal play opportunities and suggests that such spaces could be 'formalised' and enhanced to improve their recreation value. The site is of average quality and good accessibility. Proposals should seek to achieve at least a 'good' quality standard and maintain accessibility.</p> <p>NLP'97 policy L1 seeks to safeguard open spaces which offer recreation facilities or offer established amenity/landscape value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but does not identify specific sites or facilities.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure or amenity/landscape value is likely to be consistent with JCS policy RC2.</p> |
| 9 | Overstone Lane Wood | 395 | Amenity Green Space | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identifies the site as amenity green space. The OSSR audit recognises the important role amenity green spaces can offer in providing informal play opportunities and suggests that such spaces could be 'formalised' and enhanced to improve their recreation value. The site is of average quality and accessibility. Proposals should seek to achieve a 'good' quality standard for</p> |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----------|--|---|--|
| | | | | <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> JCS policy RC2 - Community Needs;</p> | <p>both quality and accessibility.</p> <p>NLP'97 seeks to safeguard open spaces which offer recreation facilities or offer established amenity/landscape value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but does not identify specific sites or facilities.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure or amenity/landscape value is likely to be consistent with JCS policy RC2.</p> |
| 10 | Blackthorn Recreation Ground | 422 | Children's play areas | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> Existing Recreation/Leisure - L1 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> JCS policy RC2 - Community Needs;</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identifies the site as a Children's play area. The site is of poor quality and average accessibility. Proposals should seek to achieve a good standard for quality and accessibility.</p> <p>NLP'97 policy L1 seeks to safeguard open spaces which offer recreation facilities or offer established amenity/landscape value. This policy has been replaced by JCS policy RC2 which seeks to safeguard existing community facilities but does not identify specific sites or facilities.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for recreation/leisure is likely to be consistent with JCS policy RC2.</p> |
| 11 | Blackthorn Community Centre Green Space | 715; 185 | Outdoor sports facilities; Amenity green space | <p><u>Northampton Local Plan 1997</u> School/College site – L2 (Limited weight); Primary residential area – H6 (Replaced);</p> <p><u>West Northamptonshire JCS</u> H1 – Housing Density and Mix and Type of Dwellings.</p> | <p>The OSSR audit identified the site as an outdoor sports facility and amenity green space, of average and good quality and good accessibility. Proposals should seek to achieve a good quality standard.</p> <p>NLP'97 identifies the site predominantly as part of a school/college site by policy L2 which recognises the recreational value of such sites. In an assessment of saved policies by Northampton Borough Council, the policy was considered to hold limited weight in decision-taking.</p> <p>The southern part of the site is located within the primary residential area (H6). Policy H6 sought to resist development which would result in the loss of recreational facilities or land of significant amenity value within the primary residential area, where there is a need for such land and facilities. JCS policy H1 has replaced NLP'97 policy H6. JCS policy H1 does not allocate sites, but does require new developments to consider the impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties.</p> <p>The site may potentially be suitable for allocation for recreation/leisure and/or amenity/landscape value. Alternatively other policy measures may be used to protect the site due to the clear relationship between the site and other nearby uses.</p> |

Appendix 2 – Use Class descriptions

The below table provides full details of those Use Classes referred to within the Neighbourhood Plan policies.

| Use Class | Use |
|-----------|---|
| D1 | Clinics, health centres, creches, day nurseries, schools, non-residential education and training centres, museums, public libraries, public halls, exhibition halls, places of worship, law courts. |
| D2 | Cinemas, concert halls, bingo halls, dance halls, swimming baths, skating rinks, gymnasiums, other areas for indoor and outdoor sports or recreations not involving motorised vehicles or firearms. |
| C3 | Use as a dwellinghouse (whether or not a main residence) by a) A single person or by people to be regarded as forming a single household b) Not more than six residents living together as a single household where care is provided for residents; or c) Not more than six residents living together as a single household where no care is provided to residents (other than use within Class C4). |
| A1 | Shops, retail warehouses, post offices, ticket and travel agencies, sale of cold food for consumption off premises, hairdressers, funeral directors, hire shops, dry cleaners, internet cafes. |
| A3 | Restaurants and cafes |
| B1 | a) Office other than a use within Class A2 b) Research and development of products or processes c) For any industrial process (which can be carried out in any residential area without causing detriment to the amenity of the area). |

Neighbourhood Plan

Glossary

| | |
|-------|---|
| NBC | Northampton Borough Council |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NPPG | National Planning Practice Guidance |
| WNJCS | West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy |
| LEP | Local Enterprise Partnership |
| OSSR | Open Space, Sport and Recreation |