

PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL

15 August 2013

SUBMISSION DRAFT EDITH WESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report of the Operational Director for Places

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating A Sustained Environment Building Our Infrastructure
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the Submission Draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan consultation document.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the contents of the Submission Draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan in Appendix A to this report is considered by the Places Scrutiny Panel and any comments be reported to Cabinet and Full Council, as appropriate.**

3. PROPOSED CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

- 3.1 Following adoption of the provisions for neighbourhood planning outlined in the Localism Act 2011, Edith Weston Parish Council (EWPC) have prepared a draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan (EWNP) in order to provide more detailed guidance on the community views on what will need to be considered when determining planning applications in the plan area.
- 3.2 Consultation on the Draft EWNP took place from 27th February to 12th April 2013. The draft document was circulated to the local community and key stakeholders and copies were made available in the Council's offices, on the EWPC website and the Rutland County Council (RCC) website.
- 3.3 Subsequently, a submission version of the draft EWNP has been produced by the EWPC along with, in accordance with the neighbourhood planning regulations, a statement that the basic conditions for submission of the plan have been met and a consultation statement setting out the main issues raised to support the plan. The plan is accompanied by a screening sustainability and Habitats Regulations assessment prepared by the EWPC to support the draft plan.

4. THE SUBMISSION DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 4.1 A copy of the submission version of the draft EWNP is attached at Appendix A to this report. The submission version of the draft EWNP is considered to be in general conformity with the Rutland Core Strategy Development Plan Development (DPD) and the emerging Site Allocations and Policies Proposed Submission DPD. It is supportive of the current/emerging planning policy framework in the National Planning Policy Framework and the DPDs in Rutland.

4.2 The submission version of the draft EWNP sets out more clearly defined policies in each of the main sections of the NP than the first draft of the plan including:

- a) Recognising Edith Weston's status as a Local Service Centre and focus for small scale residential and commercial development in the village;
- b) Promoting small infill housing development (up to 9 dwellings) within the planned limits of development for the village;
- c) Proposing that potential needs for low-cost and/rental housing can be met through the future turnover of the housing stock in the village, but recognises the provisions for affordable housing exception sites in local and national planning policies;
- d) Recognising the need for operational MOD developments and the planning framework for alternative land uses associated with St. George Barracks in accordance with the Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Policies DPDs;
- e) Recognising the importance of Rutland Water, natural and cultural environment, open space and countryside; and
- f) Recognise the need to review the plan every 3-5 years in accordance with the Local Plan reviews. These reviews will be dependent on a range of issues including changes in national policy, new information (e.g. Census 2011) and the Army 2020 Strategic Defence review that would be particularly relevant to Edith Weston.

4.3 The Local Plan Members Working Group considered and supported the submission version of the draft EWNP at its meeting on 2 July 2013.

5. THE NEXT STEPS

5.1 It is intended that the submission draft document will be submitted to Cabinet on 20th August 2013, prior to being recommended to Full Council on 9th September for publication for a 6 week statutory period of public consultation in September/October 2013 and submission for public examination.

5.2 It is anticipated that examination would take place in November, followed by a local referendum in February 2014. RCC would lead on administering this process.

5.3 If supported by an independent examiner through the public examination process and the local community through the local referendum, RCC would then need to take a decision to formally adopt the EWNP as a Statutory Development Plan. It is anticipated that this could take place by April 2014.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Medium	The production of a neighbourhood plan for Edith Weston requires the support of the County Council. As the local planning authority, the plan becomes a statutory document on adoption by the Council. It also demonstrates the process for other potential Parish Councils/neighbourhood forums to choose such a way of drawing up a community led planning policy document and will supports the efficient provision of planning services in future.
Viability	Medium	An adopted neighbourhood plan establishes a statutory

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
		Development Plan Document that development requiring planning consent will have to comply with. It will assist in the delivery of the Council's sustainable development objectives, its Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Policies DPD and other supplementary planning documents.
Finance	Low	The cost of the County Council engagement in the delivery of an adopted neighbourhood plan can be contained within existing budgets supplemented by CLG grants being drawn down during the plans preparation.
Profile	Medium	The initial draft EWNP was subject to public consultation. The submission draft plan will also be subject to further public consultation, if considered by the Council to have met the basic conditions as prescribed in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. The plan is likely to be of particular interest to the local community in Edith Weston.
Equality and Diversity	Low	Recent CLG guidance on the application of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) indicates that RCC is not required to undertake such an assessment of the EWNP. An EIA is not required to satisfy that the 'basic conditions' have been met in drawing up the submission draft plan. An EIA screening gives rise to no obvious negative impacts arising from the draft plan.

Background Papers:

EWNP Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (Screening Report)
Habitats Regulations Assessment
Statement of Conformity
Localism Act 2011
Neighbourhood Planning Regulations

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.