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Urban Vision Enterprise CIC
Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
Basic Conditions Statement V1.1
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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

This is a Basic Conditions Statement, prepared to accompany the submission of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

The statement explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. The statement also includes an equalities assessment, which demonstrates how the Plan meets the public duty relating to equalities. This is a key part of demonstrating compliance with human rights legislation.

2. Meeting Legal Requirements

2.1 General Requirements

Qualifying Body

The draft plan proposal is being submitted by Edith Weston Parish Council, which is the qualifying body for neighbourhood planning.

Scope and Statutory Process

The draft plan relates to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in planning legislation, policy and guidance. This includes designation of the Neighbourhood Area, screening (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment) and statutory consultation (Regulation 14).

Period of Effect

The draft plan states the period for which it is to have effect, which is until the end of 2041 (Paragraph 1.2).

Excluded Development

The draft plan does not deal with mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Neighbourhood Area

The draft plan proposal relates to the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. Once made, this Plan will replace the current 'made' Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan 2012-2026.

2.2 The Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions that neighbourhood plans must meet are as follows:

1. must be appropriate having regard to national policy;
2. must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area;
4. must be compatible with EU obligations (equivalence in UK law).

Regulations specify an additional basic condition that a plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

In addition, the plan must meet requirements of human rights law, including the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

The following chapters of this statement deal with the basic conditions and human rights requirements in more detail.

3. Sustainable Development

3.1 Dimensions of Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework 2023 states that sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives.

The draft neighbourhood plan takes a balanced approach to enabling growth, whilst also considering economic, social and environmental sustainability.

3.2 How Policies Address Sustainable Development

The draft plan proposal seeks to deliver growth and to address sustainability through a set of eleven policies, grouped in chapters as follows.

3. Sustainable Growth

Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement

Policy EW-SG02: St George's Barracks Officers' Mess

4. Green Environment

Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments

Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space

5. Design and Heritage

Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design

Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates

Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area

Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage

6. Transport and Movement

Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement

The **Sustainable Growth** Chapter enables growth and development within the defined settlement and for a brownfield site adjoining the settlement.

The Plan does not undertake housing site allocations, leaving this to the Rutland Local Plan. However, the support for development within the settlement boundary and also for the St George's Barracks Officer's Mess brownfield site meets evidenced housing need.

The **Green Environment** Chapter provides protection for the rural and natural environment and also protects green spaces with community value.

The **Design and Heritage** Chapter sets design requirements, both general and for specific areas, and also deals with non-designated heritage.

The **Transport and Movement** Chapter deals with transport requirements, including sustainable transport and active travel.

Policies dealing with design, environment and movement address sustainability, but should not be seen as being in opposition to growth. Achieving the economic potential of the parish depends on maintaining the attractiveness of the area as a place to live, work, spend leisure time and invest. Environmental quality is a key factor in achieving sustainable growth.

3.3 Achieving Sustainable Development

The policies have been prepared against the context of increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change and the urgent need to address the causes. Climate change is addressed in practical and local ways through the various policies, for example by supporting mixed use, walkable neighbourhoods, active travel and green design.

The policies enabling growth and addressing economic, social and environmental sustainability and infrastructure combine to ensure that the plan will help to achieve sustainable development, taking account of the needs of current and future generations.

4. National Policy and Guidance

4.1 Having Regard to National Policy and Guidance

The draft plan has regard to the National Planning Policy Framework December 2023 (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Chapter 2 of the NPPF deals with achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives, set out in Paragraph 8.

Paragraph 11a) states:

all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects;

This principle has underpinned the draft Neighbourhood Plan, which has the following aims:

- a. *To protect the rural, natural, historic and built environment of Edith Weston, whilst minimising carbon use and increasing biodiversity.*
- b. *To promote local economic opportunity and more sustainable live-work patterns.*
- c. *To provide high quality housing to meet local need, supported by local community facilities.*
- d. *To promote active travel, healthy lifestyles and more sustainable forms of transport.*

These aims then underpin the Neighbourhood Plan's policies.

Chapter 3 of the NPPF deals with plan-making. Paragraph 16 requires plans to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, to be prepared positively (aspirational but deliverable); to be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement and contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, to be accessible through digital tools and to serve a clear purpose and avoid duplication.

The policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan have been written to provide a clear framework for decisions, in response to Paragraph 16.

Paragraph 29 requires neighbourhood plans not to promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable growth within the settlements and on the St George’s Barracks Officer’s Mess brownfield site.

The neighbourhood plan is based on a range of evidence, in line with planning practice guidance. This includes evidence on non-designated heritage, natural environment and design.

4.2 NPPF Policy Areas

The NPPF was revised in December 2023 and contains a number of policy areas. The following table details the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan policies and the NPPF chapters.

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
Chapter 5: Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	c.	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>The Plan supports housing growth in sustainable locations, within the settlements and on a brownfield site adjacent to the settlement.</p> <p>The Plan sets design requirements for housing.</p>
Chapter 6: Building a strong, competitive economy	b.	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>The Plan supports proportionate economic development, supporting local economic opportunity and local community facilities.</p> <p>Design of development is important in creating positive image and quality of environment, both crucial in attracting investment and employment.</p>
Chapter 8: Promoting	a, b, c, d.	Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
<p>healthy and safe communities</p>		<p>Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>The Plan supports development in the most sustainable locations, whilst also seeking to protect sensitive landscapes and green spaces with community value (LGS). A rigorous selection processes was undertaken to identify Local Green Spaces. The analysis for each space is set out in the ‘Local Green Space Assessment Report, August 2023’.</p> <p>Design requirements ensure that development supports community interaction and active travel.</p>
<p>Chapter 9: Promoting sustainable transport</p>	<p>d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p> <p>The policies promotes sustainable transport and active travel, including by addressing pedestrian convenience.</p>
<p>Chapter 11: Making effective use of land</p>	<p>a, b, c</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>Collectively, the policies support mixed use, a walkable neighbourhood, use of brownfield land, homes to meet local need and environmentally responsible design.</p>
<p>Chapter 12: Achieving well-designed places</p>	<p>a, b, c, d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p>

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
		<p>The plan includes design policies, with a focus on quality of place, movement, character and green design. Emphasis is placed on pedestrian convenience and permeability and connectivity.</p> <p>Policies are informed by the National Design Guide in addition to other standards, such as ‘Building for a Healthy Life’.</p>
<p>Chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p>	<p>a, b, c, d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>Climate change is a key theme running through policies. This includes reducing carbon impacts and promoting green development, in addition to protecting the rural and natural environment.</p>
<p>Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>	<p>a.</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space</p> <p>Policies protect the rural environment and biodiversity, including key landscape features and green spaces.</p>
<p>Chapter 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</p>	<p>b.</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage</p> <p>Policies address design and character, including more specific character requirements for planned estates and the Edith Weston Conservation Area.</p>

5. Local Policies

5.1 General Conformity with Strategic Local Policies

General conformity relates to the policies of the neighbourhood plan taken as a whole, considered against adopted strategic local policies taken as a whole.

The draft plan proposal has been drafted against the context of strategic local policies and do not undermine, and helps to achieve, the spatial strategy set out in:

- Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011
- Site Allocations and Policies, October 2014.

5.2 Policy Comparison

The following table compares the policies of the Rutland Core Strategy 2011 with the policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS1 – Sustainable Development Principles Policy CS2 – Spatial Strategy</p>	<p>All Policies</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan’s policies address various issues covered by CS1 and CS2, including climate change, environment, travel, brownfield sites, character and economy.</p> <p>Development is supported in sustainable locations.</p>
<p>Policy CS3 – The Settlement Hierarchy Policy CS4 – The Location of Development</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>Edith Weston is identified as a Local Service Centre. The Neighbourhood Plan allows for proportionate growth, meeting housing need.</p>

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS6 – Reuse of redundant military bases and prisons</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the redevelopment of the officers mess site.</p>
<p>Policy CS7 – Socially inclusive communities</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement</p> <p>Employment and community facilities are supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Policy CS9 – Provision and distribution of new housing</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan fully meets evidenced housing need.</p>
<p>Policy CS10 – Housing density and mix</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan focuses on good design and character, so the density of development would vary, especially in historically sensitive locations.</p> <p>Density has been considered in the calculation of housing capacity, within the settlements and the St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess site. This has taken account of Policy CS10, but also character considerations and environmental constraints.</p>

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS11 – Affordable housing</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to modify affordable housing proportions or thresholds.</p>
<p>Policy CS13 – Employment and economic development</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan sets sustainable locations for employment development and community facilities.</p>
<p>Policy CS18 – Sustainable transport and accessibility</p>	<p>Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable transport and active travel.</p>
<p>Policy CS19 – Promoting good design</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan addresses various aspects of sustainable design and also character, including character policies for specific areas.</p>

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS21 – The natural environment</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports growth within the existing settlements and on a brownfield site.</p> <p>The Plan also seeks to protect the natural environment and green spaces (LGS).</p>
<p>Policy CS22 – The historic and cultural environment</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan addresses character and identifies non-designated heritage assets of particular importance.</p>
<p>Policy CS23 - Green infrastructure, open space, sport and recreation</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports active travel and protects green spaces with community value.</p>

The following table compares the policies of the Rutland Site Allocations and Policies SPD 2014 with the policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

Site Allocations and Policies, October 2014	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13	<p>All Policies</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan’s policies address various issues covered by the Objectives in the Site Allocations and Policies Plan.</p>
Policy SP1 – Presumption in favour of sustainable development	<p>All Policies</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be used in the application of Policy SP1.</p>
Policy SP4 – Built development in towns and villages	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan policies complement and add detail to the Local Plan in terms of supporting housing development, setting design requirements and considering environmental impacts.</p>
Policy SP11 - Use of military bases and prisons for operational or other purposes	<p>Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the redevelopment of the officers mess site.</p>
Policy SP15 – Design and amenity	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan complements SP15, but also takes into account the National design Guide 2021.</p>

<p>Site Allocations and Policies, October 2014</p>	<p>Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan</p>
	<p>More specific and local policy on local character also complements SP15.</p>
<p>Policy SP19 – Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan adds more specific requirements for Edith Weston, recognising local landscape features.</p>
<p>Policy SP20 - The historic environment</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage</p> <p>Various policies address the historic environment, including requirements to complement context, consider local character (including the Edith Weston Conservation Area) and conservation of non-designated heritage.</p>
<p>Policy SP21 - Important open space and frontages</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan designates an important open space as Local Green Space (LGS17). The other important green space is not designated as LGS, but verges are mentioned in Policy EW-DH03.</p>
<p>Policy SP23 - Landscape character in the countryside</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan focuses development on brownfield sites and provides protection for the natural and green environment.</p>

5.3 Emerging Local Policy

There is a Rutland Preferred Options Draft Local Plan regulation 18 consultation. Policy H1.4 recognises the Officer's Mess site for housing, consistent with the Neighbourhood Plan. However, it also proposes the wider St George's Barracks site as a proposed site allocation. The Parish Council made representations, objecting to this site. This will be decided through the Local Plan process.

The emerging Local Plan does not form a basis for considering general conformity. However, the evidence bases underpinning the emerging Local Plan has been considered. This includes the identification of a need for 514 homes for the 21 larger villages in Rutland, which includes Edith Weston. This figure informed the Edith Weston Housing Evidence Document July 2023.

6. EU Obligations

6.1 Screening

The plan has been screened to determine whether full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) were required. This included consultation with national statutory bodies.

Rutland Borough Council's ***Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report June 2023*** concludes with the following:

SEA

5.1 The EWNP has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The policies of the EWNP can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining planning applications.

5.2 A screening assessment was undertaken to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance and can be found in Section 3 of this report. The assessment finds no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the EWNP. The assessment finds many of the policies are in conformity with the local plan policies which have a full SA/SEA and which identified no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of policies.

5.3 From the findings of the screening assessment, it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the EWNP.

HRA

5.4 A screening assessment was undertaken to determine the need for a HRA in line with regulations and guidance and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that the EWNP is not predicted, without mitigation, to have any likely significant effects on a European site. The assessment finds many of the policies are in conformity with the local plan policies, which have undergone a full HRA and which identified no likely significant effects would occur as a result of the implementation of policies. It is also identified that no likely in combination significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the EWNP.

5.5 From the findings of the screening assessment, it is recommended that a full HRA does not need to be undertaken for the EWNP.

This confirms that neither full SEA nor HRA are required.

6.2 Meeting EU Obligations

Given the above screening outcome which takes account of the responses of national statutory bodies, the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions relating to not breaching EU obligations and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

7. Human Rights

7.1 Considering Human Rights

Planning should be inclusive and rigorous engagement has taken place as part of the process of creating the plan. Stakeholder mapping was undertaken at an early stage. The outcomes from community engagement have informed the content of the draft plan.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) was undertaken and this took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles.

The plan has also been informed by evidence, including data on the local population.

The following equalities assessment demonstrates that the Plan would have positive impact on different parts of the community, including those with protected characteristics.

7.2 Legal Requirement for Equality

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity;
- foster good relations.

Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The Act also makes reference to marriage and civil partnership.

An Equalities Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic.

An assessment has been made on whether the Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics.

7.3 Engagement and Consultation

The Neighbourhood Plan needs to cater for the widest range of needs, for all of the population. There is evidence to suggest that diversity is an important factor in achieving sustainable growth.

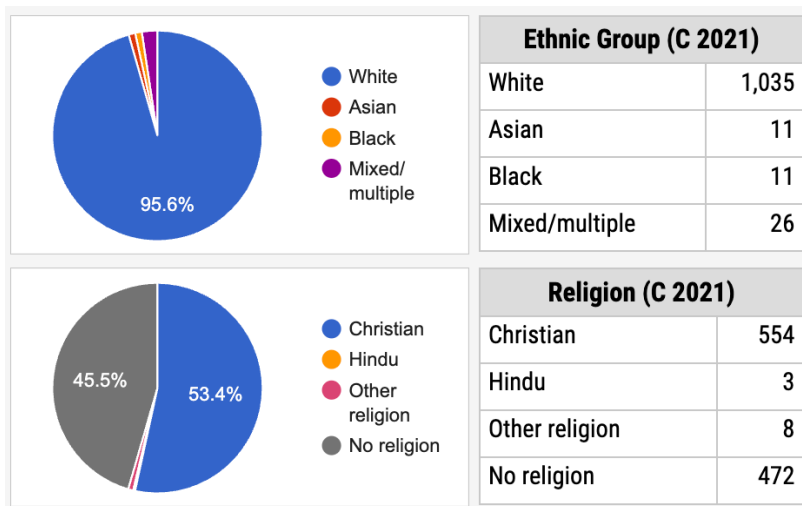
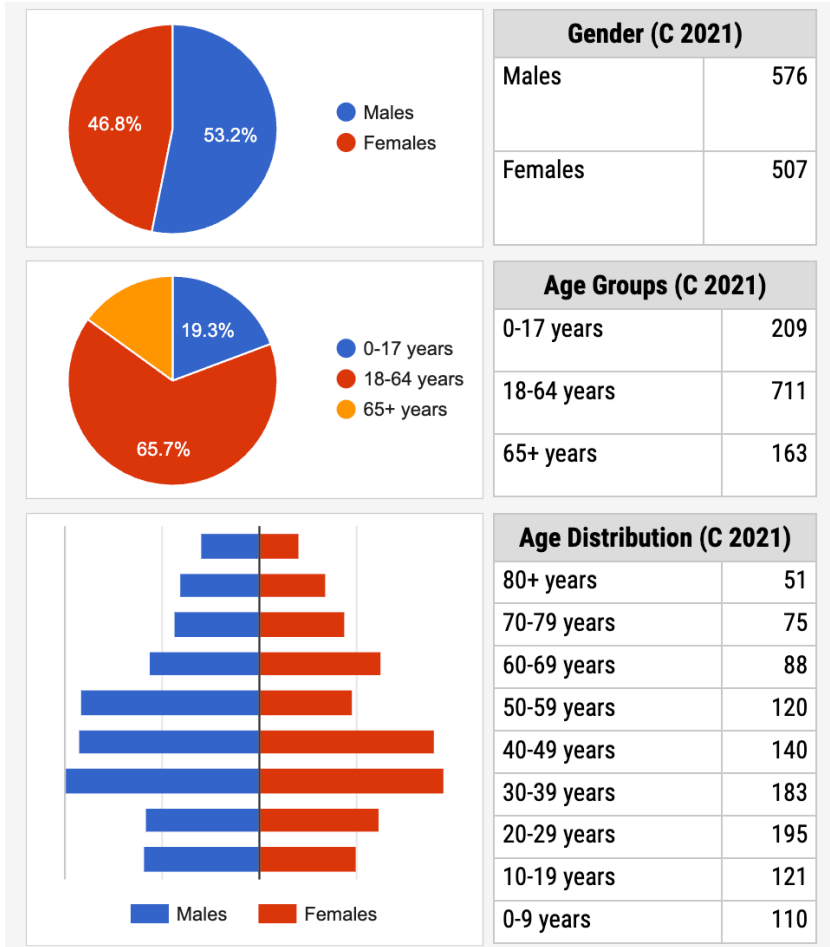
Planning should be inclusive and rigorous engagement has taken place as part of the process of creating the plan. Through informal engagement and the Regulation 14 consultation, certain issues of particular relevance to those with protected characteristics were raised, including pedestrian safety, limited public transport, cycling, housing mix and affordability, and green amenity space.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles. Comments made at the Regulation 14 stage were carefully considered and amendments were made to the Plan, where necessary. The Consultation Statement that forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan submission contains more detail.

7.4 Population Characteristics

This section needs to include: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and socio-economic characteristics.

The Office of National Statistics 2021 figures for Edith Weston are as follows.



Sexual orientation figures for the East Midlands are:

Straight or heterosexual	89.7%
Gay or lesbian	1.28%
Bisexual	1.25%
Pansexual	0.21%
Asexual	0.06%
Queer	0.02%
All other sexual orientations	0.02%

7.5 Impacts on Protected and Other Characteristics

Equalities assessment requires consideration of each of the protected characteristics. However, it should be noted that the needs, attitudes and opinions of people within any of these broad groups are as diverse as in the population as a whole, including sometimes very polarised views.

The Neighbourhood Plan policies are:

Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement

Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess

Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments

Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space

Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design

Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates

Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area

Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage

Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement

The plan will achieve a range of benefits which potentially benefit the local population, in addition to addressing the specific needs of those with protected and other characteristics. These include:

- supporting housing growth to meet local need (EW-SG1, EW-SG2);
- seeking to maintain or enhance local economic opportunities and a range of community facilities (EW-SG1);
- protecting the natural, green and historic environments, including green spaces with community value (EW-GE01, EW-GE02, EW-DH02, EW-DH03, EW-DH04);
- ensuring that development is well-designed and supports active travel (EW-DH01, EW-TM01);

The plan addresses climate change and biodiversity through a range of practical requirements. This benefits the whole population. However, some requirements, can create particular benefits for people with protected characteristics, including

those without access to a car. For example, the plan promotes high quality design, with an emphasis on ease of movement and pedestrian convenience (EW-DH01, EW-TM01).

The Plan protects green infrastructure and green space which are important for quality of life, recreation, active lifestyles and physical and mental health (EW-GE02).

In terms of Neurodiversity, design policy EW-DH01 should help to create more legible environments, which are easier to negotiate.

The BSI document ‘PAS 6463:2022 Design for the mind – Neurodiversity and the built environment – Guide’ sets out where neurodiversity could fall under the definition of a disability:

Where a sensory difference has a substantial impact on day-to-day basis, it is very likely that the individual meets the definition of Disability as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

The following table refers to specific policies relevant to different protected characteristics and also other characteristics.

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
Age	<p>Positive impact (low):</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood, so recognises the needs of those without access to a car, which includes older and younger groups (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01). Design policies aim to create permeable and well-connected development (EWDH01).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available, including for first time buyers and those seeking to downsize.</p>	N/A
Disability	<p>Positive impact (low):</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>walkable neighbourhood, so recognises the needs of those without access to a car (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p> <p>The plan addresses design and infrastructure in terms of differing levels of ability and requiring covered and secure storage space for personal vehicles (EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p>	
Gender reassignment	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Maternity and pregnancy	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a more walkable neighbourhood (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should help to cater for changing household needs (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Race	<p>Positive Impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
Religion or belief	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Sex	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p> <p>Other policies would benefit all sexes.</p>	N/A
Sexual orientation	<p>Positive Impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Socio-economic characteristics	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood, so recognises the needs of those without access to a car (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p> <p>The plan seeks to maintain or enhance local employment (EW-SG01).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available. The development of the larger site may trigger</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
	affordable housing requirements, though this is dealt with by the Local Plan (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).	

7.6 Conclusion

The draft plan proposal meets human rights requirements, including compliance with the Equalities Act 2010. This is demonstrated through the rigorous engagement and consultation and equalities assessment, which indicates that the plan would have various positive impacts for people with protected and other characteristics.

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