ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

ABERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2028

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

9th April 2018

THE BENCHMARK CRITERIA

These are the definitions, with illustrative examples, of the criteria that have been used in order to assess/benchmark the impact of each policy, representing the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability:-

Biodiversity – wildlife sites, habitats, features plus geological sites and features. Also strategic wildlife value, ie green infrastructure and Leeds Habitat Network.

Landscape – character, views, attractiveness. Taking account of Special Landscape Areas and conservation area.

Heritage – conservation area, listed buildings, positive buildings, non-designated heritage assets, archaeological interest.

Natural Resources – covering air, water and soil quality/pollution.

Movement – traffic levels/congestion/flow, public transport, cycling, walking and accessibility to facilities.

Open Spaces – spaces available for outdoor recreation and leisure.

Community – health, education, social, cultural and indoor leisure and recreation facilities.

Housing Provision – housing levels.

Safety/Security – eg in relation to crime, traffic, health/safety.

Social Inclusion – inclusion/exclusion, equality/inequality. Taking account of poorer and disadvantaged members of society, eg older people, the very young, non-car owners.

Businesses – local businesses, business/industrial sectors more generally.

Jobs/Training – levels of and opportunities for.

THE SCORING OF IMPACTS

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significant positive impact = ++

some positive benefit = +

no overall impact or not applicable = 0

some negative impact = -

significant negative effects = --

uncertain as to benefits/effects/impact = ?
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BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	+	By working to prevent serious harm to landscape character and special features, many of which contribute positively to biodiversity, there should be little or no overall impact. By also urging a positive contribution to landscape restoration or enhancement, there may in fact be some positive benefits.
Landscape	+	By working to prevent serious harm to landscape character and special features, there should be little or no overall impact. By also urging a positive contribution to landscape restoration or enhancement, there may in fact be some positive benefits.
Heritage	+?	By working to prevent serious harm to landscape character and special features, some of which (ie parkland, walls, listed assets, attractive groups of buildings) contribute positively to local heritage, there should be little or no overall impact. By also urging a positive contribution to landscape restoration or enhancement, there may in fact be some positive benefits, although the effects are uncertain.
Natural Resources	0	By working to prevent serious harm to landscape character and special features, some of which (ie valley watercourses, water bodies) constitute valuable local natural resources, there should be little or no overall impact. By also urging a positive contribution to landscape restoration or enhancement, there may in fact be some positive benefits, although the effects on for example water quality/pollution levels are uncertain.
Movement	0	No likely overall impact.
Open Spaces	0	By working to prevent serious harm to landscape character and special features, many of which contribute positively to the quality of open spaces available for outdoor leisure/recreation, there should be little or no overall impact. By also urging a positive contribution to landscape restoration or enhancement, there may in fact be some positive benefits to the quality of such spaces, although the effects are uncertain.
Community	0	No likely overall impact.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact – not applicable.
Social Inclusion	0	No likely overall impact.
Businesses	0	Could be considered as placing restrictions on existing rural businesses wishing to develop within these special landscapes. On the other hand, could be argued that development in accordance with policy provisions will lead to a high quality development beneficial to the business and attractive to its clients.
Jobs/Training	0	No likely overall impact.

POLICY GE2: LOCAL GREEN IN	NFRASTRUCTU	JRE
BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	+	The wildlife corridor function of local green infrastructure should be both protected and enhanced through the policy's operation.
Landscape	+	The amenity function of local green infrastructure should be both protected and enhanced through the policy's operation.
Heritage	0	While there is some heritage interest within and/or close to identified LGI, there is unlikely to be any noticeable positive or negative overall impact on that interest.
Natural Resources	0	While the Cock Beck is a feature of the 'Cock Beck (East of A1(M))' LGI corridor, there is unlikely to be any noticeable positive or negative overall impact on that water resource.
Movement	0	Potential exists to enhance footpath provision within the 'Lotherton Lane' LGI corridor which is highlighted elsewhere in the NP, but this in itself is not considered to constitute a measurable positive impact. Otherwise no likely impacts.
Open Spaces	+	The recreational corridor function of local green infrastructure should be both protected and enhanced through the policy's operation.
Community	0	No likely overall impact.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact.
Social Inclusion	+	The recreational corridor function of local green infrastructure should be both protected and enhanced through the policy's operation, maintaining/improving the opportunities for all to enjoy the many benefits of outdoor recreation.
Businesses	0	No likely overall impact.
Jobs/Training	0	No likely overall impact.

POLICY GE3: LOCAL GREEN S	PACE	
BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	++	Designates and so bestows effective Green Belt protection to a number of sites with local and or infrastructure/habitat network value for biodiversity, so making a positive contribution.
Landscape	++	Designates and so bestows effective Green Belt protection to a number of sites with acknowledged landscape value (eg within the LCC CAAMP), so making a positive contribution.
Heritage	++	Designates and so bestows effective Green Belt protection to a number of sites with acknowledged heritage value (eg within the LCC CAAMP), so making a positive contribution.
Natural Resources	+	Designates and so bestows effective Green Belt protection to two local allotment sites, so making a positive contribution to soil conservation.
Movement	0	No likely overall impact.
Open Spaces	++	Designates and so bestows effective Green Belt protection to a number of sites with local and or infrastructure value for open space recreation, so making a positive contribution.
Community	+	There is an associative positive relationship between a number of these spaces and identified local indoor community facilities, in that the spaces enclose/include the facilities as well as having a symbiotic functional relationship with them (eg Aberford Albion FC Football Pitch and Clubhouse). As such, there is likely to be some positive overall impact regarding indoor community facilities in terms of protection.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact.
Social Inclusion	+	The recreational function of a number of open spaces will be protected through the policy's operation, maintaining/improving the opportunities for all to freely enjoy the many benefits of outdoor recreation.
Businesses	+/-?	The designation may have implications for 4 of the sites (ie Aberford Albion FC Football Pitch, Aberford C of E Primary School Playing Fields, Simpson's Field, Hook Moor Woodland) in private ownership/with commercial interests in terms of restrictions on future development. Conversely, owners may welcome the protected open space use which the designation confers.
Jobs/Training	0	No likely overall impact.

POLICY GE4: LOCAL GREEN S	PACE ENHAN	CEMENT
BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	0	Enhancement could result in biodiversity benefits but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Landscape	0	Enhancement could result in landscape benefits but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Heritage	0	Enhancement could result in heritage benefits but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Natural Resources	0	Enhancement could result in natural resource benefits, eg to soil or water but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Movement	0	Enhancement could result in accessibility benefits but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Open Spaces	++	Enhancement very likely to result in open space benefits.
Community	+?	There is an associative positive relationship between a number of these spaces and identified local indoor community facilities, in that the spaces enclose/include the facilities as well as having a symbiotic functional relationship with them (eg Aberford Albion FC Football Pitch and Clubhouse). As such, there may be some positive overall impact regarding indoor community facilities in terms of enhancement.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	0	Enhancement could result in safety/security benefits but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Social Inclusion	0	Enhancement could result in social inclusion benefits (e.g. greater access to sites for all where current access limited or prevented) but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Businesses	0	Enhancement could result in benefits for private owners but impossible to be certain at time of assessment. Owners unlikely to agree to enhancements that would impact negatively on their interests.
Jobs/Training	0	Enhancement could have implications for jobs/training but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.

BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	+?	Some possible incidental positive impact in relation to green space, tree and hedgerow retention and enhancement, although impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Landscape	++	Retention/enhancement of green space, trees and hedgerows, plus retention/creation of views towards open green spaces likely to have positive impact.
Heritage	++	Design and development respecting key architectural and historic features within the conservation area very likely to have positive heritage impacts.
Natural Resources	0	No likely overall impact.
Movement	+	Design and development respecting routes through/around the conservation area and retaining permeability/accessibility to green spaces within and adjacent to area likely to have positive effects on movement.
Open Spaces	+	Design and development respecting spaces, including green open spaces, within the conservation area likely to have positive open space impacts.
Community	-3	Some possible negative impact on the ability of community facilities housed in listed/positive buildings and NDHA and maybe other conservation area buildings to adapt in order to continue to/better provide facilities/services (e.g. Jessamine Cottage Surgery).
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact.
Social Inclusion	0	Positive effects on movement could also result in social inclusion benefits (e.g. continued public access to open spaces and routes) but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Businesses	-?	Some possible negative impact on the ability of businesses housed in listed/positive buildings and NDHA and maybe other conservation area buildings to adapt in order to maintain/improve their commercial operations (e.g. Hicklam House).
Jobs/Training	-,	Possible negative impact on community facilities and businesses may possibly have negative effects on local jobs/training.

BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	+/-?	Conservation and/or sympathetic enhancement of assets could have either positive or negative impacts on the biodiversity value of certain assets (e.g. Deer Park, Parlington; Hillam Burchard Medieval Settlement; Saint Ricarius South Churchyard; Water Mill Water Control Features). Impossible to be certain either way at time of assessment.
Landscape	0	Conservation and/or sympathetic enhancement of assets could have either positive or negative impacts on the landscape value of certain assets (e.g. Deer Park, Parlington; Saint Ricarius South Churchyard). Impossible to be certain either way at time of assessment.
Heritage	++	Conservation and/or sympathetic enhancement of assets very likely to have positive impact on heritage assets.
Natural Resources	0	No likely overall impact.
Movement	+?	Conservation and/or sympathetic enhancement of assets may possibly have positive impacts on those assets associated with footpath/cycle routes (e.g. Dark Arch; Light Arch; Wagonway/Fly Line), plus private estate roads through the Parlington Estate.
Open Spaces	+?	Conservation and/or sympathetic enhancement of assets may possibly have positive impacts on the use/enjoyment of open space assets such as Saint Ricarius South Churchyard; Deer Park, Parlington and Hillam Burchard Medieval Settlement (NB the latter 2 both served by/visible from public footpaths).
Community	0	Only one of the assets relates to a local community facility. No likely overall impact.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	+	Conservation/enhancement of walls on the NDHA list and of those assets in a poor state of repair (e.g. Dark Arch, Light Arch, Ice House, Coal Staithes Old Wall) would contribute positively to either security or safety.
Social Inclusion	+;	Positive effects on movement could also result in social inclusion benefits (i.e. maintained/improved routes for free public use) but impossible to be certain at time of assessment.
Businesses	+/-?	The NDHA status may have implications for those assets on the Parlington Estate and for Hillam Burchard, all in private ownership/linked to commercial interests, in terms of restrictions on future development and extra costs that may be incurred as a result. Conversely, owners may welcome the status conferred and the opportunity it offers to positively exploit assets for cultural/recreational/tourist benefits.
Jobs/Training	0	No likely overall impact.

POLICY CF1: PROTECTION & I	NHANCEME	NT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES
BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	0	No likely overall impact.
Landscape	0	No likely overall impact.
Heritage	+/-?	Loss of any facilities provided by designated heritage buildings, e.g. Aberford School, Jessamine Cottage Surgery, leading to change of use/changes to buildings could conceivably have either positive or negative impacts on their heritage value but it is impossible to predict these at the time of the assessment.
Natural Resources	0	No likely overall impact.
Movement	0	No likely overall impact.
Open Spaces	0	No likely overall impact.
Community	++	Retention of and possible improvements to listed facilities will have a definite positive impact on community facilities.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact.
Social Inclusion	++	Retention of and possible improvements to listed facilities which encourage the coming together of the community (i.e. all of the listed facilities) will have a definite positive impact on inclusiveness within the community.
Businesses	-	Restrictions placed by the policy upon commercially provided facilities (i.e. public house, shop) may have some negative impact on the freedom of such businesses to for example change use and/or re-develop.
Jobs/Training	0	No likely overall impact.

BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	0	No likely overall impact.
Landscape	0	No likely overall impact.
Heritage	0	No likely overall impact.
Natural Resources	-?	Provision of new community facilities, particularly any outside the central village core, could possibly lead to an increase in people movements within/into the village, including motorised vehicular movements, possibly leading in turn to a negative impact on air quality in the village. This is however impossible to predict with any certainty at the time of the assessment.
Movement	-?	Provision of new community facilities, particularly any outside the central village core, could possibly lead to an increase in people movements within/into the village, including motorised vehicular movements, possibly leading in turn to a negative impact on traffic in the village. This is however impossible to predict with any certainty at the time of the assessment.
Open Spaces	0	No likely overall impact.
Community	++	Any provision of new community facilities meeting demonstrable need will have a definite positive impact on community facilities.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	-?	Provision of new community facilities, particularly any outside the central village core, could possibly lead to an increase in people movements within/into the village, including motorised vehicular movements, possibly leading in turn to a negative impact on highway safety in the village. This is however impossible to predict with any certainty at the time of the assessment.
Social Inclusion	++	Provision of new community facilities which encourage the coming together of the community will have a definite positive impact on inclusiveness within the community.
Businesses	+	Provision of any new commercially-run community facilities would make a positive contribution to Aberford's business base.
Jobs/Training	+?	Provision of any new commercially-run community facilities could result in more jobs and/or training opportunities within Aberford.

BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	0	No likely overall impact.
Landscape	0	No likely overall impact.
Heritage	0	No likely overall impact.
Natural Resources	0	No likely overall impact.
Movement	+	Provision of new public car parking, associated with any future community use of the site, would make a positive contribution to accessibility and the highway network by taking parked cars off the highway and making it easier for motorised vehicle users to access any new facility.
Open Spaces	0	No likely overall impact.
Community	+	Provision of alternative community uses, in addition to a relocated village hall, is likely to have a positive impact on community facilities as a whole within the village, although it is impossible to predict the exact impact with certainty at time of assessment. The alternative use may be a new facility or a relocated existing facility with likely improvements.
Housing Provision	0	No likely overall impact.
Safety/Security	+/-?	Provision of new public car parking, associated with any future community use of the site, may make a positive contribution to highway safety by taking parked cars off the highway, making both driving and road-crossing easier. Clearer roads may on the other hand encourage higher traffic speeds through the village centre.
Social Inclusion	+	Provision of alternative community uses, in addition to a relocated village hall, is likely to have a positive impact on community interaction as a whole within the village, although it is impossible to predict the exact impact with certainty at time of assessment. The alternative use may be a new facility or a relocated existing facility with likely improvements.
Businesses	+?	Provision of any new or expanded existing commercially-run community facilities would make a positive contribution to Aberford's business base.
Jobs/Training	+?	Provision of any new or expanded commercially-run community facilities could result in more jobs and/or training opportunities within Aberford.

BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	-,	Development of this site within Strategic Green Infrastructure may have some negative impact on biodiversity. This may be compensated for to some extent by the encouragement to protect and enhance the River Crow along the site's northern boundary.
Landscape	-;	Development of this site within Strategic Green Infrastructure may have some negative impact on landscape. This may be compensated for to some extent by the encouragement to protect and enhance the River Crow along the site's northern boundary.
Heritage	0?	The site includes the 'Coal Staithes Old Wall' NDHA and an adjacent 'positive building' in Depot House. Development of the site could have some negative impact on these heritage assets. This may be compensated for by the encouragement to protect and enhance the staithes walls and respect the setting of Depot House.
Natural Resources	+?	The remediation and development of a brownfield site in former commercial and before that industrial (coal-related) use may result in an improvement in the quality of soil on site and of surface water run-off into the river. The policy encouragement to protect and enhance the River Crow along the site's northern boundary will hopefully lead to positive measures which may further contribute to an improvement in water quality. Site development will inevitably lead to an increase in people movements within/into the village, including motorised vehicular movements, possibly leading in turn to a negative impact on air quality in the village, which may balance out the benefits to soil and water quality to some extent.
Movement	-?	Any development will inevitably lead to an increase in people movements within/into the village, including motorised vehicular movements which are likely to have some negative impacts on traffic congestion in the village centre, particularly at the Bunkers Hill/Lotherton Lane junction. Provision of new public car parking, associated with any future community use of the site, would however make a positive contribution to accessibility.
Open Spaces	0	No likely overall impact.
Community	+	Provision of community uses – relocated/most likely improved and/or new – is likely to have a positive impact on community facilities as a whole within the village.
Housing Provision	+	Development for mixed community and housing uses, including affordable housing, would make a positive contribution to housing provision in the village.
Safety/Security	+	Development which protects and enhances the staithes walls should serve to repair and stabilise the walls thereby increasing safety for on-site users and users of the adjacent Parlington Lane.

Social Inclusion	+	Provision of community uses - relocated/most likely improved and/or new – is likely to have a positive
		impact on community interaction as a whole within the village, although it is impossible to predict the exact
		impact with certainty at time of assessment.
Businesses	+5	Provision of any new or expanded existing commercially-run community facilities would make a positive
		contribution to Aberford's business base.
Jobs/Training	+?	Provision of any new or expanded commercially-run community facilities could result in more jobs and/or
		training opportunities within Aberford.

BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION
Biodiversity	0	Development is expected to avoid adverse impacts on Aberford's nature conservation assets. As such, no likely overall impact.
Landscape	0	Development is expected to avoid adverse impacts on Aberford's landscape assets. As such, no likely overall impact.
Heritage	0	Development is expected to avoid adverse impacts on Aberford's conservation area and heritage assets, and to respect its characteristic form and appearance. As such, no likely overall impact.
Natural Resources	+/-?	Development is likely to have at least some impact on air, water and soil resources. Without information on the sites to be developed or the nature of the development itself, it is impossible to predict whether positive or negative at time of assessment.
Movement	0	Development is expected to be undertaken in accordance with a range of movement-related criteria which should minimise overall adverse impacts, although there are no guarantees. Development is also expected to improve existing walking/cycling routes and provide new; provide good access to community facilities; and provide off-street car parking. All within the context of a comprehensive transport study. This balance of possible negative and positive impacts within an informed context can reasonably be expected to result in no likely overall impact.
Open Spaces	0	Development is expected to avoid adverse impacts on Aberford's open space assets. As such, no likely overall impact.
Community	+?	Development may possibly involve provision of new local community facilities in order to deliver the quick and easy access expected.
Housing Provision	++	Development will have a positive impact on local housing numbers.
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact.
Social Inclusion	+	Speed and ease of accessibility to local public transport and community facilities and improvements to walking/cycling provision will have some positive impact on social inclusion and equality.
Businesses	++	Development is likely to have a positive impact on the housebuilding industry.
Jobs/Training	+	Development is likely to have some positive impact on jobs and training.

POLICY H2: DEVELOPMENT O	N NON-ALLO	CATED SITES							
BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION							
Biodiversity	-3	Could have some negative impact on biodiversity depending on the biodiversity value of the non-allocated land in question.							
Landscape	-5	Could have some negative impact on landscape depending on the landscape value of the non-allocated land in question.							
Heritage	-5	Could have some negative impact on heritage depending on the heritage value of the non-allocated land in question or of buildings/the area in its setting.							
Natural Resources	+/-?	Development is likely to have at least some impact on air, water and soil resources. Without information on the land to be developed, it is impossible to predict whether positive or negative at time of assessment.							
Movement	0	Policy should work to balance any development impacts against highway and local public transport network capacity and to deliver adopted accessibility levels to local services. As such no likely overall impact.							
Open Spaces	-?	Could have some negative impact on open spaces depending on the open space value of the non-allocated land in question for leisure/recreation.							
Community	+?	Could result in new school, health, local service provision to meet need generated by new development resulting in some overall positive impact.							
Housing Provision	++	Development will have a positive impact on local housing numbers.							
Safety/Security	0	No likely overall impact.							
Social Inclusion	+	Availability of school and patient places plus ready accessibility to local services will have some positive impact on social inclusion and equality.							
Businesses	++	Development is likely to have a positive impact on the housebuilding industry.							
Jobs/Training	+	Development is likely to have some positive impact on jobs and training.							

POLICY H3: HOUSING MIX								
BENCHMARK CRITERION	IMPACT	EXPLANATION						
Biodiversity	0	No likely overall impact.						
Landscape	0	No likely overall impact.						
Heritage	0	No likely overall impact.						
Natural Resources	0	No likely overall impact.						
Movement	0	No likely overall impact.						
Open Spaces	0	No likely overall impact.						
Community	0	No likely overall impact.						
Housing Provision	++	Development will have a positive impact on the provision of the types of housing required by the Aberford community.						
Safety/Security	+5	Development may possibly lead to safer, more secure accommodation for the older community, eg level access, single storey, warden-linked.						
Social Inclusion	+	A housing mix which meets the needs of smaller households (e.g. first time buyers) and of the older community is likely to have some positive impact on social inclusion and equality.						
Businesses	-;	The requirement to build smaller properties/properties that meet older people's needs may possibly impact negatively on housebuilder profitability, as it may be argued that housebuilders prefer to build more profitable 3+ bedroom dwellings.						
Jobs/Training	0	No likely overall impact.						

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY NUMBERS														
BENCHMARK CRITERION	GE1	GE2	GE3	GE4	BH1	BH2	CF1	CF2	CF3	CF4	H1	H2	Н3	SUMMARY IMPACT 1
Biodiversity	+	+	++	0	+?	+/-?	0	0	0	-?	0	-?	0	+ve
Landscape	+	+	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	-3	0	-?	0	+ve
Heritage	+?	0	++	0	++	++	+/-?	0	0	0?	0	-?	0	+ve
Natural Resources	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	-3	0	+?	+/-?	+/-?	0	+ve
Movement	0	0	0	0	+	+?	0	-3	+	-3	0	0	0	+ve
Open Spaces	0	+	++	++	+	+?	0	0	0	0	0	-?	0	+ve
Community	0	0	+	+?	-?	0	++	++	+	+	+?	+?	0	+ve
Housing Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	+ve
Safety /Security	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-3	+/-?	+	0	0	+?	+ve
Social Inclusion	0	+	+	0	0	+?	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+ve
Businesses	0	0	+/-?	0	-?	+/-?	-	+	+?	+?	++	++	-?	+ve
Jobs/Training	0	0	0	0	-?	0	0	+?	+?	+?	+	+	0	+ve
SUMMARY														+ve
IMPACT 2	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve

Summary Impact 1 = impact/contribution of policies as a whole on/to individual sustainability benchmark criteria

Summary Impact 2 = Impact/contribution of individual policies on sustainability/benchmark criteria as a whole

Overall +ve

Weak positives – GE1; GE2

⁻Overall +ve

⁻Weak positives – Natural Resources; Movement; Safety; Jobs