

Aston Ingham Parish Council
Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022-2031

Basic Conditions Statement

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet a set of basic conditions before it can be put to a referendum and be made. The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 1.2 This Statement has been prepared for Aston Ingham Parish Council to demonstrate that the Aston Ingham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022-2031 ('the NDP') meets legal requirements and the prescribed basic conditions.
- 1.3 The Statement confirms that:
- the legal requirements have been met (section 2).
 - having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the NDP (section 3).
 - the NDP contributes to sustainable development (section 4).
 - the NDP is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the relevant development plan, the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy adopted in October 2015 (section 5).
 - the NDP does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations, and that the making of the NDP does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (section 6).

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The NDP relates to the area that was designated by Herefordshire Council as a Neighbourhood Area on 12 July 2019. The NDP relates only to this Neighbourhood Area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan has or is being made for the Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.2 Aston Ingham Parish Council is a qualifying body.
- 2.3 The NDP is a plan which sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in the Neighbourhood Area and which has been prepared in accordance with the statutory provisions.
- 2.4 The NDP specifies the period for which it is to have effect (2022-2031).
- 2.5 The NDP does not include provision about development that is excluded development, such as mineral and waste matters, nationally significant infrastructure projects or other prescribed development under section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 2.6 Prescribed conditions have been met in relation to the NDP and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposals.

3. REGARD TO NATIONAL POLICIES AND ADVICE

- 3.1 The NDP has been prepared with appropriate regard to the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).² The NDP will help achieve national planning policies at the parish level.
- 3.2 NPPF paragraph 13 sets out requirements for how communities should engage in neighbourhood planning. In accordance with this national policy, the NDP supports the delivery of strategic policies set out in the Local Plan and seeks to shape and direct development that is outside these strategic policies.
- 3.3 In accord with NPPF paragraph 16, the NDP:
- contributes to the objective of achieving sustainable development, as explained in section 4 of this Statement.
 - has been prepared positively through community engagement and the allocation of land for housing as explained in the Consultation Statement.
 - has been shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement with the community and other consultees, as explained in the Consultation Statement.
 - contains policies that are clearly written and unambiguous.
 - is accessible via the Parish Council website.
 - serves a clear purpose in the context of the Aston Ingham Neighbourhood Area, complementing rather than duplicating existing national and Local Plan policies as explained in this section and section 5.
- 3.4 The NPPF sets out more specific guidance on neighbourhood plans, to which the Parish Council in preparing the NDP has had regard to as follows:
- NPPF paragraph 29: Aston Ingham Parish Council have used neighbourhood planning powers to develop a local vision for the Neighbourhood Area and to set planning policies in the NDP as part of the statutory development plan.
 - NPPF paragraph 29: the NDP is considered to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. In Herefordshire, these are the policies in the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy.³ The NDP reflects the strategic policies and plans positively to support them. It does not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan Core Strategy, or undermine its strategic policies. The NDP

¹ July 2021, replacing the previous version published in February 2019.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

³ Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031, October 2015, paragraph 1.14.

defines a settlement boundary for the settlements of Aston Ingham, allocates land for new housing, and provides criteria-based planning policies to guide housing growth, economic development and environmental protection. The general conformity of the NDP with the strategic policies of the Local Plan Core Strategy is set out in more detail in section 5 below.

- NPPF paragraph 31: the preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focussed tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned. In preparing the NDP, use has been made of existing published and other evidence sources, supplemented by a comprehensive residents' questionnaire survey, other public consultation, a Call for Sites, and a Housing Site Assessment and addendum. This supporting material is referred to throughout the NDP as required and is summarised in Appendix A of the Plan.

3.5 PPG indicates that a policy should be clear and unambiguous to enable a decision maker to apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. The guidance further advises that policies should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence, reflecting and responding to both the context and the characteristics of the area.⁴ There is no 'tick box' list of evidence required, but proportionate, robust evidence should support the choices made and the approach taken. The evidence should be drawn upon to explain succinctly the intention and rationale of the policies.⁵ In accordance with this guidance, NDP policies have been carefully drafted to be clear and unambiguous and are based on appropriate and proportionate evidence.

3.6 The regard had to national policies is set out in more detail on an NDP policy-by-policy basis in Table 1.

⁴ PPG Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.

⁵ PPG Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 41-040-20160211

Table 1: National policies by NDP policy

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>Policy AST1: Landscape</p> <p>The siting, scale, layout and design of development proposals should respect the surrounding landscape character as defined in the County Landscape Character Assessment. Schemes for new landscaping put forward as part of development proposals should be compatible with and serve to consolidate the established landscape character, and include details of arrangements for their maintenance and management.</p> <p>Development which would have an adverse effect upon the landscape and rural setting of Aston Ingham village will not be supported.</p> <p>Where a development proposal within the Neighbourhood Area lies within sight of one of the key views (KV) listed below and shown on Plan 4 and the accompanying photographs, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or similar study should be provided to demonstrate that the levels of effects are acceptable, and that the scheme has been sited and designed sensitively and appropriately reflecting, respecting, and where possible, enhancing its landscape context:</p> <p>KV1 and KV2: views from Beavan’s Hill towards Dymock Forest and the Malverns (KV1) and May Hill (KV2).</p> <p>KV3: the view from Oaks Lane towards looking Dymock Forest and the Malverns.</p> <p>KV4 and KV5: views from May Hill towards the Malverns (KV4) and the Black Mountains (KV5).</p> <p>KV6, KV7 and KV8: views from Lea Line towards Ross-on-Wye, Chase Hill and the Black Mountains (KV6), Linton ridge (KV7) and Bromsash and Linton ridge (KV8).</p> <p>KV9 and KV10: views from Aston Crews towards Aston Ingham village and the Malverns (KV9) and May Hill (KV10).</p>	<p>Policy AST1 has regard to national policy in NPPF chapter 15 which deals with conserving and enhancing the natural environment. It is in line with NPPF para. 174 which requires planning policies to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting valued landscapes and to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The identification of key views will help to ensure that development will be sympathetic to local character and history, including its landscape setting (NPPF para. 130 c)).</p>
<p>Policy AST2: Biodiversity</p> <p>Development proposals should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the biodiversity of the Neighbourhood Area.</p>	<p>Policy AST2 has regard to national policy in NPPF chapter 15 which deals with conserving and enhancing the natural environment. It is in line with NPPF para. 174 which requires planning policies to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>Development likely to have an adverse effect on the Aston Ingham Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest will only be permitted where it can be shown that the benefits of the proposed development clearly outweigh the likely impacts on the conservation status of the Site and on the national network of protected Sites.</p> <p>Any development draining to the Lower Wye catchment must be shown not to have an adverse effect on the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC). In particular, planning permission will only be granted if clear and convincing evidence is provided which shows that the proposed development would not increase nutrient inputs to the SAC. This could include the delivery of mitigation measures to make a proposal nutrient neutral. Reference should be made to Herefordshire Council’s Phosphate Calculator and associated guidance.</p> <p>Proposals should contribute to a net gain for biodiversity by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identifying and retaining existing green infrastructure within the development site such as trees, hedgerows and water features, and providing for enhancement wherever possible; and 2. wherever possible, promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of sites of biodiversity interest in accordance with their status, including those identified in the Priority Habitats Inventory, Local Wildlife Sites, irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland and veteran trees, ponds and watercourses; and 3. maintaining, restoring and where possible enhancing the contribution of habitats to the coherence and connectivity of the Herefordshire Ecological Network. 	<p>protecting sites of biodiversity or geological value in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality, and to minimise impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity. The policy distinguishes between international, national and locally designated sites, and seeks to maintain and enhance networks of habitats and green infrastructure (NPPF paras. 175 and 179).</p>
<p>Policy AST3: Building design</p> <p>Development proposals should achieve a high quality of sustainable design by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. being in character with adjoining development with respect to siting, height, scale, architectural detailing, density, building to building distances, private amenity space, means of enclosure, landscaping and the use of materials; and 2. incorporating sustainability measures including energy and water conservation, renewable energy generation, sustainable drainage, and provision for the recycling of waste, cycle storage, and electric vehicle charging; and 3. avoiding creating unacceptable impacts on the amenity of neighbouring property 	<p>Policy AST3 seeks to achieve a high quality of design reflecting NPPF chapter 12 particularly para. 130. In doing so it provides guidance on a range of matters including local character and landscape setting, architecture and layout, and landscaping. It also supports designs promoting a high level of sustainability (NPPF para. 134) and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (NPPF para. 151).</p> <p>The policy also aims to prevent new and existing</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>including as a result of the volume and nature of traffic generated, noise, dust or odour. External lighting should avoid undue adverse impacts on amenity, wildlife and dark skies; and</p> <p>4. being safely accessible from the highway network without undue impacts on the character of the locality and on biodiversity which cannot be mitigated, not result in additional on-road parking, and taking every available opportunity to promote walking and cycling.</p>	<p>development from contributing to or being affected by unacceptable levels of pollution (NPPF para. 174 e) and to promote sustainable transport (NPPF chapter 9).</p>
<p>Policy AST4: Aston Ingham village settlement boundary</p> <p>A settlement boundary is defined for Aston Ingham village as shown on Plan 5. Within the boundary, new housing and other development which is in accordance with other development plan policies will be supported. Local Plan policy RA3 or its replacement will apply to housing proposals outside the boundary.</p>	<p>Policy AST4 is in accord with national policy to promote sustainable development in rural areas by locating housing where it will enhance and maintain the vitality of rural communities, and to avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside (NPPF paras. 79 and 80). Aston Ingham is a settlement identified in the Local Plan Core Strategy for proportionate housing development (policy RA2); outside of settlements new housing is restricted to avoid an unsustainable pattern of development (policy RA3). The defined settlement boundary provides a basis for implementing this strategic approach by clearly defining the extent of the village.</p>
<p>Policy AST5: Land at Ellsmere, Aston Ingham</p> <p>Land at Ellsmere, Aston Ingham is allocated for development for around five new dwellings and public open space. Plan 5 shows the housing site and the public open space. Proposals that are in accord with policy AST3 and meet the following requirements will be supported:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the dwellings are of a size and type which contribute to meeting the latest assessment of housing needs in accordance with policy AST6, with a preference for 2- and 3-bedroom properties including bungalows; and 2. vehicular access is taken from the B4222 to the south, retaining as much of the existing hedgerow as is consistent with junction design and visibility requirements; and 3. the design and layout of the new dwellings respects the privacy and seclusion of the 	<p>Policy AST5 allocates land for housing and public open space. It follows consideration of the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites for housing in accord with NPPF para. 70.</p> <p>The housing element of the allocation will help to promote sustainable development in a rural settlement identified in the Local Plan Core Strategy for proportionate housing growth. This strategic approach is intended to enable development that has the ability to bolster existing service provision, improve facilities and infrastructure and meet the</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>4. Aston Ingham Scout Hut as far as reasonably practicable; and an off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists is provided through the housing and public open space from the B4222 in the east to the west. A Transport Assessment should be provided to demonstrate how the site and village facilities are to be safely accessed by all users; and</p> <p>5. it is demonstrated through a Flood Risk Assessment that the development will be safe and will not increase flood risk elsewhere, and is otherwise in accord with policy AST11 in respect of surface water management and flood risk. The Flood Risk Assessment should confirm the extent of Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 within the site and demonstrate that all development is to be located within Flood Zone 1; and</p> <p>6. an Ecological Appraisal is provided which includes suitable avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures to address predicted impacts; and</p> <p>7. the proposal includes public open space as shown on Plan 5 which incorporates a management plan for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of the remaining traditional orchard priority habitat as a community orchard and of land within Flood Zones 2 and 3.</p> <p>Any proposal for the housing element of the allocated site which does not also include suitable proposals for the public open space element will not be supported.</p>	<p>needs of the communities concerned (policy RA2). This is in line with NPPF para. 79 which requires housing to be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p> <p>The policy is responsive to local needs as to the type and size of housing required, pursuant to NPPF paras. 62 and 78; will ensure effective integration with the existing Scout Hut community facility (NPPF para. 187); and that safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users and that appropriate account is taken of opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes (NPPF para. 110). It directs development away from areas of flood risk (NPPF para. 159). The allocation of land for public open space and the provisions made for its ecological appraisal and management will serve to conserve and enhance the natural environment alongside development (NPPF chapter 15).</p>
<p>Policy AST6: Housing mix</p> <p>Proposals for new housing must demonstrate, subject to viability considerations, that they provide dwellings of a type and size that positively contribute to meeting the latest assessment of housing needs. There is a particular requirement in the Neighbourhood Area for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller family housing of 2- or 3-bedrooms. • Housing designed to meet the needs of older people including bungalows. <p>Proposals for live/work units and for self-build housing will also be supported.</p>	<p>Policy AST6 seeks to ensure that housing needs and requirements in the Neighbourhood Area will be met in accord with NPPF paras. 60 and 78. The policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs as to size and type in accord with NPPF para. 62.</p>
<p>Policy AST7: Householder development</p> <p>Proposals for alterations and extensions to existing dwellings or for ancillary development within residential curtilages will be supported where they are in accord with policy AST3</p>	<p>Policy AST7 seeks to ensure that householder development contributes to well-designed places (NPPF para. 130.)</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the existing dwelling remains as the dominant element of built form on the curtilage, to which the proposed development is subordinate; and 2. the design of the new development respects and complements the existing dwelling in scale, height, form, materials and detailing. This does not preclude innovative proposals where these are of exceptional design quality; and 3. the proposal does not lead to an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties through overlooking, loss of privacy, reduction of outlook or daylight, or noise; and 4. the proposal does not lead to an unacceptable loss of on-curtilage parking resulting in additional on-street parking; and 5. the proposal does not lead to an unacceptable loss of useable private amenity space, trees or other important natural site features. 	
<p>Policy AST8: Community facilities</p> <p>The following community facilities will be protected, retained and enhanced in accordance with Local Plan policy SC1 or its replacement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aston Ingham Village Hall. • St John the Baptist Church. • Aston Ingham Scout Hut. • Aston Ingham Bowling Green. • The Penny Farthing Inn public house. <p>Proposals for new community facilities in and adjacent to the village and which are accessible by a choice of transport modes including walking and cycling will be supported. Proposals should take account of the potential for the co-location of services in achieving viability. A village shop will be particularly welcomed.</p>	<p>Policy AST8 supports the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, as part of supporting a prosperous rural economy in line with NPPF para. 84 d).</p> <p>It takes account of NPPF para. 93 which requires planning policies to plan positively for the provision and use of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. It also has regard to NPPF para. 98 in respect of recreational land and buildings.</p>
<p>Policy AST9: Communications infrastructure</p> <p>Proposals for the development of mobile telecommunications infrastructure will be supported provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use is made of existing masts, buildings or other structures in preference to a new 	<p>Policy AST9 supports the expansion of electronic communications networks and provision of full fibre connections to new development in line with NPPF para. 114. It sets planning policy criteria which are in accord with NPPF para. 115.</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>site wherever possible and technically appropriate; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the siting, design and appearance of equipment including its height and colour serves to minimise the impact on visual amenity and on the character and appearance of the locality, taking account of any mitigation proposed; and 3. the proposal does not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on landscape character and key views. <p>Improvements to broadband infrastructure will be supported. New development should be served by a full fibre connection unless it can be demonstrated that this would not be possible, practical or economically viable, in which case suitable ducting should be provided from the site boundary to all properties to facilitate future provision.</p>	
<p>Policy AST10: Renewable and low carbon energy</p> <p>Renewable and low carbon energy proposals including small-scale wind energy development that will benefit the community will be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the form of development is appropriate to its surroundings and is not of an industrial scale or nature such that this would be inappropriate to the rural character of the Neighbourhood Area; and 2. there is no substantial increase in traffic volumes including HGV traffic; and 3. there is no undue detrimental impact on visual and residential amenity, landscape character including the setting of Aston Ingham village, key views and biodiversity. 	<p>Policy AST10 supports suitable renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily in accord with NPPF para. 155 a).</p>
<p>Policy AST11: Surface water and flood risk</p> <p>Development proposals should provide a surface water management strategy to accompany outline or full planning applications to demonstrate effective surface water drainage and the management of flood risk. In doing so, full use should be made of sustainable drainage systems. Designs should maximise the retention of surface water within the curtilage of the development site and minimise runoff. There should be no increase in runoff or flood risk affecting neighbouring land and property and wherever possible betterment should be achieved through a reduction in runoff rate and volumes.</p>	<p>Policy AST11 supports the management of flood risk and the use of sustainable drainage systems (NPPF para. 167).</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>Policy AST12: Small-scale employment</p> <p>Proposals for small-scale employment development which are consistent with the rural character of the Neighbourhood Area will be supported, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extensions to existing dwellings to enable home working which are in accord with policy AST7; • proposals for the change of use of redundant rural buildings for business use including for live/work units; • the small-scale extension of existing business premises; and • the development and diversification of existing farm, forestry and other land-based rural businesses. <p>Proposals should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. not create unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of local residents, including through noise or air pollution, light levels, working hours, and increases in traffic; and 2. demonstrate that the traffic generated can be safely accommodated on local roads without undue operational, safety or environmental consequences, including road widening or loss of hedgerows, and encourage walking and cycling. 	<p>Policy AST12 supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses in the Neighbourhood Area as set out in NPPF para. 84. It allows that opportunities to meet business needs may arise outside existing settlements (NPPF para. 85).</p>
<p>Policy AST13: Agricultural and forestry development</p> <p>Proposals for agricultural and forestry development requiring planning permission should be able to demonstrate that they meet the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the local highway network and the proposed means of vehicular access can cater safely for both the volume and type of vehicles anticipated, and the proposed access is environmentally acceptable; and 2. new buildings are sited with existing development wherever possible. Where this is not possible, new buildings should be sited to take advantage of natural landform and avoid isolated or skyline locations; and 3. any impacts on landscape character and visual amenity arising from the proposed siting, scale, design, colour and materials of development are acceptable, or can be satisfactorily mitigated by a landscaping scheme which is itself acceptable; and 4. there will be no undue loss of amenity to the occupiers of residential properties, including by way of external lighting, the design and siting of any building or 	<p>Policy AST13 seeks to ensure that agricultural and forestry developments requiring planning permission are appropriate in terms of their impacts on and implications for traffic and transport, landscape, amenity, and the natural and historic environments in accord with NPPF chapters 9, 14, 15 and 16.</p>

NDP policy	Regard to national policies
<p>installation, traffic, or noise and air pollution including odour; and</p> <p>5. there are no unacceptable impacts on biodiversity, heritage assets or the utility and enjoyment of public rights of way. The provision of safe off-road active travel links within developments is encouraged; and</p> <p>6. surface water is acceptably and appropriately managed through sustainable drainage, with no adverse impact on local watercourses in respect of water quality, flood risk, pollution or soil erosion.</p> <p>In assessing proposals, account will be taken of any necessary ancillary works and buildings and of any other existing, permitted or proposed similar developments in the locality so that cumulative impacts can be considered.</p>	

4. ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 The making of the Aston Ingham NDP will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

4.2 The NPPF explains that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives:

- **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental objective** – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

4.3 The NPPF emphasises that these objectives are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways, so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the objectives. The objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in the Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.

4.4 Section 3 of this Statement explains how the NDP has had regard to national policy and advice, and thus how it will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

4.5 The NDP is also considered to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (see section 5). This sets out a spatial strategy to achieve the sustainable development of the County of Herefordshire based on the three themes of social progress, economic prosperity, and environmental quality. These themes echo the three roles as defined in the NPPF. The NDP will deliver sustainable development by virtue of setting out a balanced set of policies which address each of the strategic themes.

4.6 Table 2 sets out how the NDP will help achieve sustainable development, by contributing to each of the three national objectives through its Vision, objectives, planning policies and Community Actions.

Table 2: Sustainable development

Objective	How the Aston Ingham NDP contributes
Economic	<p>The Vision includes that by 2031 Aston Ingham parish will be a place where appropriate economic development helps to provide local employment, and with local facilities supporting health, social and cultural well-being.</p> <p>Relevant objectives are to support economic development which is in scale and keeping with the character of the Neighbourhood Area; to foster new infrastructure; protect existing community facilities and enable new provision; and to provide new homes.</p> <p>Plan policies directly address the economic objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocating land for development for housing (policy AST5). • Supporting the retention of community facilities and new provision, including a village shop (policy AST8). • Supporting communications infrastructure development (policy AST9). • Supporting small-scale employment development (policy AST12). • Providing criteria for new development (policy AST3) and for agricultural and forestry uses (policy AST13) so that those bringing proposals forward can do so with confidence. <p>Other NDP policies support the economic objective indirectly. Policies addressing the social objective help to maintain and promote a thriving rural community and thus demand for goods and services. Policies addressing the environmental objective serve to protect, conserve and enhance the built and natural environments, providing a stable basis for economic activity.</p> <p>As well as its planning policies, the NDP sets out Community Actions which the Parish Council will undertake or otherwise support which contribute to the economic objective. These include working with Herefordshire Council and others on aspects of local highways and transport provision, promoting improvements to communications and broadband infrastructure, and supporting convenience retail/Post Office facilities in the village.</p>
Social	<p>The Vision includes that by 2031 Aston Ingham parish will be a thriving local community with a clear identity where local facilities support health, social and cultural well-being, and where well-designed, sustainable new development provides the size and type of new homes needed.</p>

Objective	How the Aston Ingham NDP contributes
	<p>Relevant objectives are to provide new homes, of a size and type to meet the community's needs; to protect existing community facilities and enable new provision; and to foster new infrastructure.</p> <p>Plan policies directly address the social objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining local distinctiveness and fostering community identity by protecting landscape, key views and biodiversity (policies AST1 and AST2). • Requiring proposals to be in character with adjoining development, and to avoid undue impacts on the amenity of neighbouring dwellings (policies AST3 and AST7). • Allocating land to meet housing requirements (policy AST5). • Requiring new dwellings to be of a type and size that contributes to meeting housing needs (policy AST6). • Protecting community facilities thereby supporting the health, social and cultural well-being of the community (policy AST8). <p>Other NDP policies support the social objective indirectly. Policies addressing the economic objective support proposals for small-scale employment development. Policies addressing the environmental objective serve to protect the Neighbourhood Area's built and natural environments which contributes to the sense of place, character and community identity.</p> <p>As well as its planning policies, the NDP sets out Community Actions which the Parish Council will undertake or otherwise support which contribute to the social objective, including working with Herefordshire Council and others on aspects of road safety, public transport, flooding and rights of way; and by promoting improvements to communications and broadband infrastructure.</p>
Environmental	<p>The Vision includes that by 2031 Aston Ingham will be a sustainable rural environment providing an attractive and peaceful countryside and where walking and cycling are realistic travel options.</p> <p>Relevant objectives are to protect and enhance the natural environment and to promote well-designed and sustainable development.</p> <p>Plan policies directly address the environmental objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting landscape character, key views and biodiversity (policies AST1 and AST2). • Promoting a high quality of sustainable design (policy AST3). • Promoting a sustainable pattern of development by defining a settlement boundary for Aston Ingham village (policy AST4). • Supporting renewable and low carbon energy proposals (policy AST10). • Managing surface water drainage and flood risk (policy AST11).

Objective	How the Aston Ingham NDP contributes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requiring provision for active travel (walking and cycling) in policies for employment, housing and community facilities. <p>Other NDP policies support the environmental objective indirectly. Policies addressing the social objective help to promote the health, social and cultural well-being of the community by making use of the local environment in varying ways. Policies addressing the economic objective support the continued delivery of goods and services locally, reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>As well as its planning policies, the NDP sets out Community Actions which the Parish Council will undertake or otherwise support which contribute to the environmental objective, including actions to enable a public transport service and to promote walking and cycling.</p>

5. GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICY

- 5.1 The Aston Ingham NDP is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area, namely the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. Table 3 sets out how each of the NDP's policies align with the strategic policies, reflecting Herefordshire Council's response to the Regulation 14 consultation and taking account of subsequent amendments to policies AST2 and AST10 to improve conformity. The Core Strategy can be seen at https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200185/local_plan/137/local_plan_-_core_strategy/2.
- 5.2 Remaining saved policies of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan are not relevant to the NDP.

Table 3: General conformity of NDP policies with strategic policies.

NDP policy	Local Plan strategic policies
Policy AST1: Landscape	Policy AST1 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> , LD1 <i>Landscape and townscape</i> and LD2 <i>Biodiversity and geodiversity</i> . It adds local detail by identifying natural environment assets in the Neighbourhood Area including the setting of the village and key views.
Policy AST2: Biodiversity	Policy AST2 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> , LD2 <i>Biodiversity and geodiversity</i> and LD3 <i>Green infrastructure</i> . It adds local detail by identifying sites and features of biodiversity value in the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy AST3: Building design	Policy AST3 is in general conformity with strategic policies SD1 <i>Sustainable design and energy efficiency</i> , SD2 <i>Renewable and low carbon energy generation</i> , SD3 <i>Sustainable water management and water resources</i> and SD4 <i>Wastewater treatment and river water quality</i> . It adds local detail by reflecting issues of concern as expressed in replies to the NDP questionnaire survey.
Policy AST4: Aston Ingham village settlement boundary	Policy AST4 is in general conformity with strategic policy LD1 <i>Landscape and townscape</i> . It adds local detail by defining a settlement boundary for Aston Ingham village and setting out criteria for development in the settlement.
Policy AST5: Land at Ellsmere, Aston Ingham	Policy AST5 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS2 <i>Delivering new homes</i> , SS3 <i>Ensuring sufficient housing land delivery</i> , OS1 <i>Requirement for open space, sports and recreation facilities</i> , OS2 <i>Meeting open</i>

NDP policy	Local Plan strategic policies
	<i>space, sports and recreation needs, LD1 Landscape and townscape, LD2 Biodiversity and geodiversity and LD3 Green infrastructure. It adds local detail by allocating a site for new housing and setting out the planning requirements for its development, as guided by consultation.</i>
Policy AST6: Housing mix	Policy AST6 is in general conformity with strategic policy H3 <i>Ensuring an appropriate range and mix of housing</i> . It adds local detail by setting out the type and size of housing that will be required to meet local needs.
Policy AST7: Householder development	No relevant strategic policies identified.
Policy AST8: Community facilities	Policy AST8 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> and SC1 <i>Social and community facilities</i> . It adds local detail by identifying community facilities in the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy AST9: Communications infrastructure	Policy AST9 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> , E3 <i>Homeworking</i> , RA6 <i>Rural economy</i> and ID1 <i>Infrastructure delivery</i> . It adds local detail as to the planning policy criteria to applied to relevant developments in the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy AST10: Renewable and low carbon energy	Policy AST10 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> , SS7 <i>Addressing climate change</i> and SD2 <i>Renewable and low carbon energy generation</i> . It adds local detail as to the planning policy criteria to applied to relevant developments in the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy AST11: Surface water and flood risk	Policy AST11 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> , SD3 <i>Sustainable water management and water resources</i> and LD3 <i>Green infrastructure</i> . It confirms local requirements for the management of surface water and the use to be made of sustainable drainage systems.
Policy AST12: Small-scale employment	Policy AST12 is in general conformity with strategic policies SS1 <i>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</i> , SS5 <i>Employment provision</i> , E1 <i>Employment provision</i> , E2 <i>Redevelopment of employment land</i> , E3 <i>Homeworking</i> , E4 <i>Tourism</i> , RA5 <i>Re-use of rural buildings</i> and RA6 <i>Rural economy</i> . It adds local detail in terms of the type of small-scale employment development to be supported and relevant planning policy criteria.

NDP policy	Local Plan strategic policies
Policy AST13: Agricultural and forestry development	Policy AST13 is in general conformity with strategic policies RA4 <i>Agricultural, forestry and rural enterprise dwellings</i> , RA5 <i>Re-use of rural buildings</i> and RA6 <i>Rural economy</i> . It adds local detail by providing a specific policy for agricultural and forestry development, addressing issues of concern in the Neighbourhood Area as expressed in replies to the NDP questionnaire survey.

6. EU OBLIGATIONS

6.1 The Aston Ingham NDP is compatible with European Union obligations as detailed in Table 4 and as transposed into UK law.

Table 4: EU obligations

EU Obligation	Compatibility of the Aston Ingham NDP
Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	<p>Strategic environmental assessment of the NDP has been undertaken by Herefordshire Council. An initial screening opinion in June 2019 concluded that the NDP would require further assessment for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Scoping Report was prepared in March 2020 and published for consultation. Subsequently, a SEA of the draft Plan was undertaken in March 2022 and the resultant Environmental Report was published for consultation alongside the draft Plan.</p> <p>The Environmental Report concludes in its non-technical summary that the NDP is in general conformity with both national planning policy contained in the NPPF and strategic policies set within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). SEA paragraph 6.8 reports that the cumulative effect of the NDP will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives. Paragraph 6.9 sets out that none of the NDP policies were considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>Amendments to the draft Plan following regulation 14 consultation were assessed in a further Environmental Report (September 2022). Policy AST5 was re-screened as significant changes were made following the consultation. This demonstrated that the cumulative effect on the NDP to achieve the SEA objectives is overall positive.</p> <p>The NDP has been prepared in conjunction with a formal process of environmental appraisal in accordance with the SEA Directive, whose requirements have been met.</p>
Habitats Directive	<p>A process of assessment of the NDP pursuant to the Habitats Directive has been undertaken by Herefordshire Council. Initial screening in June 2019 found that the Neighbourhood Area was within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including River Lugg) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and within 10km of the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC. The initial screening concluded that these SACs would need to be taken into account in the NDP and that a full Habitats Regulation Assessment would be required.</p> <p>An Appropriate Assessment of the draft NDP was undertaken by Herefordshire Council and published in March 2022. This concluded that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC and the Wye</p>

EU Obligation	Compatibility of the Aston Ingham NDP
	<p>Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC when the mitigation and avoidance measures have been taken into account.</p> <p>Amendments to the draft Plan following regulation 14 consultation were assessed in a further Report in September 2022. The Appropriate Assessment re-affirms the previous conclusions, namely that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC when the mitigation and avoidance measures have been taken into account.</p> <p>The NDP has been prepared in conjunction with an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive, whose requirements have been met.</p>
Water Framework Directive	<p>The Local Plan Core Strategy (policies SD3 and SD4) requires that development proposals are considered against Water Framework Directive objectives, including that development should not undermine the achievement of water quality targets. These strategic policies are referenced in Table 3 above as policies with which relevant NDP policies are in general conformity with. NDP policies AST11 and AST13 require acceptable arrangements for surface water disposal to be demonstrated, and policy AST2 requires that proposals draining to the River Wye are nutrient neutral in terms of their effect on the River Wye Special Area of Conservation. The Water Framework Directive has also been taken into account within the objectives used for the SEA of the NDP and as a source of baseline information and targets.</p> <p>The NDP is considered to be compatible with the Water Framework Directive.</p>
European Convention on Human Rights	<p>The NDP is fully compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, transposed into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. It has been prepared within the existing framework of statute, national planning policy and guidance, and County-level strategic planning policies. In accordance with established process, its preparation has included consultation with the local community and it is subject to independent examination. The policies within the Plan are considered to comply with the requirements of EU obligations in relation to Human Rights.</p>