



Oundle in 2020 and Beyond

Supported by our Neighbourhood Plan

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- ▶ Neighbourhood Planning was introduced in the Localism Act of 2011 which came into effect in April 2012.
- ▶ A Neighbourhood Plan sets out how land will be developed and used. It covers issues such as where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like.
- ▶ Neighbourhood Plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area - so saying "no more development" is not an option. (Neighbourhood Plans will have to take into account the District Council's assessment of housing and other development needs in the area.)
- ▶ Oundle's Neighbourhood Plan will be developed during 2014 before being put to a referendum in May 2015.
- ▶ The question that needs to be approved in the referendum by 50% of those voting is: "Do you want East Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Oundle to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"
- ▶ Apart from greater account being taken of our wishes by the planning authority, we also get more funds to spend locally:

Community Infrastructure Levy: Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan will receive 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy arising from developments in their area compared to parishes without a neighbourhood plan who will receive only 15%.

(The community infrastructure levy is a new levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on developments in their area. The levy is incurred by developers to cover their obligations to fund infrastructure and other obligations under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act.)



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What else has happened?

- ▶ In June 2010, Oundle Town Council launched “Oundle 2020” as a community wide initiative to produce a plan for the development of Oundle towards 2020.
- ▶ The project engaged with town and other stakeholders and residents in capturing aspirations for the future development of Oundle.
- ▶ A series of surveys and focus groups were conducted which captured ideas for the development of the town. These ideas helped form the basis for a document “Town Plan Options” that was developed between November 2011 and September 2012.
- ▶ The introduction of the new legislation early in 2012 triggered a switch of focus to Neighbourhood Planning.
- ▶ However, some of the “Town Plan Options” recommendations were ready for implementation. They were summarised in the Oundle Oracle publicised in October 2012 and the current status is:
 - Improved car park signage – implemented 2012
 - Roadside parking changes on Glaphorn Road, Milton Road, New Road, West Street – implementation 2014
 - 20mph zone in the town centre – consult and implement 2014
 - Additional cycle parking spaces – implementation 2014
- ▶ In the meantime the work done under Oundle 2020 has been used to inform the development of Oundle’s Neighbourhood Plan.

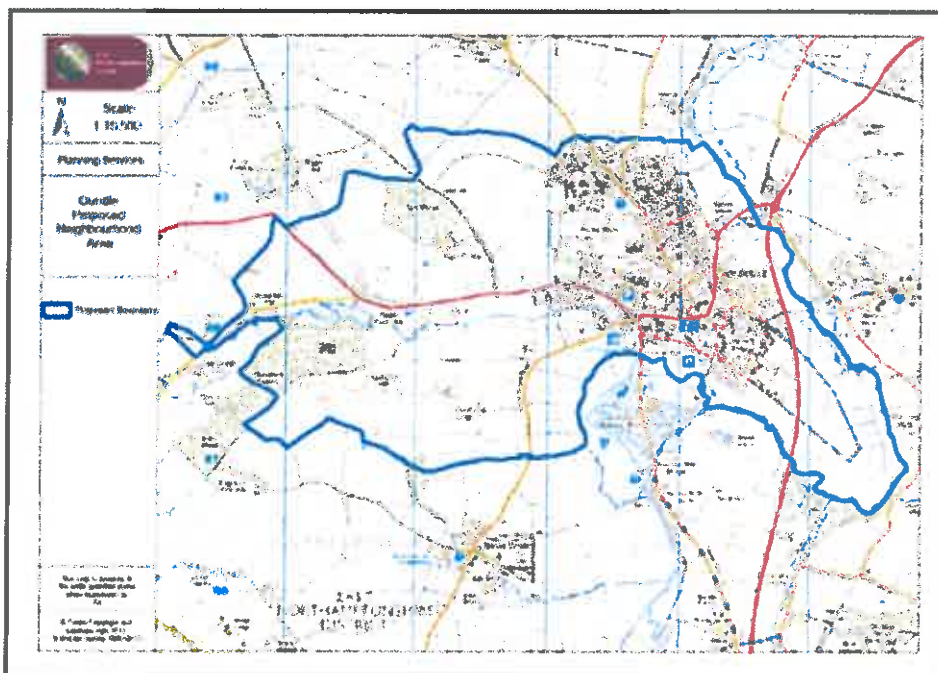




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The Neighbourhood Plan so far..

- ▶ In December 2012, Oundle Town Council applied for the designation of the whole of the Oundle Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area
- ▶ After considering comments received during the consultation process, East Northamptonshire Council endorsed the proposal in June 2013.



- ▶ The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (NPWP) has been authorised by Oundle Town Council to carry out the preparation of Oundle's Neighbourhood Plan.
- ▶ East Northamptonshire Council are supporting the work and have also provided the services of two consultants to provide additional advice and guidance.



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NPWP members

			
Roger Sturman NPWP Chairman	Town Cllr David Wood NPWP Deputy Chairman	District Cllr Phillip Stearn	Town Cllr Neil Fraser Town Deputy Mayor
			
Town Cllr David Chapple	Town Cllr Paul King	Ann Chapple Resident	Bob Ferrari Resident
			
David Webb Resident	Dee Hope Resident	Debra Harper Town Clerk	Hanneke Soans Support Staff
			
Mark Benns Design Statement	Nick Turner Resident	Sue Jobbins (Consultant) Shaping Communities	Alex Munro (Consultant) Maroon Planning



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What next..

- ▶ The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan was confirmed in June 2013, so we can now proceed to the next stage of defining the plan.
- ▶ This will be based on the work of Oundle 2020.
- ▶ The Neighbourhood Plan will also include the development requirements set out in district plans such as the Rural Northamptonshire, Oundle and Thrapston plan together with Local and National planning policies.
- ▶ The Neighbourhood Plan cannot block development. However, it can influence the type, design, location and mix of new development.
- ▶ Oundle is able to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in the town; for example, where new homes and offices should be built, and what they should look like. The Neighbourhood Plan will set a vision for the future. It can be detailed, or general, depending on what we want.
- ▶ 11th January, 2014 is the official launch for the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan. The work and consultation that has been carried out since 2010 has been converted into a set of draft objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan with supporting proposed actions. These ideas will now be consulted with our community, stakeholders and neighbouring parishes. This work will ultimately allow the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan to be written (see the timeline which follows for more detail),
- ▶ Once the Plan has been written , it will be subjected to an independent check to confirm that is appropriate consultation has taken place in its development and that it complies with the district plans and planning policies.
- ▶ Then the referendum will take place in May 2015.
- ▶ If more than 50% of those voting are in favour, then the Plan will have legal force.





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The timeline

Activity	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	
Community launch on January 11th.	◆																	
Call for development sites from land owners	■																	
Distribution of Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires		■																
Senior's consultation event (provisionally 9th Feb)		◆																
Business event (2nd April)			◆															
Young Person's event (date to be decided in April)				◆														
Consultation feedback exhibition (10th May)					◆													
Finalise draft options in plan						■												
Draft options exhibition (12th July)							◆											
Write the Neighbourhood Plan								■										
Prepare for Statutory Consultation									■									
Statutory consultation (min 6 weeks)										■								
Changes plan where required. OTC sign off											■							
Submission of Plan for publicity by LPA												■						
LPA Reg 16 publicity													■					
Plan examination														■				
Referendum (7th May)																		◆

The steps required to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan are set out in statute and “best practice”. They are rigorous and so will require some time to complete. The key steps are set out in the timeline above and summarised below:

- ▶ Following the launch on January 11th, the focus for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan will be on gathering information from the community and stakeholders through a survey and a series of consultation events.
- ▶ This allows the ideas behind the Plan to be developed and refined. This effort will culminate in an exhibition on 12th July where the draft options will be shared in a public exhibition.
- ▶ Thereafter the actual Neighbourhood Plan will be written and then publically shared in October 2014. Comments received will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan as appropriate.
- ▶ A further official publication of the Plan will take place followed by an independent review.
- ▶ The referendum will take place on May 7th 2015 (general election day) and will be based on the question "Do you want East Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Oundle to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"





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Neighbourhood Plan hokey cokey

- ▶ Oundle 2020 developed a vision for the town:

Our Vision for Oundle in 2020 is a stunningly beautiful thriving market town renowned for being a fantastic place to live and work and a joy to visit.

The journey towards this development will include:

- *The protection and preservation of the heritage of the town;*
- *An expanded tourist economy built on the rich and diverse identity that it already has;*
- *Increased recreational use of the countryside and riverside amenities;*
- *A re-designed infrastructure to accommodate current growth in housing and population;*
- *Improved and developed services for all the population.*

- ▶ It is important to remember that a Neighbourhood Plan principally covers how land will be used and developed. So there are some aspects of the Oundle 2020 vision that will not be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Potentially there are three places for these to be addressed.

1. **Town Design Statement:** This flowed from the Oundle 2020 work and is nearing completion. It describes the style of building development that is hoped will take place in different parts of the town and once approved by Oundle Town Council, it will be taken into account by the Local Planning Authority.
2. **Portas Group:** This was set up by Oundle Town Council to address local implementation of issues from the Portas Review. It helps promote the vitality of the town centre and is led by the Town Centre Manager.
3. **Community Action Plan:** Community development actions that are not covered by the above channels will be covered here. The starting point will be a distillation of what was identified in the work of Oundle 2020 and does not get included in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Community Action Plan will take shape in the second half of 2014.





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Please use the “stickies” to provide your comments, suggestions and support for the following 8 draft objectives and actions.

These objectives will ultimately become the basis for the Neighbourhood Plan so your comments are essential.





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OUNDLÉ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - VISION STATEMENT

For Oundle to remain a beautiful and thriving market town renowned for being a fantastic place to live and to work in and a joy to visit.

This is supported by 8 draft objectives that will ultimately form the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan:

1 Business, Education and Employment

Objectives:

1. To identify development opportunities to provide further employment within the town, safeguarding existing sites for employment land and/or making alternative provision
2. To be a provider of educational excellence for the town, the immediate locality and nationally.

Supporting actions:

1. Identify sites for commercial and industrial units including:
 - A business hub for the community
 - Life/work units and small self-contained office units
2. Identify the most suitable new site should the primary school relocate and consider the future use of its existing site if vacated.



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2 Connectivity

Objectives:

1. To reduce the numbers of vehicles unnecessarily transiting the town centre by providing/signposting alternative routes
2. To reduce the numbers of cars in the town by providing cycle ways and footpaths as alternatives for movement within the town, between both existing and new developments and the town centre, and to improve access to the countryside
3. Identify possible sites for new footpaths/cycleways throughout the town

Supporting actions:

1. Arrange specialist transport advice
2. Create linkages between the redeveloped marina and new sites for housing



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3 Green Space

Objectives:

1. To safeguard existing green spaces and where possible provide additional, or enhanced, facilities within existing or new developments (connect with the Town design Statement).

Supporting actions:

1. Reinforce the stance taken in the Oundle Town Design Statement (TDS) on the preservation and provision of open spaces and views
2. Identify land for allotments
3. Protect existing cemetery provision and ensure future provision
4. Identify the most suitable sites for the provision of green spaces within any new developments or the creation of new green spaces within the town.



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4 Housing

Objectives:

1. To propose the preferred site or sites for future residential development in the town in the light of the requirements of the Core Strategy Review.
2. To promote the development of any new housing within 1 mile of the town centre in order to support Connectivity and maintain the compact nature of the town.

Supporting actions:

1. Ensure quality design and building standards for all new development supporting the position adopted by the TDS
2. Ensure that transport infrastructure relating to proposed development sites minimises unnecessary traffic flow through the town and maximises the use of other linkages
3. Identify any specific infrastructure requirement relating to new developments in addition to infrastructure provision managed through Local Plan policies
4. Engaging with landowners to ascertain whether they would be likely to seek the residential development of all or any of their land
5. Carrying out a robust assessment of the suitability of potential sites for development
6. Engaging with the town to ascertain their views in relation to the identified potential sites for development.



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5 Parking

Objectives:

1. To address parking concerns at key locations in the town by safeguarding available sites and identifying where new parking might be provided.

Supporting actions:

1. Arrange specialist transport advice
2. Consider introducing a Park and Ride scheme
3. Seek out and evaluate additional parking sites/areas such as unused verges and empty spaces
4. To promote the selective use of one way systems that will enhance traffic flows and create space for additional on street parking around the town centre.





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6 Sporting, Recreational and Community Facilities

Objectives:

1. Consider the adequacy of existing provision for Sporting, Recreational and Community facilities within the town and, if any shortfalls are identified, identify sites where new or enhanced facilities might best be located (whether within the existing built environment or in new development).

Supporting actions:

1. Identify options for sporting and recreational facilities such sharing existing or new school facilities and the development of Fletton House
2. Consider the provision of new or upgraded community facilities





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7 Tourism

Objectives:

1. To safeguard and promote those features of the town which encourage tourism and provide the opportunity for further tourist orientated development.

Supporting actions:

1. Identify the features which draw tourists to Oundle and what other key attributes, events and activities might be exploited to increase tourism
2. Liaise with other agencies to identify local tourist attractions
3. Encourage the provision of additional hotel/B&B accommodation



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8 Town Centre and Retail

Objectives:

1. To safeguard the town centre and the conservation area, ensuring a continued mix of residential and commercial uses, and to protect and develop the market as a means of stimulating the retail heart of the town, thus attracting visitors to the town centre.

Supporting actions:

1. Strengthen the role of the town centre, encouraging a mixture of centrally located and diverse retail outlets
2. Encourage the provision of additional hotel/B&B accommodation in the town centre
3. Consider the work of the Portas Implementation Group and the Town Centre Manager



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Is anything missing?

9 Objective no 9???

The previous 8 objectives have been developed from the work done by Oundle 2020 and comments received from the community. Should there be a 9th objective? What is it?

Please use the “stickies” to provide your comments, suggestions and support for the 8 draft objectives and actions. Add a 9th objective if you think something has been missed.

These objectives will ultimately become the basis for the Neighbourhood Plan so your comments are essential.



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