



THE PARISH OF NORTH NEWNTON BOTTLESFORD, HILCOTE AND NORTH NEWNTON Neighbourhood Plan: Third Summary of Activities

January 2018.

To recap where we are:

1. Wiltshire Council has designated the Parish a suitable area for a Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The Steering Group continues to meet on a regular basis and new members have joined.
3. We chose Place Studio to advise and help us. Their fees and our printing costs will be covered by a grant of £4,385 which we have received from Locality/Groundworks.
4. Wiltshire Council's Housing Needs Survey was distributed to every household in December and the closing date for responses was 22nd December. Wiltshire Council will tell us the results of the survey in due course.
5. Volunteers from all three villages joined members of the Steering Group to compile "village character assessments". These are now complete and are being used to make a draft "design statement", of which more below.
6. A sub-group of the Steering Group has been working with Place Studio to compile a "landscape character assessment" for the Parish.
7. Steering group members, guided by Place Studio, have begun work on designating protected "green spaces", again see below.
8. Drafts of the design statement, landscape character statement and list of proposed green spaces will be available for your review and comment in the next Summary of Activity.
9. Everything we've done so far supports the original findings that, as a Parish, we care about:
 - Retaining and protecting the character of our parish
 - Protecting the environment of our parish
 - Protecting a few important green spaces
 - Considering a small amount of new housing (on sites chosen by us)
10. We know that traffic and transport are issues of concern but these are matters for The Parish Council rather than the Neighbourhood Plan. The Act of Parliament that gave rise to Neighbourhood Plans doesn't cover traffic or roads.

What are design statements, landscape assessments and designated local green spaces and why does the Steering Group think we need them?

A design statement is a description of the buildings in the 3 villages, noting for instance, in our case, that brick is the most commonly used building material: that roofs are generally tile and occasionally thatch; that each village has terraced, semi-detached and detached houses, the latter usually set back from the road in their own gardens. We have a number of listed buildings. The old part of Hilcott is already protected because it's a conservation area. Any new building in any other part of the Parish will need to fit with what we already have, once we have a design statement.

Similarly, any new building of any kind in the future will be required to fit with and not spoil our landscape, which includes our justly much prized open views over farmland. The "landscape character assessment" will describe our landscape as it is now, so that it can't be spoiled in the future.

'Local Green Spaces' can also be protected from any future building. Although very little building is expected in our Parish, the Steering Group feels that it is still a good idea to protect valued green spaces, such as, for instance, Martin's Close green in Bottlesford. For a space to be eligible for designation it must have particular local significance with regard to wildlife, beauty, archaeology, recreation and tranquillity and must be a space which the public has used over the years. It must also be small and within or close to the community which it serves.

A Call for Sites

A 'Call for Sites', is required by Wiltshire Council. Place Studio is assisting us with it. It is an invitation to anyone who owns land in the Parish to propose it as a site for future building. In our case, any developments would be for new housing or perhaps change of use to adapt farm buildings for commercial use.

From what we know of people's wishes it's likely that our Neighbourhood Plan will support only very few - if any - developments, and all would be small and within our existing villages. However, it is important that we hear from anyone who wants to propose land for building in the future. If it's not suitable, if for instance it would have a negative impact on our landscape, we will need to demonstrate why we are not supporting it.

If you wish to propose your land as a site for building in the future, please contact Vicky@darlingsrealdogfood.com. You will be sent a submission form by email. It is an adapted version of the form used by Wiltshire Council. The instructions for submission are on the form. All submissions must be returned to the parish group website northnewntonpc@gmail.com or to the parish post box at Hilcott Village Hall.

Place Studio will help the Steering Group to assess all the submissions received. The conclusions will be made available to everyone in the Parish, not just those who made submissions.

The call will remain open for six weeks, ie until 13 March, 2018.

Please write to northnewntonpc@gmail.com to comment on anything contained in this Summary.

Regards,

Penny Bond, Leslie Bond, Maggie Draper, Peter Dunn, Vicky Marshall, Fenella Rouse, Carolyn Whistler
For the Steering Group