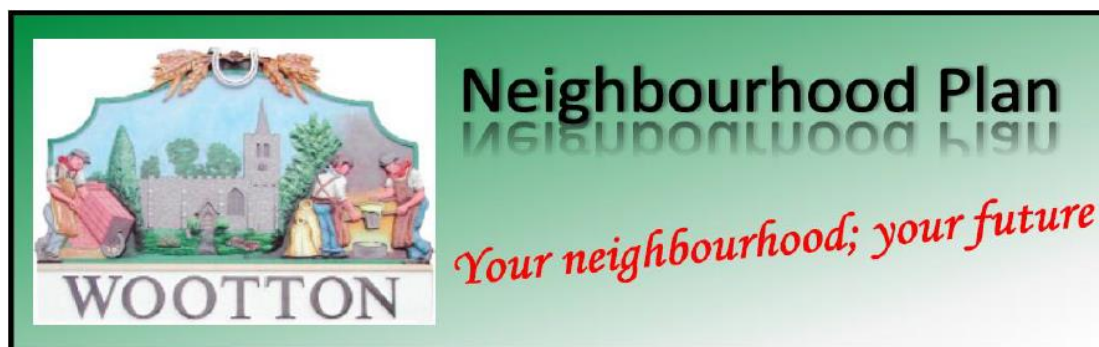




Basic Conditions Statement

Wootton Parish Council

June 2021

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared by Wootton Parish Council to accompany its submission to the local planning authority (Bedford Borough Council) of the Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 1.2 The document sets out the reasons for producing the Neighbourhood Plan and explains how the plan has been prepared in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Basic Conditions Statement also addresses how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning has been met as prescribed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B.
- 1.3 This document will be used by the independent examiner to help to decide whether or not the plan meets the basic conditions.

2 Legal Requirements

The Submission Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body

- 2.1 This Submission Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body, namely Wootton Parish Council.

What is being proposed is a neighbourhood development plan

- 2.2 The plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the neighbourhood area and proposals relating to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

The proposed Neighbourhood Plan states the period for which it is to have effect

- 2.3 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan states the period for which it is to have effect. That period is from the date that the Plan is made until 2030 (the same period as the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030).

The policies do not relate to excluded development

- 2.4 The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with excluded development namely:-
- development that consists of a county matter within paragraph 1 (1) (a) to (h) of Schedule 1 (mineral extraction);
 - development that consists of the carrying out of any operation, or class of operation, prescribed under paragraph 1 (j) of that Schedule (waste development) but that does not consist of development of a prescribed description;

- development that falls within Annex 1 to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment;
- development that consists (whether wholly or partly) of a nationally significant infrastructure project (within the meaning of the Planning Act 2008);
- prescribed development or development of a prescribed description; and
- development in a prescribed area or an area of a prescribed description.

Other Neighbourhood Areas

- 2.5 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood development plans in place within the neighbourhood area.

3 Basic Conditions

3.1 This statement is required to set out how the Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the prescribed basic conditions.

3.2 The basic conditions are:

- a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan.
- b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

3.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by the evidence base of the Submission Local Plan 2030 which has been subject to consultation through the period of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and which is expected to be adopted in 2021.

i) Having regard to national policies and advice

3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed having regard to the NPPF, in broad terms the plan has:-

- empowered the local community to develop the plan for their neighbourhood and has undertaken a wide-ranging exercise in identifying ways to enhance and improve the area.
- policies which have been derived from evidence and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made.
- considers the local character of the area and seeks high quality design and a good standard of amenity.
- seeks to actively manage patterns of growth in the most sustainable locations and protect the character and beauty of the countryside through the Settlement Policy Area boundary.
- supports local strategies to deliver sufficient community facilities and services to meet local needs.
- contributes to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment through the protection of Local Green Spaces and Village Open Spaces & Views.
- supports economic development through homeworking, conversion of existing buildings and farm diversification.

Table 1 - Neighbourhood Plan Policies regard to the NPPF

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	NPPF Reference	Assessment
Policy W1 – New Residential Development	Paragraphs 29, 124, 125, 127, 170 and 180	This policy seeks to ensure that new residential development in the Parish supports design principles that reflect the characteristics of the settlement. In addition, the policy outlines several design principles and supports the NPPF principle of requiring good design, identifying the special qualities of the Parish and explaining how this should be reflected in residential development. This policy also seeks to ensure that development protects residents' amenity to avoid impacts in respect of noise, light and other pollution effects. Finally, this policy seeks to protect local habitats and wildlife corridors and thereby having regard to the NPPF by contributing and enhancing the natural and local environment.
Policy W2 – Housing Delivery	Paragraphs 29, 59, 77 & 78	Inclusion of a housing target supports 'the presumption in favour of sustainable development' by being responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs.

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Policy W3 – Land between Potters Cross and Wootton Road	Paragraphs 29, 59, 77 & 78	This policy responds to local circumstances and support housing development that reflects local needs. Development will support local services and address the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey.
Policy W4 – Land south of Keeley Lane	Paragraphs 29, 59, 77 & 78	This policy responds to local circumstances and support housing development that reflects local needs. Development will support local services and address the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey.
Policy W5 – Land at Tinkers Corner, Keeley Lane	Paragraphs 29, 59, 77 & 78	This policy responds to local circumstances and support housing development that reflects local needs. Development will support local services and address the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey.
Policy W6 – Land on south side of Keeley Lane	Paragraphs 29, 59, 77 & 78	This policy responds to local circumstances and support housing development that reflects local needs. Development will support local services and address the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey.

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Policy W7 – Local Housing Needs	Paragraphs 59 & 77	In order to support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, this policy seeks to address the NPPF's aim to address the needs of groups with specific housing requirements and reflect local needs.
Policy W8 – Residential parking in new developments	Paragraph 105	The NPPF states that parking standards are influenced by the accessibility of the development, the size and type of property, the availability of public transport and local car ownership levels. As a minimum, the Council's adopted parking standards (or any successor document) will be adhered to in assessing new developments.
Policy W9 – Local Green Spaces	Paragraphs 99 & 100	Protection of Local Green Spaces identified as being special to a local community is advocated through the NPPF. The proposed designations within the neighbourhood plan meet with the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the NPPF.
Policy W10 – Other Important Green Spaces	Paragraph 91 and 170	In addition to the designation of Local Green Spaces, the open spaces identified in this policy are also of significant and value to the local community. The provision of green infrastructure will enable and support healthy lifestyles and enhance well-

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		being needs. Furthermore, this policy and designations will support the objectives defined in regard to contributing and enhancing the natural and local environment.
Policy W11 – Protection of Views	Paragraphs 29 and 125	The NNPF acknowledges that neighbourhood plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area.
Policy W12 – Development Design Criteria	Paragraphs 29, 124, 125, 127 & 170	This policy outlines several design principles and supports the NNPF principle of requiring good design, identifying the special qualities of the Parish and explaining how this should be reflected in development. Finally, this policy seeks to protect local habitats and wildlife corridors and thereby having regard to the NNPF by contributing and enhancing the natural and local environment.
Policy W13 – Village Facilities	Paragraphs 28, 83 & 92	This policy seeks to protect key community facilities. This has regard for the principle of promoting healthy communities, through, amongst other things, planning positively for community facilities and guarding against their unnecessary loss.

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Policy W14 – Provision of New Community Facilities	Paragraphs 28 & 92	In seeking new or improved community facilities, this policy supports the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities by planning positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of the community.
Policy W15 – Supporting Communications Infrastructure	Paragraphs 43 and 112	This policy supports the objectives of the NPPF in the delivery of high quality and reliable communication infrastructure for both economic growth and social well-being.
Policy W16 – Supporting the Development of Small Businesses	Paragraphs 81, 83 and 84	Support for new employment opportunities aims to support a prosperous rural economy. The policy advocates, where, possible, new employment opportunities within existing buildings or as part of a farm diversification scheme.
Policy W17 – Working from Home	Paragraphs 81, 83 and 84	This policy recognises the need to address opportunities for new and flexible working practices in accordance with the advice provided within the NPPF and furthermore, this policy addresses the impact of the Covid pandemic in regard to a change to working patterns.

Policy W18 – Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy	Paragraph 34	Planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural services to meet local needs. This policy identifies projects as priorities for investment in local community infrastructure in order to address as well as meet local needs to sustain the village as a healthy, inclusive and safe place to live.
Policy W19 – Protection of Heritage Assets including Listed Buildings	Paragraph 185	The policy supports the protection of heritage assets and sets out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment as outlined within the NPPF.

ii) Achieving sustainable development

- 3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is positively prepared, reflecting the presumption in the NPPF in favour of sustainable development. In this regard, the Neighbourhood Plan supports the strategic policies of Bedford Borough Council.
- 3.6 The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three overarching objectives: economic, social and environmental and the Neighbourhood Plan has been developed to meet with these objectives.

3.7 The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to achieving sustainable development by seeking positive improvements to the quality of the natural, built and historic environment, as well as in people's quality of life including:

- supporting new employment opportunities aims to support a prosperous rural economy.
- supporting strong, vibrant and healthy community by facilitating the right level and mix of housing (including affordable housing) to meet local need.
- encourages a well-designed and safe environment which will ensure the village continues to evolve in accordance with the community's objectives.
- safeguarding and enhancing open space, community facilities and pedestrian facilities for the health and cultural well-being of the community.
- protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of the natural, built and historic environment by minimising impacts and where possible enhancing biodiversity and important habitats; through high quality design and maintenance of important views and open space around and within the village to retain their setting.

iii General conformity with strategic policies in the development plan

3.8 Paragraph 6 of the Planning Practice Guidance advises that:

"Neighbourhood plans, when brought into force, become part of the statutory development plan for the area that they cover.

They can be developed before, after or in parallel with a Local Plan, but the law requires that they must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan for the area (and any other strategic policies that form part of the statutory development plan where relevant...).

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Neighbourhood plans are not tested against the policies in an emerging Local Plan although the reasoning and evidence informing the Local Plan process may be relevant to the consideration of the basic conditions against which a neighbourhood plan is tested.”

3.9 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in general conformity with the saved policies of the Allocations and Designations Local Plan (Adopted, 2013) and the policies of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (Adopted, 2020).

3.10 Table 2 provide a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Strategic Policies	Assessment
Policy W1 – New Residential Development	ADLP – Policy AD40 LP2030 – Policy 4S, 28S, 29, 30, 37 and 41S	This policy ensures new residential development supports design principles that reflect the characteristics of the settlement.
Policy W2 – Housing Delivery	LP2030 – Policy 7S	Policy 7S incorporates flexibility to support the provision of new homes where they will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities and meet identified needs.

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Policy W3 – Land between Potters Cross and Wootton Road	LP2030 – Policy 7S	Policy 7S incorporates flexibility to support the provision of new homes where they will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities and meet identified needs.
Policy W4 – Land south of Keeley Lane	LP2030 – Policy 7S	Policy 7S incorporates flexibility to support the provision of new homes where they will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities and meet identified needs.
Policy W5 – Land at Tinkers Corner, Keeley Lane	LP2030 – Policy 7S	Policy 7S incorporates flexibility to support the provision of new homes where they will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities and meet identified needs.
Policy W6 – Land on south side of Keeley Lane	LP2030 – Policy 7S	Policy 7S incorporates flexibility to support the provision of new homes where they will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities and meet identified needs.
Policy W7 – Local Housing Needs	LP2030 – 59S	New housing developments will be expected to provide a mix of dwelling types and tenures to meet the identified housing needs of the Parish. Policy W7 accords with the strategic policy (59S) but clarifies that the mix should have regard to the evidence of the housing needs of the Plan

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		area (i.e. the Housing Needs Survey carried out by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity).
Policy W8 – Residential parking in New Developments	LP2030 – Policies 31 and 88	Policy W8 requires that development proposals should not have any adverse impact on access to the public highway and requires that consideration is given to parking provision.
Policy W9 – Local Green Spaces	LP2030 – Policy 46.	The parcels of land outlined within this neighbourhood policy have been determined to be demonstrably special to the local community thereby meeting the requirements of NPPF. As such the defined areas are protected to conserve their importance to the form and character of the Parish are in general conformity with the strategic policies.
Policy W10 – Other Important Green Spaces	LP2030 – Policies 28S and 35S	The areas of land identified in Policy W10 contribute to the green infrastructure in the Parish, not only providing environmental benefits but also benefit in providing access to open space.

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Policy W11 – Protection of Views	LP2030 – Policies 28S and 29S	The views identified in Policy W11 are considered attractive and special. In addition, the identified views contribute to the character of the historic and landscape setting of the village.
Policy W12 – Design Principles	ADLP – Policy AD40 LP2030 – Policy 3S, 28S, 29, 30, 37 and 41S	The plan recognises the need to achieve high quality design for all developments and to contribute positively to the area. To protect and enhance the characteristics of the local environment.
Policy W13 – Village Facilities	LP2030 – Policies 82 and 99	This policy seeks the need to maintain the provision of local services and community facilities. Policy 82 relates to the change of use of essential local shops and secures their protection unless it is demonstrated that they are no longer viable. Policy 99 safeguards existing leisure, sports and community facilities to ensure they are not lost to other types of development and to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the community to access these facilities. Policy W13 extends the protection further in accordance with the advice contained within the NPPF by

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		securing the community facilities listed given their importance to the Parish.
Policy W14 – The Provision of New Community Facilities	LP2030 – Policies 7S, 86S and 98	This policy seeks to address the potential for new community facilities within the village. Policy 7S states that exceptional development proposals will be supported outside the defined Settlement Policy Area where it responds to an identified community need; has identifiable community support; scale appropriate to serve local needs or support local facilities and the policy states where a community building is being provided, users of the proposed development can safely travel to and from it by sustainable modes and it is viable in the long term, ensuring its retention as a community asset.
Policy W15 – Supporting Communications Infrastructure	LP2030 – Policies 94 and 96	Policies 94 and 96 ensure that major developments ensure the expansion of electronic communications infrastructure to reflect the NPPF's objective to provide advanced, high quality communication infrastructure to support both economic growth and social well-being.

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Policy W16 – Supporting the Development of Small Businesses	LP2030 – Policy 65	Policy 65 provides a development management policy for the reuse of rural buildings in the countryside and provides detailed criteria to which proposals should seek to demonstrate.
Policy W17 – Working from Home		Whilst there is no strategic policy relating to working from home, the Local Plan seeks to support a stronger local economy including broadening employment opportunities
Policy W18 – Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy	LP2030 – Policy 86S	Policy 86S requires new development to be supported by the delivery of infrastructure to provide or contribute towards the provision of, or measures to mitigate its impact on existing infrastructure. This will be secured through the use of site specific planning obligations and CIL payments as permitted by the regulations. Policy W17 compliments this policy by listing local priorities for off-site infrastructure during the preparation of the Plan.
Policy W19 – Protection of Heritage Assets including Listed Buildings	LP2030 – Policy 41S	The Conservation Area as well as designated heritage asset and non-designated heritage asset within the Parish

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		are protected under this policy for their contribution to the character of the Parish.
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ADLP – Allocations and Designations Local Plan 2013

LP2030 – Local Plan 2030

4 Compatibility with EU Regulations

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 4.1 To meet the 'basic conditions' which are specified by law a Neighbourhood Development Plan must be compatible with EU obligations. National planning guidance advises that in some limited circumstances where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environment assessment. A screening report was prepared by the Parish Council to determine whether or not the content of the Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and the associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). The screening report was subsequently sent to the relevant statutory bodies namely Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency to clarify whether they agreed with the Parish Council's findings that a full SEA is not required.
- 4.2 On 15 July 2019, Historic England confirmed that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be required in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan. Both Natural England and the Environment Agency confirmed that a SEA would not be required.
- 4.3 Consultants, AECOM were commissioned by the Parish Council to lead on the Strategic Environment Assessment in support of the Neighbourhood Plan. To summarise, the SEA identifies the potential for significant positive effects in relation to the 'population and community' on the basis that the plan will provide for housing needs and also deliver significant open space. The assessment also concludes that the proposed management policies are supportive of population and communities objectives. Finally, the assessment does not predict significant negative save for the loss of agricultural land.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 4.4 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 require that Habitats Regulation Assessment is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales including Neighbourhood Plans. The Parish Council, as the plan making authority, must before the plan is given effect, make a HRA through Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives where (a) the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (paragraph 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2017).
- 4.5 A Habitat Regulations Assessment was prepared by Bodsey Ecology Limited on behalf of Wootton Parish Council in July 2019. The assessment concludes that there is no reason arising from the Habitat Regulations Assessment to prevent the Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan from being adopted.

5 Convention on Human Rights

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from community and stakeholders as detailed within the accompanying Consultation Statement. Considerable care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole of the community were included. There was extensive consultation and engagement in identifying issues and objectives and the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan was consulted upon as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The responses received were recorded and changes have been made as detailed in the schedule provided within the Consultation Statement.
- 5.2 It is therefore believed that the neighbourhood plan has had appropriate regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 5.3 The preparation of the neighbourhood plan has had due regard to the provisions of Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 and the Parish Council is not aware of any discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met by the Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 6.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policy, will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development, is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan and meets relevant EU obligations.
- 6.3 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Wootton Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1) (a) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Appendix 1- Equalities Assessment

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 149 of The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate conduct prohibited by the Act, advance quality of opportunity between persons who share a who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Protected characteristics are defined as: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 1.2 This Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared by Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP) working group on behalf of Wootton Parish Council. It is an analysis of the Policies within the Neighbourhood Development Plan to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on any persons or group, and in particular those people/groups with a protected characteristic.
- 1.3 An assessment has been made on the impact of the Wootton Neighbourhood Development plan on each of the protected characteristics.

2. Aims and Policies of the Wootton Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Vision of the Wootton Neighbourhood Plan is:

To protect and strengthen Wootton's strong local identity and integrity as a historic rural village, working together to improve quality of life for those living, studying and working in Wootton.

2.2 The core objectives of the Wootton Neighbourhood Plan are:

Housing:-

To provide housing which meets the needs of the diverse and growing community and to influence the location, density, scale, design and type of new housing to ensure that it fits with the distinctive character of Wootton's built heritage and meets identified local housing needs.

Environment:-

To protect the place defining characteristics of Wootton's special local environment and enriched countryside, including the existing local green spaces, and to ensure that new development creates new space and contributes to the open space needs of the local community, including the preservation of the natural features in the distinctive landscape.

Village Facilities:-

To protect and improve local facilities, amenities and services which provide a community focus and help to sustain the vitality, health and quality of life for all residents.

Local Economy:-

To protect and strengthen the economic benefits of Wootton as a key service centre and to encourage and support local business and local measures to improve employment prospects in the village.

Sustainable Community:-

To promote the infrastructure and access improvements (such as improved traffic management, car parking, pedestrian and cycle routes) needed to support new development and to encourage safe and accessible movement for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and public transport.

Historic Environment

To preserve and enhance Wootton's historic environment to protect and improve features which contribute to this environment.

2.3 The policies are:

- W1: New Residential Development
- W2: Housing Delivery
- W3: Land between Potters Cross and Wootton Road
- W4: Land south of Keeley Lane
- W5: Land at Tinkers Corner, Keeley Lane
- W6: Land on south side of Keeley Lane
- W7: Local Housing Needs
- W8: Residential parking in New Developments
- W9: Local Green Spaces
- W10: Other Important Green Spaces
- W11: Protection of Views
- W12: Development Design Criteria
- W13: Village Facilities
- W14: The Provision of New Community Facilities
- W15: Supporting Communications Infrastructure
- W16: Supporting the Development of Small Businesses

W17: Working from Home

W18: Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure

W19: Protection of Heritage Assets including Listed Buildings

3. Profile of Wootton

3.1 Census data from 2011 has been used to provide information on the following protected characteristics: age, disability, race, and religious belief. Data relating to sex and sexual orientations, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity is unavailable at Parish level.

3.2 *Age Profile*

In 2011 the population stood at 4146. The table below shows that the age breakdown of residents within the parish. The parish has a much higher proportion of residents aged 40-74 (49%).

Age	No.	%
0-4	191	4.6
5-15	624	15.0
16-17	121	2.9
18-29	423	10.2
30-39	415	10.0
40-49	708	17.0
50-64	882	21.2
65-74	469	11.3
75-84	233	5.6
85+	90	2.2
Total	4,156	100

3.3 Gender

48% of the population is male and 52% female.

Gender		
	Male%	Female %
Wootton	49	51
Borough	49	51

3.4 Disability

Within the parish 16.2% of the population has a long-term illness or disability that limits activity a lot (6.2%) or a little (10.0%). The figures for limiting activity a lot is lower than the Borough figure.

Population with a long term illness or a disability that limits daily activity			
	Wootton	%	Borough %
Daily activity limited a lot	257	6.2	7.1
Daily activity limited a little	417	10.0	8.9

3.5 Ethnic Group

Most of the population in the Parish (96%) identifies as White British or White Other, which is higher than the Borough figure of 80.6%. The percentage of the population which is non-white (4.1%) is significantly lower than the Borough which is 19.4%.

Ethnic Groups (%)						
	White British	White- other	Mixed Multiple	Asian/Asian British	Black/ Black British	Other
Wootton	89.8	3.4	1.9	3.5	1.1	0.2
Borough	71.5	9.1	3.4	11.4	3.9	0.7

3.6 Religion

The dominant faith is Christian (67.3%) which is higher than the Borough which is 59.3%, only 3.5% follow a different religion which is much lower than the Borough figure of 10.5%. Within the parish 29.1% of the population have no religion or have not stated a religion which is only slightly lower than the Borough figures of 30.2%

Religion (%)				
	Christian	Other	No Religion	Not Stated
Wootton	67.3	3.5	22.3	6.8
Borough	59.3	10.5	23.6	6.6

4.0 Impact on Protected Characteristics

4.1 *Age*

Policy W1 sets out detailed criteria for new residential development in the Parish and Policy W12 provides required design standards.

Policy W7 Local Housing Needs, details that provision should be made for a mix and range of house types and tenures to allow for growth within the village, and ensure housing caters for all ages, including provision of affordable homes, homes for the elderly and disabled people.

Policies W16 and W17 supports the development of new businesses including home-based businesses and will help towards creating opportunities for those who wish to work from home to do so.

The impact on all ages will be positive.

4.2 *Disability*

The needs of the disabled, including those with limited mobility, are addressed in Policy W7 which looks for housing to meet the needs of various groups, including disabled people. Policies W16 and W17 covers employment, including home-based business and Policy W9 improves on the protection of Local Green Space and Policy W10 protects other important green spaces to improve the local environment.

Policy W18 considers the use of CIL funding to improve infrastructure and facilities and Section IV of the Plan provides commitment from the Parish Council to continue to support public transport.

The impact on people with disabilities will be positive.

4.3 *Maternity and Pregnancy*

Key issues for women who are pregnant or have small children are access to appropriate housing, flexible employment and community facilities.

Policy W2 covers housing requirements. Policies W16 and W17 covers employment within the Parish and Policies W13 and W14 cover community facilities. Section IV of the Plan covers non land actions, including traffic and transport.

The impact on pregnant women will be positive

4.4 *Race*

Only 6.7% of the population of Wootton are from non-white ethnic groups. The plan will have the same impact on the local population regardless of race. Policies W1, W2, and W12 seek to create well designed development, including safety considerations to reduce any possible hate crime (there is no evidence that any takes place in Wootton).

The impact will be positive on people of all races.

4.5 *Religion*

Most of the population in Wootton is Christian, with a smaller percentage of other/none/not stated. Community facilities are currently used by all faiths and none. Policies within the plan do not consider any form of religion, and simply provide a safe environment for all to live in

The impact will be positive on people regardless of religion.

4.6 *Sex (gender), Gender Reassignment and Sexual Orientation*

The neighbourhood plan proposals and policies have been written to provide the same opportunities to both sexes, with neither sex disadvantaged, and to provide the same opportunities to all residents regardless of sexual orientation or if they are undergoing gender reassignment.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot address social attitudes that may result in transphobia or discrimination policies have been written to ensure that there is a safe built environment for all to enjoy.

The impact will be positive on all people regardless of Sex, Gender Reassignment or Sexual Orientation

4.7 *Conclusion*

Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan provides a range of proposals and policies which will result in positive benefits for all members of the community, including those with protected characteristics. The Neighbourhood Plan makes equal provision for all housing, employment and community facilities which will benefit all those living there