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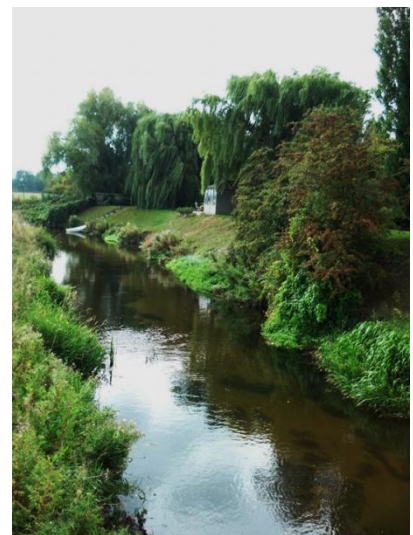# Long Bennington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan – Technical Review

Report

Prepared for: RTPI / PAE

UNITED KINGDOM

RTPI
mediation of space · making of place

October 2014

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	10/10/2014	Draft report	Ciara Whelehan Principal Planning Consultant Maria Paez Social and Environmental Consultant	Stuart Woodin Technical Director Neighbourhood Planning	Stuart Woodin Technical Director Neighbourhood Planning
2	31/10/14	Final report	Ciara Whelehan Principal Planning Consultant Maria Paez Social and Environmental Consultant	Stuart Woodin Technical Director Neighbourhood Planning	Stuart Woodin Technical Director Neighbourhood Planning

Limitations

URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited ("URS") has prepared this Report in accordance with the RTPI / PAE - URS Framework Contract and Letter of Instruction SNCP10958 (13/08/2014) under which our services were performed. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this Report or any other services provided by URS.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by the RTP / PAE lead Consultant and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided is accurate. Information obtained by URS has not been independently verified by URS, unless otherwise stated in the Report.

The methodology adopted and the sources of information used by URS in providing its services are outlined in this Report. The work described in this Report was undertaken between 5th September and 8th October 2014 and is based on the conditions encountered and the information available during the said period of time. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Long Bennington Parish Council (LBPC) is at an early stage in the preparation of the Long Bennington Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The Plan is being developed in the context of the South Kesteven District Council Core Strategy adopted in 2010 and the Site Allocation and Policies Development Plan Document adopted in 2014. These planning documents provide the planning policy framework for the District, and guide on location, design and use of land and buildings across South Kesteven District to 2026. The Council has started the preparation of the new Plan (June 2004) which will be adopted in 2017.

The Site Allocation and Policies Plan guides new developments ensuring proper provision for community facilities and infrastructure, appropriate open space and affordable housing. The policies provide further detail and expand upon the adopted Core Strategy policies.

2. TECHNICAL REVIEW

As instructed, this document contains the following information:

- A review of the current evidence base and suggestions on what is needed to plug any gaps in order to create a good Parish profile (but not the profile itself).

- A review of the policy context provided by the South Kesteven Core Strategy - and the recently adopted site allocations & policies DPD.

- Consideration of opinions gathered to date, evidence and the policy context to help the group decide upon the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) vision and objectives.

- Define policy theme headings and possible policy priorities to fit the vision and meet objectives.

- Highlight any potential Basic Conditions issues for the NP.

On 5th September 2014, URS had a conference call with the Neighbourhood Group to discuss plan's progress and related documentation.

The following information was provided by the group:

- Draft objectives for the neighbourhood plan;

- Update on consultation/engagement activities carried out to date; and

- Long Bennington Character Assessment (Draft for Area 6) The Pastures, Vicarage Lane and Manor Drive.

A Traffic Survey has recently been commissioned by the group, results of which have not yet been received, and is therefore not subject to this evidence base review.

Policy themes should reflect local concerns and should be the result of community engagement. To facilitate analysis and identification of specific themes, we compared and identified regional/local issues/themes by:

1. Checking objectives identified by the group;

2. Identifying land-related objectives (planning objectives); and

3. Checking South Kesteven Core Strategy (themes and objectives) and Site Allocation and Policies Document

LBPC Neighbourhood Plan Group identified the following key objectives which we have used to inform the following policy themes:

Table 1: Proposed policy themes for the emerging Long Bennington Neighbourhood Plan

	LVPC Objectives	Policy themes
1	To make Long Bennington a better place to live, work and visit	1 Housing 2 Employment and businesses
2	To ensure and maximise active community involvement in Planning Decisions affecting our Community based on a cohesive approach.	*No policy theme/ see comment below*
3	To reflect and act upon key areas of community concern, such as Road Safety, Public transport, Civic amenity and unsympathetic development	3 Transport 4 Heritage
4	To seek to ensure new development is sympathetic to the historic heart of the village, appropriate and in accord with available infrastructure	4 Heritage
5	To enhance Public Spaces in the Village for future generations	5 Public realm and amenities
6	To support the provision and use of a range of local amenities and infrastructure	5 Public realm and amenities

The second objective is part of the neighbourhood planning process; however, it is not a specific land-use planning issue. The group can set out its intention to ensure more proactive community involvement, particularly from a planning decisions perspective; however, it is not necessary to include a specific policy on community involvement in the plan.

The policy themes are based on evidence base and objectives drafted by the group. These themes are normally the result of ongoing community engagement.

Neighbourhood Plan policy themes need to reflect interests/concerns of the whole community which include residents, developers, land owners, businesses, community groups and service providers. To ensure this, we recommend the neighbourhood group follow the next steps:

a. Present results (policy themes identified and objectives) to the Neighbourhood Planning Group and discuss (i.e. presentation, report, both);

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b. Establish criteria to define whether the proposed themes reflect the community interests/concerns (including residents, landowners, developers, community groups, young people, service providers, businesses, etc.);

c. Based on identified criteria, ask the community if they support the proposed policy themes and additional comments;

d. Analyse their comments;

e. Record activities/ meetings (i.e. minutes, pictures); and

f. Present / publicise agreed policy themes.

2.1   Evidence Review Methodology

URS Evidence Review Methodology is based on an approach which applies key questions relevant to the draft Long Bennington Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives provided by the group. Given the early stage of drafting, this review has examined the data underpinning the South Kesteven District Plan and identifies documents that may help the Parish Council assemble its evidence base in order to develop the first draft of their NDP.

The evidence for neighbourhood planning needs to be 'proportionate' i.e. in relation to the scope of the policy being proposed. Any evidence used should be clearly referenced and presented in an accessible way, both for the purpose of examination and for the benefit of residents reading a plan as well as interested parties such as landowners and developers – all of whom may be impacted by it.

Evidence comes from several sources, including:

- The relevant Local Plan;

- Local Plan evidence base studies (e.g. the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Employment Land Reviews);

- New technical evidence generated by the Neighbourhood Group (e.g. transport/parking surveys);

- New stakeholder-derived evidence generated by the neighbourhood (e.g. a survey of local households and businesses); and

- National reports, independent research and the 2011 Census.

Appendix 1 contains our detailed advice on the basis of reviewing the draft objectives and strategic policy options that the Steering Group has developed. We have also reviewed a number of key documents that we recommend the Steering Group should draw upon in order to develop the evidence base to inform the Neighbourhood Plan policies. We have set out our evidence base advice for each theme and have identified where appropriate, relevant national reports / independent research and district / local level evidence. Links are provided to each evidence source and commentary is provided to discuss how useful it is to the Steering Group in moving forward with their Plan. We have also included suggestions for additional evidence where appropriate.

2.2   **Evidence base**

The Steering Group has identified neighbourhood plan objectives based on engagement to date.   To inform their objectives, a comprehensive questionnaire was delivered to every household in the village. Over 275 (30%) responses were received. Furthermore, the main discussion at the Parish meeting in spring 2014 was a presentation on the issues/policy areas relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. Over 50 people attended this event. Key issues arising from this meeting included road safety, parking, environmental concerns, public transport and over-development. These themes will inform the Neighbourhood Plan. Separate to this, some of the issues identified have also helped with the creation of a village road safety group.

In addition to the above, 95 Local Businesses and Community Groups (clubs and village sporting bodies) were consulted in June/July 2014. However, response levels were low.

Local Primary School Pupils were consulted via a questionnaire led by the Councillor with lead responsibility for School Liaison and a good range of responses resulted from all year groups.

It is likely that the plan's objectives will be refined once a detailed analysis of the evidence base has been undertaken, and following further engagement and consultation.   Appendix 1 sets out the main documents and types of data available for the Long Bennington Neighbourhood Plan that may be used to justify the policy proposals. It also comments on the usefulness of these documents and data for the preparation of the Plan.

Where possible, we have also identified types of evidence that the Steering Group may wish to undertake or commission in order to supplement the existing NDP evidence base. This is really important as it will provide a level of place knowledge about Long Bennington that goes beyond the local plan studies.

As the Site Allocation DPD was adopted recently, some of the evidence that supports it is up-to-date, and it is reasonable to assume that the evidence underpinning it has been obtained and analysed to a good standard. Evidence that supports other policies of the Core Strategy (e.g. Heritage and Open Space) evidence will need to be updated.

A Parish Plan for Long Benngington was produced in 2005. The Plan refers to information collected and community engagement activities carried out in 2004. Although it was produced in 2005, there are a number of key themes/aspirations within it which are still relevant to the parish and are worthy of inclusion in the emerging NP. The production of the Parish Plan was informed by a number of engagement activities with the community, including the following:

- Questionnaire (Published separately);

- Traffic Survey (Published separately);

- Young Peoples Survey (Published separately); and

- Feb 2005 Open Day Questionnaire Results.

- Hosted debates in three working groups for the 120 participants (first Open Day, July 2004)

- Consulted with local authorities, businesses, land owners and service providers.

- Second Parish Open Day to present the draft plan. The event was attended by over 100 participants (February 2005).

Evidence Base Conclusions

Based upon the evidence available, our phone conversation with the chair of the group and from our 'light touch' analysis of this evidence we would make the following conclusions:

1. The review of South Kesteven District Council's evidence base has shown that there is a wealth of existing evidence available that the Steering Group should draw upon and analyse to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan policies. Appendix 1 identifies both existing evidence documents that should be used to support the policies, as well as types of information / data sources that should be drawn upon to supplement the Neighbourhood Plan's evidence base.

2. Engagement with the local community will provide a valuable source of information for the Steering Group to draw upon and it is noted that the Steering Group has already engaged in some consultation activities to date and plan to hold an open event once the draft Neighbourhood Plan is available in early 2015 inviting the parish to express their views on the emerging policies. The Steering Group should ensure that it documents the various engagement and consultation stages it has undertaken carefully and demonstrate how the engagement responses have been analysed and captured. Independent analysis of the questionnaire returns is very important and will help ensure a clear and transparent process. This will be a requirement for the Plan's Consultation Statement, and keeping a record of such events as they go along will save the Group time when they reach the formal Consultation Statement stage.

3. It is important that the Steering Group undertakes a thorough review of the policies in the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Document, to identify which local policies sufficiently deal with the issues they have identified as key to the Neighbourhood Plan area, and those that they consider would benefit from local refinement or even challenge. This could be led by the LPA planning officer. This process will help to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan does not repeat detailed policies which are already contained in the Core Strategy and the NPPF. A summary of the relevant policies is provided in Appendix 1.

4. It is important for the Neighbourhood Plan to include policies that are based on objectives that have been developed based on an understanding and evaluation of the area's defining characteristics. This will be particularly important should the Plan include policies that go above and beyond those set out in the Core Strategy and the Sites Allocation Plan, for example, if the Plan proposes additional housing or employment development to that identified in the Local Planning Development Framework.

5. The Steering Group will also need to ensure that it draws on relevant evidence, as set out in Appendix 1, to justify its approach and to demonstrate that any additional policy requirements will not threaten the overall deliverability of the Plan. This will be necessary for any policies that, for example, seek to increase affordable housing thresholds above those set out in the Council's suite of Local Plans.

6. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process will play an important role in enabling the group to determine the most suitable policies for the Plan as well as a robust site allocations approach. As part of the SEA process, and prior to preparation of the Draft Plan, the Plan's 'reasonable alternatives' (i.e. reasonable policy options) will need to be tested against the SEA Framework that is developed. This will enable the plan-makers (i.e. the Neighbourhood Group) to identify any significant effects of the Plan policies - as well as the Plan as a whole - on the environment. Within the Environmental Report that will be published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan, there will be a need to explain how the preparation of the Draft Plan was informed by assessment of reasonable alternatives / why the preferred approach was selected in-light of this assessment.

2.3 Creating a good Parish Profile

The Parish profile needs to provide a greater understanding of the neighbourhood area and should inform the emerging LBPC Neighbourhood Plan. This profile can be based on recent data extracted from open source information such as:

- The Department for Communities and Local Government (neighbourhood statistics);

- The Office for National Statistics (Census 2011); and

- South Kesteven District Council.

URS recently completed a neighbourhood profile for Southwell Neighbourhood Planning Area Profile. This is a good template and a copy will be made available should the group wish to produce a similar one for Long Bennington.

The Long Bennington Parish Council Plan 2005 provides a village profile which is a good starting point as it describes location, evolution, streetscape and key statistics (economic studies). This information will need to be updated to reflect changes during the last decade (2004-2014).

The LBCP Neighbourhood profile should also include information on social, environmental and economic indicators relevant to Long Bennington and local issues. Potential indicators are:

- Current demographic profile

- Expected demographic profile by end of plan neighbourhood plan

- Current housing tenure and projections

- Current population and projections over plan period

- Current Ethnic/Religious Diversity

- Life Expectancy

- Rank of Health Deprivation and Disability

- Residents own rating of health

- Provision and use of community facilities

- Housing completions (during the last 10 years)

In order to provide the right context, a good practice is to compare and analyse neighbourhood, local and national data to identify local trends. Information sources should also be referenced appropriately throughout the profile.

2.4 Policy context review

The planning policy context is established via the adopted South Kesteven Core Strategy and the recently adopted Site Allocations & Policies DPD. These documents provide the overarching policy principles which the group must have consideration for when drafting their neighbourhood policies. Appendix 1 provides the policy context and suggests ways in which the group can use the information to support their emerging planning policy.

2.5   NP Vision and objectives

The Long Bennington's Neighbourhood Plan vision will be **a statement** which describes what the community will be like to live and work in, within and after the neighbourhood plan period. Long Bennington Neighbourhood Group will need to define a suitable time scale that reflects the SK Core Strategy.

The objectives should set out what the community wants to achieve in order to help realise the vision. It is important that the vision is realistic and achievable and that it is based on the information gathered.

Evidence on community consultation and engagement, particularly formal household surveys, in Neighbourhood Planning is being taken increasingly serious and on a par with more objective technical evidence or studies to support the **vision, objectives and policies** of the neighbourhood plan. Engagement involves a wide range of activities to inform the developing neighbourhood plan and its whole purpose is to make sure the plan represents local interests, ideas and aspirations. This will involve neighbourhood groups engaging or more formally consulting on issues, policies and sites.

This is especially true for neighbourhood planning which culminates in a formal referendum via the ballot box and the need to achieve a 50% plus one majority in order for the plan to go through.

The neighbourhood plan will be submitted with a consultation statement which is a vital record of all the community engagement and consultation carried out over the course of the plan production process. This means neighbourhood groups need to keep good records of engagement and consultation right from the start at every stage covering:

1. When and how consultation activities (workshops, meetings, public exercises, etc.) were publicised;

2. Specific efforts to encourage participation from 'seldom heard' (or harder to reach groups);

2. Number and profile of people who turned up at consultation events (i.e. age, gender and ethnicity);

3. Methods used to gather information (beyond written);

4. The main issues and concerns raised at each stage and how those were considered and where relevant addressed in the proposed neighbourhood plan;

5. Whether respondents were given the opportunity to give opinions if they could not make an event;

6. How views, ideas, facts were collected and analysed;

7. Summary of the conclusions drawn;

8. When and how feedback on engagement activities were publicised; and

9. Data-protection treatment.

A suggested starting point is to develop a programme of community engagement to mirror the neighbourhood key decision-making points in the wider plan programme. It might be useful to identify 'points of no return' which are points which fix certain decisions in order to be able to make progress. These would typically come after:

1. Developing the initial vision and themes;

2. Testing options;

3. Testing issues in more detail (e.g. place character), specific site proposals; and

4. Checking policy drafts.

The groups should always be clear about what they want from an engagement activity or consultation phase.

Is it:

- Information?

- Opinions (includes understanding ambition)?

- Support (for a policy or approach)?

- Awareness (of opportunity, issues, referendum)?

- Understanding (of why a policy is drafted in the way it is)?

The table below shows the stages of community engagement in neighbourhood planning, key decision points; and consultation and publicising methods:

Table 2: Stages of Engagement and Consultation

Stages of Community Engagement	Decision point	Consultation methods	Publicising methods
Early engagement	1. Identifying key themes and issues		
On-going engagement & dialogue with delivery partners	**2. Identifying draft vision, objectives** **Identifying policy themes and examine specific issues in more detail**	• Meetings • Workshops • Open days • Questionnaires • Surveys • Vox Pops and videos	• Website • Social media (facebook, twitter) • Leaflets/posters • Council newspapers • Local radio 1
Pre-submission consultation	3. Testing policy options		
	4. Checking policy drafts		
	5. Identifying final views before submission		

In developing a successful engagement and consultation process that will build upon the evidence base the following principles may be useful:

- Identify people/groups (local community, landowners, developers, business people, service providers and statutory bodies) interested in neighbourhood planning;

- Identify needs and characteristics of each group – the consultation and publicising method might be different for each group;

- Design consultation activities to move through the process of issue/problem identification, solution options, preferred options - i.e. a 'solution-oriented' process; and

- Provide feedback and regularly publicise all results on engagement activities.

This will enable the neighbourhood group to pick up on any dissent to the conclusions or the way to analyse results.

2.6   **Basic conditions**

Any policies promoted by the group must be evidence led and capable of satisfying the basic conditions[1]. In planning terms this means that policies put forward for submission would usually be required to be tested via consultation, be backed by technical evidence and assessed proportionally against social, environmental and economic objectives.

Why are the seven basic conditions so important to neighbourhood planning? Because a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) or Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) that does not meet each of the 'basic conditions' is not really ready to be put to a referendum and to be subsequently 'made' by the local planning authority. The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to NDPs by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004.

As the Long Bennington Neighbourhood Plan moves toward submission the Parish Council will need to ensure that the plan is capable of meeting the basic conditions, which include:

- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan)

- having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order

- having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order

- the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

- the making of the order (or 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)

- the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations

- prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or neighbourhood plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan).

3.   RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In drafting the Neighbourhood Plan policies, it will be important that the Plan clearly distinguishes between the policies and the supporting text. Furthermore, clear referencing / sign posting should be made to the key evidence (whether this is primary or secondary data) that has informed each of the policies. This will help explain the links between evidence and policy and justify the inclusion of the policies. For each policy it would also

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[1] See PPG for more guidance: http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/the-basic-conditions-that-a-draft-neighbourhood-plan-or-order-must-meet-if-it-is-to-proceed-to-referendum/

be helpful to include a section to identify which existing plans, documents or strategies support the policies.

2. Long Bennington Parish Council have undertaken community engagement by means of delivering a comprehensive questionnaire to all households, engaging with local businesses and schools. The results of which add particular value and benefit to the planning policy drafting and have helped identify the themes, concerns and local interests within the Plan area. the group are committed to holding another event once the draft NP has been published for consultation inviting further comments on the emerging policies. We recommend that a clear record is kept of all of these events along with a document summarising all key consultation issues.

3. We recommend that the Steering Group holds a workshop with South Kesteven District Council's lead officer and principal policy planner to understand how the current Core Strategy and the emerging local plan policy will be applied in the future, and therefore, whether it is 'good enough' for addressing the Neighbourhood Group's ambitions and objectives for the Parish. This will help the Steering Group identify which policies to focus on.

4. To address the transportation issues and needs of the Parish we suggest that the Steering Group produces, or at least obtains, mapping of the existing cycle and pedestrian connections in the Parish. This would assist the Steering Group in identifying where there are deficiencies in existing cycling / pedestrian route provision and highlight where cycle / pedestrian routes could be improved in the Parish area. We would also suggest contacting the Council's Highways/Transportation Planning Department as they hold a wealth of information which the group could rely upon.

5. Early engagement with local businesses and community groups has taken place, however, the response level was low. Notwithstanding that, we recommend that further dialogue takes place with local business owners and people, establishing views on current supply / type and need for new / different premises locally is undertaken. This would help identify whether there is a need and demand for additional and / or different types of employment and business workspace.

6. The Steering Group may wish to include policies for non-land use planning matters (e.g. Community Involvement) in the Neighbourhood Plan in order to reflect the wider aspirations of the community. This is acceptable, however, policies dealing with non-land use / development matters should be included in a companion document or annex to the main Neighbourhood Plan document.

7. The Steering Group should make reference to other Parish or Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums across the country that have successfully had their Neighbourhood Plans passed at referendum and brought into force by the Local Authority. This will help them consider how they may wish to structure their NDP and document their analysis of the evidence base and community engagement. Recent examples that the Steering Group may wish to refer to include the Thame Neighbourhood Plan, the Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan and the Tattenhall and District Neighbourhood Plan.

8. Additional advice on evidence base sources is available at: http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Neighbourhood-Planning-Evidence-Base-updated.pdf "Neighbourhood Planning Developing a Data Driven Evidence Base", Locality.

4. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Main documents and types of data available for the Long Bennington Neighbourhood Plan that may be used to justify future policy proposals.

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Long Bennington – Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base

Local Authority: South Kesteven District Council

Local Planning Framework: Main documents – relevant to Long Bennington objectives

Document	Description
South Kesteven Local Plan (emerging - to be adopted in April 2017)	The Local Development Scheme 2014-2017 sets out the Local Development Framework (LDF). Currently, the Local Plan comprises the Core Strategy 2010, Site Allocation and policies document (2014) and remaining 'saved' policies (Local Plan 1995). The Local Plan is a strategic document that will set out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the District, outlining how the known development requirements for the District will be met to 2036, including the amount of housing and employment land requirements. It also will include development management policies and, if required, site allocations. The Local Plan will set out guidance on the distribution and quality of development in the form of 'higher level' strategic policies. It will provide the framework for Neighbourhood Plans. This is a good opportunity for Long Bennington's Neighbourhood Group to discuss and propose new evidence that will be available to support neighbourhood plan policies.
Core Strategy 2010	The Core Strategy was adopted on 5th July 2010. This document sets out the strategic planning framework and vision for the District to 2026.
Site allocation and policies DPD 2014	The Plan was adopted on 17th April 2014. It provides more detailed polices to enable the Core Strategy objectives to be implemented appropriately. This document covers all of the District with the exception of Grantham) This also identifies housing and employment sites in Stamford, Bourne, the Deepings and a number of the Local Service Centres
Sustainability Appraisal 2010	The sustainability appraisal provides information on integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation of the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Group can use this document to identify potential issues / areas where the Local Plan can be improved and add value to local policies. All development plan documents must be supported by a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Neighbourhood Group will need to discuss whether one will be required for a Neighbourhood Plan with the Local Authority.
Supplementary Evidence Document 2013	This document explains the site assessment process and includes a summary sheet of the assessment of each site considered. A large number of sites have been considered and assessed in detail as part of the process of determining which sites to allocate in each town and Local Service Centre (LSC).

SA/SEA Addendum Report (June 2013)	The document describes how the LSC villages were assessed and what the outcome of the assessment was. It supports the Site Allocation Plan DPD which sets out clear and consistent methodologies and assessment frameworks for the assessment of the sustainability of the 16 Local Service Centres for a housing allocation; all reasonable alternative development site options and proposed policies. The report presents a summary of development constraints within Long Bennington.
Statement of Community Involvement (draft 2014)	This statement was adopted in 2006 and reviewed in 2014. This sets out the Council's approach to engaging with local communities and other stakeholders during plan preparation and when consulting on planning applications. The SCI addresses the Long Bennington Neighbourhood Plan objective: *"To ensure and maximise active community involvement in Planning Decisions affecting our Community based on a cohesive approach"*.

The evidence base has been grouped into: 1) National Level, (national studies/research reports) 2) District/Local Level (regional and district assessments/strategies), 3) Suggested additional evidence (recommended evidence base)

Theme 1: Housing

The Neighbourhood Plan should not promote less development nor undermine the strategic policies of the Core Strategy and Site Allocation and Policies Development Plan Document.

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (proposed by the group)	South Kesteven Site Allocation and Policies DPD 2014 / Objectives (based on Core Strategy – 2010)
To make Long Bennington a better place to live, work and visit	Objective 1 Make provision for at least **5,940 new homes** across the District (excluding Grantham) **up to 2026**. Ensuring a rolling five year supply of housing development which varies in terms of sites, size, type and tenure and affordability. Objective 2 **Identify suitable and deliverable sites for affordable housing schemes to meet local needs within rural villages,** and ensure the provision of an appropriate amount of affordable housing on qualifying development sites. Objective 7 Promote sustainable patterns of development through: the **identification of appropriate housing allocations including rural affordable housing sites**; promoting sustainable rural employment opportunities; improving access and public transport: and by seeking to retain and improve existing facilities. Policies H1. Residential Development H3. Affordable Housing Policy LSC 1: Housing Allocations in the Local Service Centres

Evidence link	Brief summary	Comment on usefulness
National Level evidence		
[Statistical Digest of Rural England 2013](#)	The Statistical Digest of Rural England is a compendium of statistics on a wide range of social and economic policy areas of interest across Government.	This report includes updates on economic indicators (productivity, GVA, employment and economic activity, investment, skills, enterprise and business demography) and inicator and indicators for living in rural areas (poverty and fuel poverty).

Statistical Digest of Rural England 2014	A collection of statistics on a range of social and economic subject areas.	This report presents information on poverty, health, businesses, transport and capital investment in rural areas.
Research into Rural Housing Affordability	Study into rural housing focused on: 1) local affordability as it impacts on change in communities, stability and social networks; 2) how the attributes of a rural location affect prices / affordability; 3) the expectation of priority for housing amongst local populations, its rationale, its benefits and drawbacks and its achievability. The objective of this study was to increase understanding of rural housing market dynamics and the part played by housing access in supporting the development of communities.	The case studies highlighted that the majority of respondents felt local housing was not affordable especially for young people and that supply issues, both in terms of the type of new housing built and approaches to the allocation of social/council housing were contributory factors.
District / Local level evidence		
Housing Strategy 2013-2018	This strategy provides an assessment of housing need and housing markets in SKDC and is the product of consultation with a range of stakeholders and draws upon multiple data sources in setting out an ambitious vision for the future of the District within the context of the corporate priority of creating the environment to support good housing for all.	There are four strategic housing priorities: Priority 1: High quality new affordable homes available to buy or rent Priority 2: Improved housing standards across the district and for all tenures Priority 3: Access to housing and wellbeing services Priority 4: Promotion of sustainable neighbourhoods and communities Plans provide for a modest level of development within the more sustainable villages, identified in the Core Strategy as Local Service Centres, to enable them to continue to function as sustainable local centres. New housing development in all other areas will be restricted to affordable housing to meet local needs, including agricultural and forestry workers accommodation and conversions carried out in accordance with policy SP1 (spatial strategy).
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment –Revised Methodology 2014	South Kesteven is producing a new SHLAA for 2014 using a new methodology which has been revised to incorporate the guidance set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014.	This SHLAA methodology replaces that which was consulted upon in early 2013 and will be used to compile the 2014 SHLAA, and will guide future annual reviews. The Neighbourhood group will need to consider this methodology to propose housing policies.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Annual Review 2013	The SHLAA helps to identify land and potential issues but not to make detailed judgments about its feasibility or whether it should be allocated for development. Therefore inclusion of a site in the SHLAA should not be seen as an alternative to making representations for the site specific allocations DPD as part each authority's emerging LDFs.	This includes updated information on sites Long Bennington and assessment of new housing sites put forward before 31st March of 2013.
Affordable Housing Viability Assessment 2009	This document establishes whether the thresholds and proportions of affordable housing contained in Policy H3 of the Core Strategy are economically viable and verify that affordable housing is deliverable in the context of economic viability.	The housing target for Local Service Centres (LSCs) which includes Long Bennington, is 1,000 homes. Between 2006 and 2013, 756 homes had been built and planning permission exists for 268 homes more. The current capacity of proposed allocation in LSCs is 170 homes. The housing and affordable housing targets for Long Bennington between 2011 and 2016 are 35 and 12 homes respectively. A small number of sites should be allocated in a few villages. This would provide a range and mix of small sites across the District, whilst meeting the housing needs of the rural communities for both market and affordable housing, without over-burdening the existing infrastructure of these villages or impinging upon the landscape and open countryside. The identification of the 16 LSCs in the Core Strategy is based upon an assessment of the relative sustainability of settlements across the District; in particular regard had been given to the range of facilities within each village. In determining which villages should be designated as an LSC, nine essential facilities were identified in the Core Strategy. Those villages which have seven or more of the nine essentials were identified as LSCs. The housing target should be based on identified housing need and housing land availability (minimum / maximum levels of physical capacity within the Neighbourhood Plan area for new housing development). The Neighbourhood Plan will be required to comply with the affordable housing policy set out in the Core Strategy Policy H3 (i.e. requiring a minimum of 35% affordable housing provision. The Neighbourhood Group may wish to include a policy in their Plan that requires new homes to meet the specific needs (i.e. size, type and tenure) identified for Long Bennington. For example, should the evidence suggest that more housing is needed in Long Bennington compared to the minimum target set out in the emerging local plan then the Neighbourhood Plan could include a higher level of housing provision.

		This provide information on South Kesteven and includes analysis of: • Housing Stock • Demographic Trends • The Current Housing Market • The Economy, Incomes and Affordability • Housing Need • Modelling the Housing Market • Rural Housing Requirements
Strategic Housing Market update 2010	The update provides an understanding of the housing market and in particular focuses on housing needs and market demand. This report should be read in conjunction with the main SHMA update report as well as the original SHMA report which provides more detail at a sub-district level as well as information about the housing requirements of particular household groups.	Overall it is estimated that 31.4% of households in South Kesteven live in rural areas; this is below the overall figure for the sub-region of 37.1%. The data also suggests that of all future housing likely to be demanded some 19% will be in rural areas (including 14% in the most rural of locations). This point is potentially important given that at present the majority of housing development is in urban areas or as extensions to urban areas. A site allocations document was prepared by the District Council which should be used by the Neighbourhood Group as a tool for plan-making to help inform them of possible choices for housing site allocations. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is a key document that the Neighbourhood Group should draw upon to understand local demand for property size, type and tenure in the Plan area.

[South Kesteven Core Strategy 2010](#)	The Core Strategy anticipated a need within the District for over 600 affordable units to be built annually between 2006 and 2011; in order to meet the minimum local housing requirement for the District. Housing needs research carried out in 2006 showed that in South Kesteven 76.5% of households are owner-occupiers, 13.7% are socially rented and that approximately a quarter of all households contain a pensioner. The study also found a significant shortfall of all sizes of affordable housing. The Core Strategy sets out thresholds and targets to be used to ensure the provision of affordable housing within the district. It seeks to ensure that affordable housing units, or ring-fenced off-site contributions, are provided on all developments of at least 5 dwellings, and that they provide a **target of up to 35%** of the total capacity of the scheme.	Affordable housing is a particular issue, as salaries within the District are lower than those of residents who work outside of the District where salaries are generally higher. This has lead to an imbalance between local salary levels and perceived affordability within South Kesteven. Affordable Housing is defined as "housing which is provided for local people who are unable to rent or purchase a house on the open market." Such housing must be made available either for rent or for purchase under shared ownership schemes. In either case values are approved by the local authority. If communities wish to promote **higher levels of development** through their Neighbourhood Plans to achieve additional local infrastructure improvements or support local facilities and services then the District Plan will not prevent this. However, proposed developments must be in general conformity with the vision, strategic objectives and policies of the District Plan and the policies of the National Planning Policy Framework. Also, it is recommended to discuss emerging housing policies and location of new developments with the Council, developers, land owners, businesses and residents. Evidence of housing will be based on the best (and updated) available evidence (including local evidence provided to support the Neighbourhood Plan).

Long Bennington Parish Plan 2005	The Plan includes: - Village Design Statement - Development Initiatives Report The document provides a description of Long Bennington's community (village profile) characteristics, and development initiatives supported by the community. It refers to surveys and engagement exercise developed in 2004.	The Plan was supported by residents and refers to discussions and constructive criticism on strategies and initiatives proposed in the plan. The Development Initiatives Report presents six initiatives which were also supported by the local community. The Neighbourhood Group will need to identify elements that will be part of the Neighbourhood Plan, update the evidence base that will support the plan, in particular, evidence on engagement and consultation. The local profile of Long Bennington's community can be a starting point to help the neighbourhood group to identify and discuss strengths, weaknesses, future housing needs. *(This information can complement the evidence base but recent studies will provide more useful and will update evidence)*
South Kesteven District Council – Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2013	It provides information on the progress of preparing planning policy documents and policy performance monitoring information for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013.	It presents dwelling completions statistics in villages (2004-2013) and rural housing completion trends. This information should be used to support housing policies.
Five Year Land Supply Assessment 2013	This document sets out an assessment of whether there is a five year supply of deliverable housing land within South Kesteven District.	The document states that the expected completions by 2018 within Long Bennington is 7 and lists sites and their capacity.
Demographic information (Census 2011)	Detailed breakdowns of population (sizes, age, gender) and projections to 2033. Also, breakdowns of type of dwelling, households (Census 2001, 2011).	Population sizes by age and gender (http://www.data4nr.net/resources/1605/) Population projections to 2033 www.data4nr.net/resources/797 Type of dwelling: www.data4nr.net/resources/housing--households/750/, www.data4nr.net/resources/housing--households/745/

[Long Bennington Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire 2013](#)	The Long Bennington Parish Council Village questionnaire created to understand local issues was distributed in 2013. The survey covered the following areas: services, shops and amenities, transport, land use and planning and information a communication.	No information was available on the Long Bennington website on the number of responses received / completed or results. In order to keep the local community informed and as a good practice in developing a Neighbourhood Plan, we recommend publishing a brief report to explain the questionnaire methodology (e.g. sampling strategy, data collection, tools used, etc.). This would be useful to allow an assessment of how robust the engagement process is and to demonstrate policies are supported by local community. In this case, the analysis of engagement responses will depend on the aims of the specific engagement activity and the type of information gathered. We recommend to: 1) define who will analyse data (internal or external), 2) identify criteria to group and analyse information and treatment for individual comments. The results and criteria of analysis should be agreed with the neighbourhood planning group.

Suggested additional evidence

Available housing data: [Data on average house prices](#) and [average income estimates](#); and information from local estate agents on market housing demand	Data on average house prices and income estimates will indicate whether there is a significant discrepancy between average incomes and average house prices, thus indicating whether or not there is a significant need for additional affordable housing in the NP area.	A review of available housing data will enable the Neighbourhood Group to establish past trends in housing development, housing waiting list levels, home ownership patterns in the area and how average house prices compare with average incomes at the District level.

Theme 2: Employment and businesses

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (proposed by the group)	South Kesteven Site Allocation and Policies DPD 2014 / Objectives (based on Core Strategy – 2010)
To make Long Bennington a better place to live, work and visit	*Objective 3* Identify a range of suitable and available sites to support a diversity of new and existing employers (including commercial, retail, leisure and other business sectors) to promote a thriving local economy. *Objective 4* Restrict the loss of existing viable and well located employment land to other non-employment generating uses. *Objective 5* Identify opportunities to support and encourage appropriate rural employment and diversification schemes in sustainable and accessible locations throughout the District. *Objective 6* Promote and enhance the vitality and viability of the principal retail areas within the District (excluding Grantham) by concentrating new retail, leisure and service developments within identified town centres and ensuring that such schemes meet an identified retail need and capacity. Identify local centres as the focus for local retail and service needs. *Policies:* Policy E1 Employment development E2 Retail and development Policy SAP3: Supporting Local Business in Local Service Centres

Evidence link	Brief summary	Comment on usefulness
National Level Evidence		
Federation of Small Businesses: The Missing Links - Revitalising our rural economy (2012)	This report looks at ways of addressing the key barrier of distance to market. It examines ways in which by improving transport links and providing adequate digital infrastructure, the true potential of the rural economy could be realised.	This report should assist the Neighbourhood Group in considering the key types of infrastructure that may help to strengthen the parishes' economy.
Future Directions in Rural Development (2012)	An assessment/review of the state of the UK and Ireland's countryside communities that provides information and explores possible futures facing rural communities.	The study identifies and analyse issues, opportunities and trends in rural communities relevant to neighbourhood planning processes.

District/Regional Level		
Employment Land Capacity Study 2010	The study provides a clear understanding of the local economy and contextualise South Kesteven's place within the region and analyses how existing employment provision may continue to meet employment needs over the plan period to 2026.	The Neighbourhood Group should consider potential changes in employment sectors relevant to Long Bennington and consider impacts of potential changes upon the need for employment land during the period of the Neighbourhood Plan.
Retail Needs Study (undertaken in June 2006 projections extend to 2021)	The report provides an assessment of shopping patterns within South Kesteven District, in order to assess the potential for new retail floorspace.	The results of this assessment, Long Bennington's questionnaire results and a new business survey can inform the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and help to identify local needs in terms of employment opportunities, services and businesses. This will provide the Neighbourhood Group with information on the strengths of the local economy and the village priorities for economic growth. The Neighbourhood Group should use this information to feed into their policies for developing business and the local economy in the Plan area.

South Kesteven Core Strategy 2010	**E1 Employment and development** To meet the objectives of the Council's Economic Development Strategy and the Sustainable Community Plan the Council will ensure that a portfolio of land and buildings, with a range of sizes, uses and locations, with access to a good transport network is available to ensure a successful, competitive and well-balanced business environment. **E2 Retail and development** The Local Service Centres should accommodate small-scale local shopping facilities to serve the everyday needs of local people but more significant development will not be appropriate. Small local shops and retail parades will be provided as part of the comprehensive planning of large residential areas.	Proposals for the expansion of existing businesses and proposals for new employment-generating uses within or on the edge of Local Service Centres will generally be supported, provided that the scale of the proposal is appropriate to its location, and that it will not have a negative impact on the village and neighbouring land uses Long Bennington Business Park, Main Road, Long Bennington is important because there are several small industrial units providing local employment. Important for maintaining sustainability of the village. Relevant sites in Long Bennington: Colsterworth A1 junction – approximately 10 hectares for B2, B8 use Roseland Business Park (Long Bennington) A1 junction – approximately 8 hectares for B1, B2 and B8 use. Villages have been divided into Local Service Centres and smaller villages. Sixteen villages within the District are identified as Local Service Centres as they provide a range of community services similar to those found within a small town. Future appropriate development is considered necessary within these settlements to maintain their role as service providers for the surrounding smaller villages. The District's smaller villages, which have fewer or no services, are considered less sustainable locations. Local Service Centres have been identified by an assessment process, which takes account of those services and facilities considered to be essential or desirable, to meet the daily needs of the communities, as well as the public transport links with the main urban areas.

Suggested additional evidence		
Business survey with local businesses and local people	This should seek to identify whether existing businesses consider the existing employment space in the area to adequately meet their business needs and assess whether there is a desire among the local community to diversity / improve the existing business space provision.	Undertaking a specific business survey would assist the Neighbourhood Group in identifying whether there is a need and demand for additional and / or different types of business space.

Assessment of existing infrastructure in the Parish	This could include a combination of desktop research and walks through the Parish area to photograph assets, noting them on a map and making a record of their condition.	This would help the Neighbourhood Group identify where there is a deficit in community infrastructure and provide justification / evidence of a need for enhancing infrastructure in the village.

Theme 3: Transport

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (proposed by the group)	South Kesteven Site Allocation and Policies DPD 2014 / Objectives (based on Core Strategy – 2010)
To reflect and act upon key areas of community concern, such as Road Safety, Public transport, Civic amenity and unsympathetic development	*Objective 8* Ensure all allocated sites are located in accordance with the spatial strategy and policies of the Core Strategy. In particular that they: 1. Prioritise the use of well-located previously developed sites 2. **Maximise the use of existing public transport, cycling and pedestrian routes** 3. Have access to appropriate services and infrastructure 4. Protect and enhance wildlife sites, protected species; biodiversity; heritage assets; archaeology; water quality; landscape character and open space. *Policies* SP3 sustainable integrated transport

Evidence link	Brief summary	Comment on usefulness
National Level Evidence		
Walking and cycling: local measures to promote walking and cycling as forms of travel or recreation, Public Health Guidance PH41	This guidance presents local measures to promote walking and cycling. The report emphasises that increasing the numbers of people who walk and cycle, and how often, can reduce the health costs associated with air pollution and inactivity.	This would help the Neighbourhood Group identify evidence of the economic and health benefits associated with cycling and walking. It is recognised that physical infrastructure alone is not sufficient, with a more holistic approach required to incentivise such journeys.
District/Regional Level		

| | | Long Bennington is more accessible by road than other neighbourhood areas in Lincolnshire and since the A1 passes through the western side of the neighbourhood plan area, the proportion of dual carriageway is relatively high. |

Most people in South Kesteven travel to work by car, either as driver or passenger: this mode of transport accounts for nearly 80% of all employment-related travel. South Kesteven has a significantly higher proportion of people travelling to work by car or van than in England as a whole. This reflects the relative scarcity of public transport routes throughout the District. Public transport accounts for less than 5% of travel to work journeys and 10% of the workforce walk to work.

Second Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan (2006/7 – 2010/11)

The Plan is centred around making the most of the existing transport networks and outlines some of the major transport initiatives in Lincolnshire.

The population and demand for travel will grow. In particular, given the rural nature of the District, there are likely to be more car owners and drivers. It is also likely that an aging population will result in a growing number of elderly people seeking to access services. This is likely to mean a need for transport suitable for older people who may not be able to drive and who would rely on public transport to get around.

Encouraging mixed-use development may result in reducing the distances that people travel to work. However, given the rural nature of the district and the lack of public transport, travel by private car is unavoidable in many locations.

A fundamental change in attitudes will be required to reduce car dependency.

[South Kesteven Core Strategy 2010](#)	SP3 sustainable integrated transport The Council will encourage the creation of a sustainable, modern transport network across the district by: • promoting the location of development in areas (accessible by public transport, cycling and walking) whilst recognising that development which is necessary in rural areas may only be accessible by the motor car; • promoting a balanced mix of land uses which reduces the need to travel by car; • promoting and assisting journeys by public transport, cycling, mobility aids and walking, by making them accessible, safe, convenient and as attractive as possible • securing transport statements and travel plans where appropriate; • encouraging the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the purposes of businesses and for other service provision; • supporting the retention and enhancement of service provision in local service centres. Where appropriate, developer contributions will be sought towards the provision of necessary improvements.	At a neighbourhood level, a detailed Traffic Assessment may be required to identify the specific issues relating to access for each site for development (which may be related to footpaths, cycle ways and/or road layout changes). The TA should also identify the most appropriate method of resolving any outstanding highway constraints.
Suggested additional evidence		
Local survey on traffic issues	Survey to identify local views on speed limits, traffic calming, stronger village boundaries and HGV restrictions.	The Long Bennington questionnaire does not provide enough evidence to propose specific policies on speed limits, traffic calming, stronger village boundaries and HGV restrictions. The Group has undertaken their own Traffic Survey, results of which are yet to be assessed and do not form part of this evidence base review.

Data on traffic issues	The group needs to decide if the emerging policy is "good enough" or try to influence what is emerging at a local plan or go further in neighbourhood planning and provide more evidence. This could be in form of additional/different information and analysis of local plan studies or more local data not available at local plan level (e.g. Demand, use aspiration) or fresh national studies not considered by the local plan. Current information on number of local accidents and HGV movements.	Current information on number of local accidents and HGV movements might help support policies in aiming to reduce speed and restrict HGV. A transport assessment and joined up approach to address traffic issues might be useful to the group when collating useful evidence.
Maps of existing off and on road cycle routes and pedestrian routes in Plan area	Graphical representation of existing local cycle and pedestrian connections.	This would highlight where there are deficiencies in existing cycle / pedestrian route provision and provide evidence of where cycle / pedestrian routes could be improved in the Parish.

Theme 4: Heritage

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (proposed by the group)	South Kesteven Site Allocation and Policies DPD 2014 / Objectives (based on Core Strategy – 2010)
To reflect and act *upon key areas of community concern, such as Road Safety, Public transport, Civic amenity and unsympathetic development* *To seek to ensure new development is sympathetic to the historic heart of the village, appropriate and in accord with available infrastructure*	*Objective 8* Ensure all allocated sites are located in accordance with the spatial strategy and policies of the Core Strategy. In particular that they: 1. Prioritise the use of well-located previously developed sites 2. Maximise the use of existing public transport, cycling and pedestrian routes 3. Have access to appropriate services and infrastructure 4. **Protect and enhance** wildlife sites, protected species; biodiversity; **heritage assets**; archaeology; water quality; **landscape character** and open space. *Policies* SP2: Sustainable communities P1 Spatial strategy

Evidence link	Brief summary	Comment on usefulness
District/Regional Level		
[Landscape Character Assessment (January 2007)](#)	The Assessment defines areas in the landscape which are distinctly different from one another by looking at a combination of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, landuse and human settlement.	The study states that most villages follow a nucleated form, some with small greens in the centre. Building densities are generally low. This study should help the Neighbourhood Group understand the value of the diverse landscapes of the District and those specific to the NP area. It notes that Long Bennington contains some larger areas of twentieth century development, including detached houses and bungalows, which are not always locally distinctive.

Long Bennington Parish Plan 2005	The Plan includes: - Village Design Statement (not adopted) - Development Initiatives Report The document provides a description of Long Bennington's community (village profile) characteristics, and development initiatives supported by the community. It refers to surveys and engagement exercise developed in 2004.	The Plan was supported by residents and refers to discussions and constructive criticism on strategies and initiatives proposed in the plan. The Development Initiatives Report presents six initiatives which were also supported by the local community. The Neighbourhood Group will need to identify elements that will be part of the Neighbourhood Plan, update the evidence base that will support the plan, in particular, evidence on engagement and consultation. The Neighbourhood Group should check whether the proposed Village Design Statement complies with the Local Plan and contact the Council to discuss whether the document can be a Supplementary Planning Guidance. *(This information can complement the evidence base but recent studies will provide more useful and update evidence)*

[South Kesteven Core Strategy 2010](#)	SP2: Sustainable communities Development in villages (like Long Bennington) will be allowed in accordance with the Spatial Strategy and subject to the following: • Support will be given to proposals and activities that protect, retain or enhance existing community assets, or that lead to the provision of additional assets that improve community well-being. • Proposals involving the loss of community facilities, including land in community use (community/village halls, village shops, post offices, schools, health services, care homes, public houses, playing fields and allotments) will not be supported. • There will be a presumption against the change of use of existing retail, service and employment premises. P1 Spatial strategy In the settlements identified as Local Service Centres, preference will be given to brownfield sites within the built-up part of settlements [which do not compromise the nature and character of the village] and sites allocated.	The Site Allocations and Policies DPD document states that where a Village Design Statement or Parish Plan has been prepared by the Parish Council and adopted by the District Council, development should be in accordance with the design principles established. In all other villages and the countryside development will be restricted. Proposals will only be considered acceptable if they are sites for: A. affordable housing (rural exception or allocated sites) B. agriculture, forestry or equine development C. rural diversification projects D. local services & facilities E. replacement buildings (on a like for like basis); or F. conversions of buildings provided that the existing building(s). The Design Statement prepared by Long Bennington Parish Council was not adopted by the Council.
Suggested additional evidence		
Information about Listed Buildings, Listed Buildings at risk, Scheduled Monuments, Scheduled Monuments at risk, Registered Parks and Gardens Conservation Area	This information will be provided by the Local Authority and/or English Heritage www.english-heritage.org.uk	The group has submitted a Long Bennington Character Assessment (Draft for Area 6) The Pastures, Vicarage Lane and Manor Drive as part of this process. The assessment doesn't contain sufficient detail or guidance to inform planning policy, and as such we recommend a more detailed one is produced. It is suggested that a heritage specialist, which URS can provide, reviews the work and put forward recommendations accordingly.

Theme 5: Public realm and amenities

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (proposed by the group)	South Kesteven Site Allocation and Policies DPD 2014 / Objectives (based on Core Strategy – 2010)
	Objective 8 Ensure all allocated sites are located in accordance with the spatial strategy and policies of the Core Strategy. In particular that they: 1. Prioritise the use of well-located previously developed sites 2. Maximise the use of existing public transport, cycling and pedestrian routes 3. **Have access to appropriate services and infrastructure** 4. **Protect and enhance** wildlife sites, protected species; biodiversity; heritage assets; archaeology; water quality; landscape
To enhance Public Spaces in the Village for future generations	character and **open space**.
To support the provision and use of a range of local amenities and infrastructure	*Objective 11* To ensure that the District has a network of multi-functional green space which increases biodiversity, provides for the sporting and recreational needs of the population, promotes healthy lifestyles and enhances the quality of the natural, historic and built environment. *Policies* Policy SAP1: Retention of Community Services and Facilities Policy SAP10: Open Space Provision EN1: Protection an enhancement of the character of the District SP4: Developer contributions

Evidence link	Brief summary	Comment on usefulness
District/Regional Level		
Open Space and Allotments Study (December 2004)	The study highlights deficiencies in equipped children's play areas within the rural parishes of SKDC.	This report provides background evidence including the baseline data for the neighbourhood plan policies relating to public open space provision. *(This information can complement the evidence base but recent studies will provide more useful and update evidence)*

Green Infrastructure Strategy 2009	This strategy provides a framework for assessing the contribution made by accessible greenspace and proposes principles for developing & managing green infrastructure assets	The document contains maps which show parks and recreation areas, cycle routes, historic parks and gardens, listed buildings, watercourses, footpaths, bridleways, schools, libraries, village halls and local public open spaces across the borough. This information is available to support Neighbourhood Plans in the area. This information will help the Neighbourhood Group to identify Long Bennington's community needs and required improvements of places used by residents and visitors. The data was collated from the Local plan, the County Council and tourist information brochures. *(This information can complement the evidence base but recent studies will provide more useful and update evidence)*
A Study of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in South Kesteven District (April 2009)	The study examined the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision and considered the local needs of the present population and the demands that will be made by future development. It found deficiencies in provision throughout the District	Informal and natural green space tends to be well maintained but largely unimaginative in the way it is designed and laid out. *(This information can complement the evidence base but recent studies will provide more useful and update evidence)*

[South Kesteven Core Strategy 2010](#)	**SP4: Developer contributions** The Council will enter into planning obligations with developers to secure the provision of infrastructure and community benefits which the council considers are necessary in conjunction with development. Site specific requirements will be secured using dedicated Section 106 Facilities provided by such agreements will normally be located on-site but may, exceptionally, be provided nearby. **EN1: Protection an enhancement of the character of the District** Development must be appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration.	All development proposals and site allocations will be assessed in relation to: 1. statutory, national and local designations of landscape features, including natural and historic assets 2. local distinctiveness and sense of place 3. historic character, patterns and attributes of the landscape 4. the layout and scale of buildings and designed spaces 5. the quality and character of the built fabric and their settings 6. the condition of the landscape 7. biodiversity and ecological networks within the landscape 8. public access to and community value of the landscape 9. remoteness and tranquillity 10. visual intrusion 11. noise and light pollution 12. Conservation Area Appraisals and Village Design Statements, where these have been adopted by the Council 13. impact on controlled waters 14. protection of existing open space (including allotments and public open
[Supplementary Evidence Document 2013](#)	The document presents sites that have been considered and assessed in detail within villages as part of the process of determining which sites to allocate.	The Neighbourhood Plan could add value to the local Plan by developing policies in line with national planning guidance on open spaces, sport and recreation which consider the baseline for the quantity and quality of open space and range of types of open space in the village. These policies should ensure open spaces are attractive and accessible to all and address the objectives of sustainable development. Long Bennington has a good range of local shops, services and facilities, including capacity within the primary schools, as well as a GP practice. There is also a good range of local employment opportunities but the area does not have a secondary school with capacity to accommodate additional pupils.
Suggested evidence (additional)		
Local survey (public realm/amenities)	The Neighbourhood group can undertake a survey to identify places that are highly valued by the community.	This should help to complement the evidence base to support neighbourhood plan policies on public areas and amenities.

Assessment of existing community facilities / infrastructure in the Parish	This could include a combination of desktop research and walks through the Parish area to photograph assets, noting them on a map and making a record of their condition.	This would help the Neighbourhood Group identify where there is a deficit in community facilities and provide justification / evidence of a need for new facilities in the village. The group should also check with the Council the progress on their Infrastructure Delivery Plan as this would provide the most up-to-date information on community infrastructure across the District.