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Figure 1 – The Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan Area (OS Licence number: 100056392)
1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Taking advantage of the new power available to town and parish councils, granted through the Localism Act 2011, Raunds Town Council applied to be designated as a neighbourhood planning body for the area identified in Figure 1. Neighbourhood planning status was approved by East Northamptonshire Council in February 2014.

1.2 In April 2014 East Northamptonshire Council completed a review of parish arrangements (Community Governance Review). The purpose of the review was to consider parish boundaries and electoral arrangements. The review led to a change in the boundaries between Ringstead Parish Council and Raunds Town Council, both councils agreed with the proposed changes and East Northamptonshire Council resolved that the boundary should be amended so that it runs along the A45 to the West of Raunds Football Club. The revised boundary for Raunds forms the Neighbourhood area and therefore all policies in this plan will have influence across the whole of the area.

1.3 Raunds is a small market town in rural Northamptonshire. It has a population of 8,641 (2011 census), living in 3,500 homes and is part of the East Northamptonshire district, see Figures 2 and 3. The area is situated 21 miles (34 km) north-east of Northampton. The town is on the southern edge of the Nene valley and surrounded by arable farming land.

Figure 2 – Raunds Population Age Structure 2011 (Source: 2011 Census)

1.4 The place-name ‘Raunds’ first appeared in an Anglo-Saxon charter of circa 972-992, where it appears as Randan. It appears as Rande in the Domesday Book of 1086, and in a later survey of Northamptonshire as Raundes. The name is the plural of the Old English rand, meaning ‘border’.
1.5 There have been major archaeological finds in the vicinity including:

- Tools from the Neolithic period
- Remains of an Iron Age hill fort
- Roman sites, including farmhouses
- Saxon settlements

1.6 The town’s major church is St Peter’s whose construction started in the 13th century. The church has the second-tallest spire in Northamptonshire at 202 feet (61.5m) and stands on the site of a Saxon place of worship. During the 15th century the patronage of the church changed from St Mary to St Peter. The church features a rare ‘left-handed fiddler’ decoration above the western entrance. A tomb-chest dedicated to John Wales, vicar from 1447 to 1496, proves the building has been in use for more than 550 years.

1.7 Around 1800 Raunds was subjected to national legislation namely the “Enclosure Act” that enclosed the village’s open fields after 1200 years of common use. This resulted in major changes with a move away from farming and agriculture and the growth of leather industries such as tanning and boot making. Gradually sufficient wealth became available to fund investment in the public services, namely sanitation, clean water, gas, and electricity. Raunds could even lay claim to a Railway Station, admittedly at a distance of 2 miles from the town centre. Within 100 years the village of Raunds had evolved into a small town, aided by the energy and self-discipline of various Presbyterian and Non-Conformist Churches coupled with the Co-operative Movement.

1.8 After a boom period supplying boots for the Boer War there was a decline in trade. In 1905, a dispute arose about wages to be paid to army bootmakers, which culminated in a march to London in May of that year. Raunds played a major role in the boot and shoe industry until its decline in the 1950s and 60s. With the downturn in the shoe trade the remaining small factories scattered throughout Raunds closed during the 1980s with all now demolished and replaced by housing developments. The Coggins boot factory was the last to go, and the site is now Coggins Close, a housing development.
1.9 The other major employer, RPC Containers closed their premises in the centre of Raunds in 2010 with the loss of over 100 jobs. A number of small businesses remain (see section on Business issues) but many people commute to larger centres for work (see section on Transport.

1.10 In the mid to late 1990s land on the outskirts of the town was developed as a trading estate known as Warth Park, and is now occupied by a number of firms including a Hotpoint distribution centre, and depots for Robert Wiseman Dairies, DPD the parcel service and Avery Dennison. Phase 2 of this successful development is now underway.
1.11 In the mid to late 1990s land on the outskirts of the town was developed as a trading estate known as Warth Park, and is now occupied by a number of firms including a Hotpoint distribution centre, and depots for Robert Wiseman Dairies, DPD the parcel service and Avery Dennison. Phase 2 of this successful development is now underway.

1.12 Raunds Co-operative Society, which has now closed, operated a supermarket and department store in the town. This had 4,000 members in 2007 at the time of its merger with the larger Midlands Co-operative Society.

1.13 Raunds is a rural market town with a strong heritage and good access to open space. It is also seen as relatively affordable to live. Part of Stanwick Lakes, a country park developed from redundant gravel pits and managed by the Rockingham Forest Trust, is within Raunds. There is a large children’s play area, a café and visitor centre and the park hosts a range of activities from Farmer’s Markets to craft events, guided walks and fun runs and adventure activities for younger children. The park is recognised for its birdlife and can be reached on foot from Raunds along the Meadow Lane bridleway.
2 Why are we preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Raunds?

2.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) are a new part of the statutory development planning system. Just as local authorities, such as East Northamptonshire Council can produce development plans to promote, guide and control development of houses, businesses, open spaces and other uses of land; so, too, now, by preparing a neighbourhood development plan, can town councils.

2.3 Previously, a great deal of work has been undertaken on various plans in Raunds. This includes the Raunds Masterplan; the Raunds Area Plan; the emerging Four Towns Plan; and the Vision for Raunds.

2.4 The Vision for Raunds Community Plan is about:

- collecting the views of the community of Raunds;
- identifying local needs, specific problems and opportunities;
- identifying a long term vision for the future;
- drawing up an action plan to enable the vision to be realised.

2.5 The Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan (RNDP) builds on and moves forward with the planning and land use development related issues identified in the Vision for Raunds work; and will take into account and develop further the work on the Raunds Masterplan.

2.6 The RNDP, when complete, will form part of the statutory development plan for East Northamptonshire. This will give the community real power over the future planning of the area and will be used to promote and guide what goes where; and, importantly, will be used to help determine planning applications in Raunds.
3.0 How long will it take to prepare the neighbourhood plan?

3.1 Because the RNDP will be such an important document it has to be prepared following a procedure set by government, see Figure 4. At the moment we are in the early stages of plan preparation.

**Figure 4 – The Neighbourhood Planning Process**

3.2 This procedure must include two six week periods of consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, and will culminate in a referendum on whether the plan should be made part of the statutory development plan for East Northamptonshire. The full process is shown above in Figure 2. Once a draft plan is finalised, a formal 6 week consultation will take place.

3.3 The Raunds NDP is now published for six weeks of consultation running from 19th October 2015 until 1st December 2015. After this six week consultation the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan will be revised and submitted to East Northamptonshire Council. They will consult on this second Submitted Draft for a further six weeks.

3.4 The Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan will then, in all likelihood, be subject to independent examination. Once the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been examined it will have to be put to a vote, a referendum, of all those eligible to vote in the Town.
Council area, as to whether it should be made part of the statutory development plan system in East Northamptonshire, or not.

3.5 We hope to reach referendum stage by June 2016 and have a final Neighbourhood Plan by July 2016.

3.6 The Raunds NDP builds on the work undertaken to prepare the *Vision for Raunds* and the community engagement and questionnaire survey that took place as part of this work.

3.7 Raunds Town Council took the decision at the start of 2013 to ask the townspeople their opinions and aspirations for Raunds in the upcoming 10 years. To facilitate this they held a series of public meetings. Following on from this a Vision for Raunds Steering Group was formed with an independent chairman. The Town Council then took a step back allowing the community freedom to conduct the survey and report on the results.

3.8 Using guidance supplied by East Northamptonshire Council a Household questionnaire was prepared. The exact questions were refined during a number of public meetings. Young people from the Vision for Raunds Steering Group prepared a further questionnaire aimed specifically at young people and school age children. A Business questionnaire was also prepared. The survey was launched at the Town Carnival on 14th September 2013. The Household questionnaire was made available on the Town Council website and more than 3000 copies delivered to households by a small team of volunteers. Following this all the schools in Raunds were visited, and 500 copies of the Youth questionnaire was distributed to the Manor school. Additionally, Windmill, St Peters and Park Infants School were
visited to give even younger members of the community to have their say. The Business questionnaire was made available online and in paper format delivered to local firms and businesses. The deadline for completion of the questionnaires was 30th October 2013. The results of the paper questionnaires were manually input to a database and the first data became available in early 2014. Five Working Groups with members taken from the main Steering Group were formed to consider the results of the survey and commence the preparation of an Action Plan. The draft Community Plan and Action Plan were prepared during May/June 2014 and presented to the Town Council in September 2014.

3.9 The strong response to the Vision for Raunds gave the Town Council confidence that the action plans developed really did represent the views of the Town. The Vision had highlighted a number of strategic issues which it was felt were best addressed by developing a neighbourhood plan. The Raunds Neighbourhood Plan was therefore built on those views already expressed through the Vision for Raunds and supported by work published in the Masterplan and work being undertaken for the emerging Four Towns Plan. Planning permission has already been granted for 1058 homes which is well in excess of that envisaged in the Raunds Area Plan and meeting that detailed in the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy 2011-2031”. The Town Council therefore will not use this plan to allocate any further sites for additional housing, as they firmly believe that Raunds needs to be able to consolidate the rapid growth that is already occurring. Any additional unplanned growth would be likely to place real and unmanageable pressures on infrastructure and community cohesion.

3.10 This draft Neighbourhood Plan has also been the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening, see Appendix 1 of this document. This concluded that:

“The Raunds NDP does not include land allocations. The plan includes a number of policies to protect and enhance key existing areas of the town, including:

- Open spaces
- Local green spaces
- Community facilities
- Retail frontages
- Employment areas
- Stanwick Lakes SPA/SSSI

The plan also includes policies to promote good design and protect green infrastructure.

These policies will be used to assess development proposals as and when they arise and will be used to assess their environmental impacts. Over time the plan will have a positive environmental impact.”
4.0 Key issues for Raunds

4.1 The Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan must take account of national planning policy. This is, primarily, contained in one document the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Raunds NDP has also been prepared by taking in to account guidance contained in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

4.2 This means our Neighbourhood Development Plan must “plan positively to promote local development” and must “support the strategic development needs”. Therefore, our Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared to be in “general conformity” with existing policies and “take account of” emerging planning policies.

4.3 East Northamptonshire’s Council’s existing strategic planning policy is contained in three key documents as follows:

- North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008
- East Northamptonshire Local Plan (1996).
- Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (2011)

4.4 East Northamptonshire’s Council’s emerging strategic planning policy is contained in two key documents as follows:

- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy to 2031 – this reached Pre-Submission stage consultation stage in January 2015; and the
- Four Towns Plan being prepared by East Northamptonshire. This was consulted upon in 2012.

4.5 The relevant policies from these plans are set out in Appendix X.

Locally Identified issues

4.5 The Vision for Raunds identified most of the key local issues that needed to be addressed in the town. These issues were identified by local people through a questionnaire. This was conducted by the Vision for Raunds Steering Group in late 2013 to identify local needs, specific problems and opportunities. There were separate household, youth and business questionnaires. The results of the Vision for Raunds consultation is available within the Vision for Raunds Community Plan 2014.

4.6 From these results the Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group agreed areas for the Neighbourhood Plan and issues to be objectively addressed within each relevant area are as follows:
Housing

4.7 There have been planning permissions for 1,058 dwellings approved within Raunds in recent years. The emerging North Northamptonshire Core Strategy identifies a housing requirement for Raunds of 1,060 dwellings over the period 2011-3031. On this basis there is no need for the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan to identify additional land for housing. This option was considered by the Steering Group but discarded as being unnecessary. Instead the Neighbourhood Plan will look at the following housing issues:

- No brownfield sites would be allocated. Reaffirmed the position that Raunds has taken its “share” of housing with permissions granted at Darsdale (460), Northdale End (540), The Rowans (77)

- Future residential development should be restricted to infill sites or town centre redevelopment;
• The design of new dwellings should capture the characteristics of the existing market town;
• There should be an appropriate range of types and sizes of new homes;
• There should be a planned approach to the play equipment included on public open spaces and this should also look at the age ranges catered for; and
• Landscaping of residential developments and public open space should include trees that are more suitable for residential areas.

Economy

4.8 Employment Opportunities
• Encouragement of existing warehousing companies to site their office accommodation within the warehousing unit. The Raunds NDP has a target of encouraging 20% of warehousing units to be office or B1 uses.
• Hotel/Bed & Breakfast approved as part of Warth Park. Encourage the take up and implementation of the permission.
• Promote small businesses, provision for mixed uses.
• There is reliance on larger settlements outside of the Plan area such as Wellingborough, Bedford and North Northampton for employment, with approximately 46% of full time employed persons travelling greater than 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) to work (Census 2011) – a slight reduction compared with 2001.

4.9 Town Centre Regeneration
• Raunds town centre provides for local needs with a supermarket and a number of small local shops. The Co-op supermarket at the southern end of Brook Street is an important feature of the town centre. The former Co-op furniture and household goods store, also on Brook Street, is now closed. At the northern end of the town centre there is a Spar store.
• There is a market in the town square every Friday with a variety of stallholders.
• The town needs a range of vibrant services to satisfy local needs.
• Zoning – defining areas for different uses including café society/evening/night-time economy/social activities.
• Re-balance existing town centre.
• Promote living over the shops.
• Define town centre boundary and Primary shopping areas.

Tourism

4.10
• Promote the connection between Stanwick Lakes and Raunds Town Centre (cycleway).
• Develop and protect the Meadow Lane connection and its amenity value from Raunds to Stanwick Lakes (under A45).
• Develop links between the recently approved residential developments and Stanwick Lakes by erecting gateways and footpaths.
• Develop sports and recreation opportunities within the Raunds area.
• Develop new and improve existing footpath and cycle links within, to and from Raunds.

Heritage and Tourism
• Promote the town’s heritage, its buildings/artefacts; and its history in the former boot and shoe trade.
• Promote the Saxon link/Anglo artefacts
• Promote a future site for a museum
• Consider a local list of buildings/features of local historic interest.
• Promote Spires and Squires (church tourism).
• Church of St Peter, Berrister Place, is identified as a building at risk.

4.11 Highways/Transport and Infrastructure

• Encourage highway improvements to junction of Brick Kiln Lane/Midland Road; Brook Street/ Hill Street/Square.
• Improve connectivity (pedestrian and/or vehicular) between cul-de-sacs within some developments.
• Ensure improvement of existing roads and transport to meet needs of increasing population.
• Promote walking within the town and links to cycleways and footpaths out of the town.
• Improved access to Bus/rail services.
• Provide additional town centre parking based on demand.

4.12 Community Facilities

• Encourage improvements to existing community facilities
• Explore ways of improving access to Saxon Hall from Brook Street.
5.0 Aim and Objectives

Aim of the RNDP

5.1 Our Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out our overall aim for the future development of the area. This reflects the thoughts and feelings of local people and businesses with a real interest in their community. We have built on the work carried out as part of the Vision for Raunds exercise and have turned this in to a set of achievable objectives.

The aim of this plan is to enable Raunds to develop as a vibrant, successful, pleasant rural market town; where people feel safe to live.

- A town with sustainable, good quality, housing; designed to be in keeping with the characteristics of ‘old Raunds’ town.
- Infrastructure, which meets the needs of the community, incorporating good highways, excellent educational provision, accessible health facilities and community facilities for all ages.
- A valuable business community built around:
  - good accommodation;
  - a regenerated town centre with aspirations to become a vibrant market town with a variety of artisan and boutique style shops; and
  - good employment opportunities.

Objectives

5.2 Our plan sets out positively how we will achieve our Aim, and how the town will change over the plan period and beyond. To ensure we achieve this our plan includes key objectives on housing, community and leisure facilities, employment, improvements to transport, heritage and environment.

5.3 Our Neighbourhood Development Plan is an opportunity for the residents of the town to look forward over the next 15-20 years in order to help plan and shape the way the town will be. In order to achieve our Vision for Raunds we have identified the following objectives for the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan.
OBJECTIVE 1 - To ensure that new housing is provided in a suitable range of tenures, types and sizes so that local people of all ages can to continue to live in the town in a suitable home and to ensure that variety of new housing is attractive to families who wish to re-locate to the area.

OBJECTIVE 2 - To ensure all new development is of good designed and in keeping with the surrounding character of the area.

OBJECTIVE 3 – To ensure that Raunds has the appropriate open space provisions, community and recreation facilities to support present demand and future growth for members of the community of all ages.

OBJECTIVE 4 – To encourage and protect the viability and vitality of the Town Centre.

OBJECTIVE 5 - To protect existing employment provision and support future regeneration, diversification and expansion of employment opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 6 - To encourage tourism related activities.

OBJECTIVE 7 - To ensure that the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan promotes sustainable development for future generations by protecting key environmental assets (e.g. green spaces and landscapes, natural environment designations) and taking account of constraints.

OBJECTIVE 8 - To ensure Raunds has the appropriate improvements in transport and infrastructure to support present demand and future projected growth within this plan and other relevant development plans.
6.0 Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies and Proposals

6.1 This section of the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out the policies and proposals that will be used to determine planning applications in order to achieve our aim and objectives.

HOUSING

OBJECTIVE 1 – To ensure that new housing is provided in a suitable range of tenures, types and sizes so that local people of all ages can continue to live in the town in a suitable home and to ensure that variety of new housing is attractive to families who wish to re-locate to the area

6.2 Housing Needs surveys indicate that there are needs for additional smaller dwellings, particularly smaller houses and bungalows to cater from the demand from smaller households and downsizers, including dwellings designed for older people.

6.3 This demographic evidence of “need” does not take account of the aspirations of many households to have a spare bedroom for example to provide a home office, give a young family the opportunity to expand or to provide a room for visiting guests.

6.4 The Raunds Neighbourhood Plan, therefore seeks to secure a good balance of house types and sizes by recognising the need for variety in both the “affordable” and “market” housing sectors.

R1 – ENSURING AN APPROPRIATE RANGE OF SIZES AND TYPES OF HOUSES

In recognition of the likely need for smaller dwellings and for the need for flexibility, the Raunds Neighbourhood Plan supports paragraph 9.26 of the Joint Core Strategy which indicates that, for new developments, a significant proportion (generally at least 70%) of small and medium sized properties (1-3 bedrooms) will be provided. Proposals for a higher proportion of larger (4+ bedroom) dwellings should be supported by evidence in relation to the existing housing stock and the local housing market. The Raunds Neighbourhood Plan also supports paragraph 9.27 of the Joint Core Strategy in its objective to ensure that a balanced housing stock is secured.
6.5 The Raunds Neighbourhood Plan supports the concept that a reasonable amount of affordable housing is sought in developments having regard to the viability of the development scheme and the objective of creating inclusive and mixed communities. Where a robust viability assessment indicates that a development cannot meet targets in full, the local planning authority will negotiate with the developer to agree an appropriate scale of provision.

**DESIGN**

**OBJECTIVE 2 – To ensure all new development is of good design and is in keeping with the surrounding character of the area.**

6.6 Raunds is a town with a strong sense of identity and with a distinctive heritage and rural market town character. The importance of maintaining and enhancing the town’s distinctive character was highlighted in the surveys undertaken in 2013 to inform the preparation of the Vision for Raunds – the Raunds Community Plan.

6.7 When asked about new housing 76% (435) of responders agree or strongly agree that any development should be in a style in keeping with the town. Whilst 81% agree or strongly agree that it should be focussed on the conversion of redundant buildings and infill. Almost all (96% - 644 respondents) agree or strongly agree that new properties should have adequate parking. A number of respondents commented that they had problems parking outside their own home.
6.8 In order to retain Raunds character it is crucial to protect the scale of the town (The Raunds Masterplan March 2011, Aecom). A key principle that emerged through the Enquiry by Design undertaken for the Masterplan was that any new development should be well-integrated into the existing town and dispersed so that no single area of the town would be changed through significant levels of new development.

6.9 To ensure that all new development is of high quality and in keeping with the surrounding character of the area the following Policy R2 will be applied. National planning policy seeks to replace poor design with better design (NPPF, para. 9). Policy R2 will help us to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. There are a number of standards that can be used to help produce good design (e.g. Building for Life 12 and Secured by Design 2014: Housing Guide). Applicants will be expected to use these and other standards and to work with the town council and local community to produce designs that take account of the views of the local community (NPPF, para. 66).

POLICY R2 – PROMOTING GOOD DESIGN

All new development in Raunds will be encouraged to be of good design and in keeping with the character of the surrounding area. All new development proposals should be drawn up with the active involvement of the town council and the local community and will be assessed against the following:

a) preservation and enhancement of the locally distinctive built, historic and natural environment, including designated and non-designated assets;

b) how their design takes account of site characteristics and surroundings, including:

   i. layout
   ii. siting
iii. scale  
iv. height  
v. proportions and massing  
vi. orientation  
vii. architectural detailing  
viii. landscaping and  
ix. materials  
c) no significant adverse impact on residential amenity for existing and future residents;  
d) the development does not contribute to, or suffer from, adverse impacts arising from ground, noise, light or air contamination, land instability or cause ground water pollution;  
e) the development utilises sustainable construction methods, minimises the use of non-renewable resources and maximises the use of recycled and sustainably sourced materials;  
f) minimal resource use and low or zero carbon dioxide emissions;  
g) easy access for all members of the community;  
h) safe environments that minimise opportunities for crime in accordance with Secured by Design principles;  
j) the development is integrated with the existing town;  
k) any development on the edge of the town should improve access to the countryside; and  
l) particularly within the urban area the use of appropriate and adequate lighting.  

POLICY R3 – FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY IN NEW HOUSING DESIGN  

As well as taking account of the principles set out in Policy R2 “Promoting Good Design” of the Raunds NDP housing development proposals should demonstrate how they can meet the changing needs of households, lifestyles and technologies by incorporating flexibility and adaptability in to their design and construction. This should include both internal and external design and construction features. Particular regard should be paid to room sizes and their adaptability.  

POLICY R4 – CAR PARKING IN NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  

In new housing developments suitable car parking should be provided in line with the Northamptonshire Place and Movement
Guide (December 2008). To prevent the future loss of car parking spaces planning applications will be conditioned appropriately so that, for example, garages and off-street car parking spaces are not lost.

OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

OBJECTIVE 3 – To ensure that Raunds has the appropriate open space provisions, community and recreation facilities to support present demand and future growth for members of the community of all ages.

6.10 The latest version of the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy highlights the importance of public open space and other green spaces as “community assets”. Surveys undertaken for the Raunds Community Plan established that there was a high level of satisfaction with the parks and green spaces in the town and it will be important that this situation is maintained as new development takes place.

6.11 Open space is essential to public health, well-being and quality of life. Well-used, well-maintained and accessible open space not only provides opportunities for recreation, it also promotes social inclusion and can be used for flood management. Using the town’s open spaces for wider benefits was identified as a key principle in the Raunds Masterplan.

6.12 East Northamptonshire’s approach to providing open spaces in new developments is set out in the Council’s Open Space Supplementary Planning Document, November 2011. New development in Raunds should ensure that there is adequate open space provision to support
community needs and generate wider benefits. The following policy will therefore apply:

**POLICY R5 – OPEN SPACE PROVISION**

All new development in Raunds will be expected to maintain and enhance open space provision by:

a) providing a mix of open space uses which meet local need, including children’s play areas and sports pitches in accordance with the East Northampton Council Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (Adopted November 2011)

b) promoting a green infrastructure approach in order to encourage community access and protect and enhance the natural environment

c) promoting connectivity. The siting and layout of open space within new development will be key to connecting existing and new communities to the countryside and other open space. The design and layout of the open space should also allow habitat and species connectivity by linking new open space to existing habitats and wildlife corridors

d) Not resulting in a loss of open space, including sports and recreation facilities and playing fields unless:

- It is surplus to requirements; or
- A site of equivalent quality and accessibility can be provided, serviced and made available to the community prior to use of the existing site ceasing; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreation provision, the need for which clearly outweighs the loss

Development which contributes towards the improvement of existing, or the provision of new public open space, sports and recreation facilities and meets other planning requirements will be encouraged.

Raunds has many open spaces that make a significant contribution to the quality of life of residents and visitors. When asked as part of the Vision for Raunds work people were either very satisfied (65%) or satisfied (45%) with these spaces. The Raunds NDP identifies these spaces and seeks to protect them (Policy R6).

**POLICY R6 – PROTECTED OPEN SPACES**

The open spaces identified on Figure 5 will be protected.

Development of such spaces will only be permitted when:
equivalent or better provision is made in a suitably accessible location; or
the space is no longer required or suitable for use as an open space

6.14 The NPPF (paragraph 76) also indicates that local communities can, through local and neighbourhood plans, identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Our plan makes use of this local green space designation and has identified those local green spaces worthy of such protection.

6.15 As well as the open spaces protected under Policy R6, the Raunds NDP has identified a number of local green spaces that merit this extra level of protection, Policy R7.

6.16 Paragraph 77 of the NPPF advises that “the Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Appendix 2 sets out how the open spaces in the town have been assessed against these criteria and how the local green spaces to be protected have been identified.

POLICY R7 – LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN RAUNDS

The local green spaces, listed below and shown on Figure 5 will be protected. Their development for uses other than uses compatible with their openness will only be permitted in very special circumstances.

- Saxon Hall Grounds, Thorpe Street
- London Road allotments
- Brick Kiln Road allotments
- Memorial Gardens
- St Peter’s Churchyard
Figure 5 – Protected Open Spaces and Local Green Spaces (for key and assessment see Appendix 2). (OS Licence number: 100056392)
6.11 As well as protecting local green spaces, the Raunds NDP also seeks to protect our range of community facilities and assets. This ranges from pubs through to community halls. This policy seeks to protect these facilities and buildings when affected by planning and development proposals, *not the services or businesses run from them*. A number of the facilities listed may also have been identified as “assets of community value”. This is a different type of protection and allows local communities to seek to buy such assets, when they go up for sale, at market value, and before they go on the open market. Policy R7 will be used to manage and control how such uses are developed in the future irrespective of who owns them.

**POLICY R8 – PROTECTING EXISTING COMMUNITY AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND BUILDINGS**

![Image of a building](image)

The community and recreation facilities and buildings listed below will be protected.

- St Peter’s Church
- Medical Centre
- The Square
- Enterprise Centre
- Saxon Hall
- The Town Hall
The Methodist Church

The Catholic Church

Raunds Library

Raunds Cricket Club

Raunds Football Club

Manor School
- Windmill School
- The Snooks

- The World Upside Down
- The Woodpecker
- Cookies
- The Conservative Club

Development proposals to improve, enhance or expand these facilities will be permitted when they do not have an adverse impact on residential amenity, the local environment or heritage.

Proposals to redevelop these facilities for housing or other non-community uses will only be permitted when the facility can clearly be demonstrated to be no longer suitable for continued community use, or that the facility is being relocated and improved to meet the needs of the new and existing community.

In order to ensure Raunds has a suitable range of community facilities any new development that would lead to increased demand for an existing community facility will be expected to provide a suitable sum to ensure that demand could be met before the development takes place.

RAUNDS TOWN CENTRE

OBJECTIVE 4 – To encourage and protect the viability and vitality of the Town Centre.

6.17  The adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy identifies Raunds as a Rural Service Centre. Its main role is to provide local convenience shopping and service facilities for the town and its wider rural hinterland. Although the emerging North Northamptonshire Joint
6.18 The Raunds Masterplan recognised the town’s role as a locally important service centre and developed the following series of objectives in relation to the town centre:

- Focus on smaller businesses in Town Centre
- Strengthen Brook Street as focus of Town Centre
- Encourage a variety of shops
- Promote temporary uses for vacant shops
- Improve areas around Market Square and the Co-op supermarket to act as anchors

6.19 The following aims have subsequently been identified:

- To re-balance the retail/service/domestic aspects of service provision within the town centre
- To promote development of an evening/night-time economy.
- To promote Raunds as a destination town as detailed in Policy R16 with a focus on boutique and artisan retail outlets.

6.20 In order to address the issues identified and help promote Raunds role as a locally important service centre, our neighbourhood plan will apply the following policy:

**POLICY R9 – DEVELOPMENT IN RAUNDS TOWN CENTRE**

*Within Raunds Town Centre, see Figure 6, development for retail, leisure, office, commercial, cultural and tourism uses will be encouraged. Development proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:*

a. For retail development, it is located in one of the primary or secondary shopping areas, see Figure 5;

b. Where new shop frontages are proposed they are of good design and enhance local distinctiveness by ensuring that*
corporate branding is subordinate to the site and local surroundings and not the other way around;
c. The re-use of upper floors for residential use will be encouraged;
d. Distinctive and detailed features of buildings should be retained and enhanced;
e. Proposals must include secure areas for rubbish (wheelie bins) and bicycles;
f. Business premises should have appropriate signage; and
g. Security grilles should be decorative well designed and seek to maintain a varied and interesting frontage, sympathetic to the street scene.

*Within the prime shopping areas defined in Figure 5 at least 70% of ground floor space should remain in Class A1 retail use. Proposals for non-A1 retail uses in such areas will only be permitted when they would not lead to A1 retail use at ground floor level falling below the 70% threshold.*
6.21 A key aim for the Masterplan was to create a more attractive and accessible town centre by addressing the traffic and quality of public realm issues that had been highlighted during the Masterplan process. This focused on the need for:

- Public realm improvements
- Parking improvements
- Junction improvements
6.22 As part of the development of the Community Plan, a Roads and Transport Survey was undertaken and the results of this have been taken into account in the development of this neighbourhood development plan.

6.23 When asked about possible improvements to traffic and transport in Raunds the two most important issues were speeding and parking. Over a quarter (27%) of responses made some reference to parking issues, many seeking enforcement of parking regulations, an end to parking on double yellow lines, on pavements or near corners and junctions. The questionnaire included over 400 responses setting out what changes could be made to improve traffic problems in Raunds.

POLICY R10 – TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT IN RAUNDS

To create a safer more accessible environment for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users the following will be encouraged:

All development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they contribute to the creation of safer roads and streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

Over the lifetime of the plan the following improvements should be implemented:

- Midland Road/High Street/North Street junction improvements
- The Square/Marshalls Road/Brook Street junction improvements
- Improved car parking at Brook Street

6.24 The design of shop fronts are an important element in the street scene and, as such, has a major impact on the public perception of town centres. Raunds town centre has a distinctive character and the design of shop fronts makes a significant contribution to this individual character and quality. Shop fronts that are poorly maintained or out-of-character will have a negative impact on the town centre and discourage its use. The neighbourhood plan therefore seeks to encourage well-designed shop fronts that reflect the character and scale of the town centre through the application of the following policy:
POLICY R11 –SHOP FRONTS

Proposals for new shop fronts, or alterations to existing shop fronts, will be permitted where the following criteria are satisfied:

a) The proposal would not result in the loss of a traditional shop front or features of architectural or historic interest;
b) The proposals would be in keeping with town centre in terms of architectural style, materials and scale; and
c) Where the proposal relates to a new fascia, this is of appropriate height in terms of the scale of the shop front and other elements of the building and street scene.

6.25 The public realm is the publicly accessible space between buildings, including pavements, squares and streets. Just like the appearance of buildings, the quality of the public realm too has a profound effect on the desirability of a town centre as a place to visit.

6.26 The Raunds Masterplan considered the public realm in the context of regenerating the town centre and suggested improvements that could help secure a more successful future for it and help consolidate its role as a local service centre. These have been taken into account in developing the following policy to improve the vibrancy and viability of Raunds town centre:
POLICY R12 –TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM

Developments that improve and enhance the quality of the public realm in Raunds town centre will be supported. This may be achieved in the following ways:

a) Improving the environment to create more attractive, safer and more legible public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists by incorporating ‘shared space’ principles, particularly for The Square and extending south down Brook Street to Hill Street and north to the north end of West Street;

b) Providing high quality street furniture, including seating, lighting and public art, paving and soft landscaping particularly in The Square, St Peter’s Memorial Gardens, the front of the Town Hall and Spinney Hill;

c) Improving parking layout and access in the car park at Marshall’s Road and West Street;

d) Opening up views of St Peter’s Church;

e) Where relevant, new development should overlook St Peter’s Memorial Garden to provide more natural surveillance and improve safety;

f) Enhancing the entry of Spinney Hill, off Brook Street by widening it and improving signage and lighting;

g) Providing steps from the east Brook Street pavement into the Town Hall green space; and

h) Expanding/improving the Town Hall Green play area and providing seating.

6.27 Raunds has a proud employment history. In common with many places this is changing. Older more labour intensive industries are being replaced by newer, less labour intensive industries. Strategic planning policy seeks the regeneration of the town. This will be achieved in a number of ways. By increasing access to employment opportunities locally and further afield, but also by improving the type of employment on offer locally.

6.28 The Raunds NDP seeks to do this by using the following policies.
Employment

OBJECTIVE 5 – To protect existing employment provision and support future regeneration, diversification and expansion of employment opportunities.

POLICY R13 – PROTECTING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SITES

To maintain a full range of employment opportunities in the local area the following sites will be protected for employment use:

- Warth Park Strategic Site
- The Rowans
- West End
- North Dale End
- Blotts Farm
- New Barns Farm
- A45 roundabout at Brick Kiln Road

Development for office, business (B1), general industrial (B2) and warehousing uses (B8) will be encouraged in these areas.

B8 uses should include accommodation to allow at least 20% of jobs on-site to be office based.

Development for hotel/leisure use will be supported where it can be shown there is no suitable alternative site in or adjacent to Raunds Town Centre and an impact assessment has been undertaken for proposals over 2,500 sq. m.

Planning approval for uses outside of the above will only be permitted when:
a. The existing use is no longer considered suitable for continued employment use after an extended period of active marketing; and
b. The proposed use would not have a detrimental impact on adjacent uses and occupiers.

POLICY R14 – SUPPORTING NEW EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for new office, business (B1), general industrial (B2) and warehousing uses (B8) will be encouraged when they:

a. Prioritise previously develop land;
b. Re-use existing buildings;
c. Do not adversely impact on the amenity of existing and future residents;
d. They do not lead to loss of open space; and
e. They do not lead to significant traffic or highway safety issues.
f. Do not adversely impact on primary or secondary retail area

R15 – SMALL BUSINESSES

Development proposals from small businesses will be supported when they re-use existing buildings or are extensions to existing premises that do not lead to any significant adverse impacts.

OBJECTIVE 6 – To encourage tourism related activities.

6.29 As well as protecting existing and promoting new business opportunities the Raunds NDP recognises the important contribution tourism can bring to the local economy. The plan seeks to promote Raunds as a destination town building on the local heritage and existing attractions, and by seeking to encourage new tourism related development.

POLICY R16 – PROMOTING RAUNDS AS A DESTINATION TOWN

To support and encourage the development of Raunds as a destination town and to support further growth in tourism the following will be supported:

a) Tourism related development in the town centre;
b) Hotel/Leisure uses at Warth Park Strategic site;
c) Proposals for a Museum in the town centre or at Warth Park;
d) Enhancement and expansion of existing tourist related facilities where they do not have an adverse impact on residential amenity or the natural or historic environment;
e) Proposals that re-use, conserve and enhance assets of heritage value; and
f) Proposals for foot and cycle routes that create opportunities to link key attractions.

To develop and promote tourism, leisure and recreation in Raunds the following proposals will be supported:

  g) The connection between Stanwick Lakes and Raunds Town Centre (cycleway), in particular, the important footpath link through the Warth Park nature area.

  h) Develop the Meadow Lane connection from Raunds to Stanwick Lakes (under A45).

  i) Develop links between the recently approved residential developments and Stanwick Lakes.

  j) Develop sports and recreation opportunities within the Raunds area.

  k) Develop new and improve existing footpath and cycle links within, to and from Raunds.

OBJECTIVE 7 – To ensure that the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan promotes sustainable development for future generations by protecting key environmental assets (e.g. green spaces and landscapes, natural environment designations) and taking account of constraints.

6.30 As well as seeking to develop tourism and visits to the area the Raunds NDP recognises the value of the existing network of green infrastructure has for residents, visitors and businesses. This “green infrastructure” includes open spaces, woodlands, wildlife sites, rivers and streams. The Raunds NDP seeks to protect and enhance this green infrastructure network.

POLICY R17 – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The green infrastructure network identified on map x will be protected and enhanced.

Proposals will be assessed for the contribution they make to the following:

  a) improved access to watercourses;
  b) links to encourage walking to the major employment areas;
  c) links from the town centre to the surrounding green infrastructure network in the rural parts of the town council area;
  d) reduce habitat fragmentation and creation of inter-connecting green and blue corridors;
  e) maintain and enhance green corridors to open countryside and create new ones;
  f) new tree planting along roads and streets; and
  g) New allotments and community gardens.
  h) Electric vehicle charging point
6.31 As well as seeking to protect and enhance the town’s network of green infrastructure we also want to make the environment in the more urban parts of Raunds a greener and even better place to live than it is already.

**POLICY R18 - GREENING THE TOWN**

Proposals that would lead to the greening of Raunds will be encouraged, including:

- a) tree planting in appropriate locations and of appropriate species;
- b) creation of new, or enhancement of existing wildlife habitats;
- c) proposals that protect or increase biodiversity;
- d) new and improved access to watercourses; and
- e) greener cycleways and footpaths will be prioritised.

6.32 Raunds has a long and rich history. This includes 25 listed buildings and scheduled monuments. These features are protected statutorily and are, therefore, not included separately in the NDP. However, we also have a number of non-designated heritage assets. To ensure these are preserved and enhanced Policy R18 of the NDP identifies a list of local heritage assets.

**R19 – LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS**

Development proposals affecting the locally listed buildings identified below should preserve and enhance these buildings and their setting.

- The Roman Catholic Church
- The Temperance Movement Hall
- Furnells Farmhouse
- The Memorial
- The Old Vicarage
- Gage’s Manor House
- Hill End House
- The Wesleyan Chapel
- The Coffee Tavern
- The Town Hall
- Thorpe House
- The Globe Inn
- Spire Works, Manor Street

6.33 Part of the Stanwick Lakes Special Protection Area/Site of Special Scientific Interest falls within the boundary of the Raunds NDP. Policy R19 will seek to ensure that any new development takes full account of this area in to consideration and that it does not damage public enjoyment of this area.

**R20 - STANWICK LAKES SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)/SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)**
Development proposals affecting the Stanwick Lakes SPA/SSSI will only be permitted when they do not have an adverse impact on the inherent value of the SPA/SSSI and when they do not by reason of harm to local wildlife, landscape or views damage the public enjoyment of this area.

OBJECTIVE 8 -. To ensure Raunds has the appropriate improvements in transport and infrastructure to support present demand and future projected growth within this plan and other relevant development plans.

6.34 We also recognise that, within certain limits, such as the need to protect wildlife sites and personal privacy, protecting the network of “green infrastructure” and making the town greener can have their limits unless people have access to enjoy such things. The Raunds NDP, therefore, promotes a variety of measures to increase public access and to increase connections to local features and other places.

POLICY R21 – MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

Proposals for the enhancement and improvement of the existing road, footpath and cycleway network within the designated area will be supported, and improved links to Raunds and other areas will be supported.

All new proposals should include the following enhancements to maximise accessibility to residents and to support local biodiversity:

a) enhanced public access and appropriate signage from residential areas;

b) new footpaths and cycle routes linking to existing and new networks. Within the urban area these routes should be suitably and adequately lighted;

c) linkages to wildlife corridors and provision of landscaping and planting along routes to support local biodiversity objectives such as provision of new areas of woodland, new hedgerows, grassland and wetland habitats.

The following proposals will be supported:

d) Promote the connection between Stanwick Lakes and Raunds Town Centre (cycleway).

e) Develop the Meadow Lane connection from Raunds to Stanwick Lakes (under A45).

f) Footpath link from Warth Park to Meadow Lane.

g) Develop links between the recently approved residential developments and Stanwick Lakes

h) Develop sports and recreation opportunities within the Raunds area.

i) Develop a plan for new and improve existing footpath and cycle links within, to and from Raunds.
j) Improvements to the roundabout/junction of Chelveston road/Wellington Road/Stanwick Road/London Road.

Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy

6.35 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that can be placed on new development. CIL is intended to be used to help towards funding a range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development, for example road schemes, schools and community facilities.

6.36 In order to charge a CIL, Local Authorities must produce a charging schedule setting out the charge rates for the area which must be based upon evidence. Evidence included the up to date Development Plan Documents and a Viability Study.

6.37 The charging schedule has to have two rounds of public consultation before being submitted for Examination. The first consultation on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule was carried out in December 2012. The second consultation on the Draft Charging Schedule closed on 28th April 2014. Officers are currently reviewing work on CIL before a decision is taken on the way forward.

6.38 The RNDP when in place will allow the Town Council to access 25% of any CIL levied in Raunds rather than 15% if a neighbourhood plan was not in place.

POLICY R22 - DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Developer contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy payments will be sought towards the following within the town council area:

a) Highway improvement schemes to promote the safety of pedestrians and cycle users;

b) Traffic calming measures, pedestrian priority schemes and the reduction in traffic speeds on routes through the town centre; and

c) Increasing public and community transport to and from the town centre and surrounding areas.
7.0 How to comment on this document

7.1 The Raunds Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan has been published for consultation between 19th October 2015 and 1st December 2015. Comments should be made in writing by returning one of the consultation forms, available from the town council office, or online. Comments must be received by 5pm on the 1st December 2015 and sent to:

The Town Clerk,
Raunds Town Council Offices,
Town Hall
Raunds

Or via email to: info@raunds-tc.gov.uk

7.2 The Draft Plan has been informed by the results of various informal public consultations including questionnaires, a drop in and the research and hard work of the Steering Committee and members of the various working groups.

7.3 Following careful consideration of all representations on the Draft Plan, the amended Neighbourhood Plan, together with all supporting documentation will be submitted to East Northamptonshire District Council in September 2015 following approval by the Town Council. Following this, the Plan will be checked by East Northamptonshire and then published for a further six weeks’ consultation. The Plan will then be subject to an Independent Examination by a jointly appointed Examiner, to consider whether the Plan meets the basic conditions, and also any outstanding objections.

7.4 It is likely that the Examiner will recommend further (hopefully minor) changes, before the Plan is subjected to a local Referendum. A straight majority vote (50% of turnout +1) of those on the Electoral Register will be required, before the District Council may “make” the Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be used to help determine planning decisions in the town council area alongside Northamptonshire, East Northamptonshire and National Planning Policies.
8.0 Monitoring and Review

8.1 The Raunds Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan will be monitored and where necessary reviewed.

8.2 The Town Council will monitor implementation of the plan at regular intervals. Where changes are identified as necessary, for example, when policies are not working as intended, or are no longer relevant, or may have been superseded by new national planning policy, the Town Council will make recommendations to East Northamptonshire District Council that the neighbourhood plan should be changed.
Appendix 1 – Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening for Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders

European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”

Introduction to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) and Neighbourhood Plans have legal status as statutory development plan documents (DPDs). Since 2004, there has been a legal requirement for DPDs to be assessed against the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC; also known as the “Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive”. The objective for SEA is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development” (SEA Directive, Article 1).

The SEA Directive was incorporated into national law through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No 1633).

National guidance regarding SEA

The government guidance document, “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (ODPM, September 2005) explains the process of screening for SEA. Screening is the first stage in the SEA process; i.e. testing whether or not SEA is required in the case of a Neighbourhood Plan or NDO.

The guidance explains the types of plans etc which are covered by European Directive 2001/42/EC (the “SEA Directive”). It explains that Land use and spatial plans (including Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs) would normally be subject to SEA. Critically, however, the guidance also states that: “Plans and programmes…which determine the use of small areas at local level, or which are minor modifications to [existing] plans and programmes…only require SEA if they are judged likely to have...
**significant environmental effects**" (Appendix 1). In many cases, Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs will fall into this category. It is therefore essential that a robust screening exercise is undertaken for each Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO.

### Local planning authority support to Town/ Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums in undertaking SEA

The Neighbourhood Planning Protocol (2013) explains the support that East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) can offer to the relevant Town Council(s), Parish Council(s) or Neighbourhood Forums in respect of SEA:

- Provide advice on any relevant European and National legislation (in this case, the SEA Directive);
- Carry out screening to identify any need for SEA (note: where consultants have been employed to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan they will be expected to undertake these);
- However, ENC will not be able to actually undertake the SEA if this is required following screening.

This toolkit is intended to be used by officers of ENC in undertaking SEA screening, or in checking SEA screening reports which have been prepared by consultants. Relevant Town Council(s), Parish Council(s) or Neighbourhood Forums may also use the toolkit to carry out their own SEA screening, if they so wish.

### Undertaking SEA screening

The SEA guidance explains that for Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs screening is a two stage process:

1. Generic application of the SEA directive
2. SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

This toolkit contains two forms, in respect of stages 1 and 2 respectively:

1. For SEA Screening Stage 1, the form considers Neighbourhood Plans and NDOs generically against the SEA Assessment criteria specified in the national guidance ("A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive", Figure 2), to determine whether each would require full SEA.
2. Where it is determined that there is potential for a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO to have a significant effect on the environment, then it is necessary to progress to Stage 2 in the SEA Screening process. This involves testing the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO against the relevant criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects, as specified in SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II.

Please note that only the parts of this form which are highlighted in red will need to be completed.
## SEA Screening Stage 1: Application of SEA Directive in the case of Neighbourhood Plans/ Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Assessment criteria</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
<th>N’hood Plan Outcome (Y/N)</th>
<th>NDO Outcome (Y/N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?</td>
<td>A local planning authority has a statutory obligation to adopt or “make” a Neighbourhood Plan or NDO once it has successfully gone through the relevant statutory preparation stages, culminating in a local referendum. At this stage, a Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the relevant local authority area. To this extent, the Neighbourhood Planning/ NDO process is directed by/ through a legislative procedure.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?</td>
<td>The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs is not mandatory; i.e. a Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum can chose whether or not to undertake either of these. However, if the relevant body decides to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO, that Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum is required to follow the set regulatory and administrative procedures.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?</td>
<td>A Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO must relate to town and country, spatial and/or land use planning. Once made, it will form part of the statutory framework (“development plan”) for the determination of planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs both, therefore, set specific frameworks for future development consents.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Commentary</td>
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<td>NDO Outcome (Y/N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Will a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?</td>
<td>The <em>North Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit</em> (December 2012) explains that Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs may also need to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) if there might be an impact on the Nene Valley Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar site¹. This will depend upon the location and/ or scope of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO. Separate HRA screening will be required, although it must be assumed that in the event that a full HRA is deemed necessary, any Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO must also be subject to full SEA.</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Does a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of an existing plan/ programme?</td>
<td>In many cases a Neighbourhood Plan will set out detailed, localised policies to reflect local aspirations, concerns or issues. However, Neighbourhood Plans may seek to take on a more challenging role, through making site specific land use allocations. An NDO involves the relaxation or extension of “permitted development rights” (“General Permitted Development Order”) for a small, localised area. Invariably it will involve minor changes to national legislation (the regulatory framework) in a local context, so would therefore represent a minor modification to an existing programme (i.e. national permitted development rights)</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Full details of the extent of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site are available through East Northamptonshire Council’s [LocalView](#) mapping system (also known as “In My Area”)
<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO likely to have a significant effect on the environment?</td>
<td>The relevant criteria for determining whether Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs are likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Article 3(5) Annex II of the SEA Directive. Any potential environmental effects of a Neighbourhood Plan will largely depend upon two factors; location and/or proposed scope. Stage 2 of this screening assessment will determine whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan will lead to any significant effects on the environment and, therefore, whether that Neighbourhood Plan will need to be accompanied by a full SEA. By definition, an NDO involves a limited relaxation of “permitted development rights for a small, localised area. Accordingly, it cannot reasonably be argued that an NDO would have a significant effect on the environment.</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEA Screening Stage 1: Conclusions

Would a Neighbourhood Plan require SEA?

These assessment criteria reveal that as a starting point in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan there must be a presumption that SEA will be required, unless it can be satisfactorily and objectively demonstrated that the scope of the Plan will not:

- Require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (Q4, above), whereby if a full HRA is deemed necessary, any Neighbourhood Plan/NDO must also be subject to full SEA;
- Will only determine the use of small areas at local level – i.e. involves minor/small scale land allocations/designations, or detailed, locally distinctive design criteria (Q5, above);
- Have a significant effect on the environment (Q6, above).

Would an NDO require SEA?

It is not considered that an NDO would normally require SEA given that, by definition, this will function as a local modification to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO), as amended. The GPDO itself relates exclusively to minor/small scale developments. Any local modification to the GPDO put forward through a NDO could, similarly, only relate to small/minor developments. Accordingly, this would not require SEA unless, in exceptional circumstances, a full HRA was deemed necessary.
SEA Screening Stage 2: SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan

The SEA Directive (Article 3(5)) requires the relevant body (i.e. East Northamptonshire Council; and/or the relevant Town/Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum) to: “ensure that plans and programmes [i.e. their Neighbourhood Plan] with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by this Directive”. In other words, the proposed scope and/or range of themes, topics and/or policies that a Neighbourhood Plan is intended to cover will form the basis for determining whether a full SEA will be required. Stage 2 of the SEA screening process will determine whether the emerging Neighbourhood Plan would:

- Only determine the use of small areas at local level – i.e. involves minor/small scale land allocations/designations, or detailed, locally distinctive design criteria [whereby a full SEA would not be required]; or
- Be likely to have a significant effect on the environment [whereby a full SEA would be required]?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Directive (Annex II)</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
<th>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Characteristics of Neighbourhood Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Degree to which this sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</td>
<td>[How to assess if “significant” – Consider emerging vision/scope – i.e. what policies/proposals are intended to be included within the Neighbourhood Plan]</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Site allocations for development]</td>
<td>No. The Raunds NDP does not allocate sites for development. Existing open spaces are protected; the town centre is defined and employment sites are protected.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Design policies/ standards/ codes]</td>
<td>Yes. The Raunds NDP includes a policy to promote good design, Policy R2.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA Directive (Annex II)</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Landscape protection/ enhancement policies]</td>
<td>No. The Raunds NDP does not include a landscape protection/enhancement policy. Higher level policies in other plans will be used. Policy R19 seeks to protect the landscape around Stanwick Lakes that falls within the NDP boundary.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Protected land designations]</td>
<td>Yes. Protected spaces and local green spaces, policies R6 and R7.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Linkages/ green infrastructure proposals]</td>
<td>Yes. The plan includes a green infrastructure policy, Policy R17.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Community facilities] etc</td>
<td>Yes. The plan identifies and seeks to protect community and recreation facilities, Policy R8.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Degree to which this influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Plans are locally driven and will, inevitably, cover a small, defined locality/ neighbourhood. In practice, Neighbourhood Plans will provide detailed policy, land-use or development management direction at the smallest defined (“neighbourhood”) level. These are “bottom up” development plan documents/ policy tools; so by definition must have regard to, and be in general conformity with, “higher level” policies/ programmes, but will not, by themselves, influence other more strategic policies/ programmes.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Relevance for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</td>
<td>The “basic conditions” require that Neighbourhood Plans must “have regard” to sustainable development. For a Plan to be deemed sound, an Examiner must be satisfied that the effective implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan would give rise to sustainable developments.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan</td>
<td>[Consider what net environmental impacts would arise from the effective implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan]</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA Directive (Annex II)</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it proposed that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will allocate land for development?</td>
<td>No. The Raunds NDP does not allocate sites for development. Existing open spaces are protected; the town centre is defined and employment sites are protected.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it proposed that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan contain detailed design policies/ standards?</td>
<td>Yes. The Raunds NDP includes a policy to promote good design, Policy R2.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it proposed that the emerging Plan will identify “high quality” green/ open spaces/ green infrastructure which may require protection by way of a Neighbourhood Plan policy?</td>
<td>Yes. The plan seeks to protect identified open spaces and local green spaces, policies R6 and R7.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it proposed that the emerging Plan will identify other zonal safeguarding/ protection policies; e.g. retail frontages, employment areas or community hubs?</td>
<td>Yes. The plan seeks to protect community and recreation facilities; retail frontages; and existing employment areas, policies R8, R9 and R13.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any other environmental issues that may arise from the adoption and implementation of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan?</td>
<td>No. None identified.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)</td>
<td>Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection are mostly dealt with by Northamptonshire County Council. East Northamptonshire Council itself has a number of strategies in place, relating to waste collection and environmental protection. Community Plans may identify specific local environmental concerns or issues, but these are generally not issues which could be addressed through a Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEA Directive (Annex II)</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</td>
<td>A Neighbourhood Plan will relate to specific, small scale issues of either ensuring that any development coming forward will deliver the maximum local benefits. Likewise, in most cases a Neighbourhood Plan will address specific local development management issues, complementing the higher level strategic policy framework already established through the adopted Local Plan and national policies (NPPF). Neighbourhood Plans are intended to have a specifically “local” focus, and are not intended to replace the requirement for Local Planning Authorities (individual, or working in partnership with neighbouring, Local Planning Authorities) to produce a Local Plan. As such, any development policies/proposals likely to have significant environmental effects would, by definition, need to be addressed through the Local Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Cumulative nature of any effects</td>
<td>Development of such a magnitude/quantum to cumulatively lead to effects of such significance that SEA would be required would, by definition, be of a “strategic” nature. Therefore, such development could not be appropriate to be brought forward through a Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Transboundary nature of any effects</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Plans are required to relate to discrete administrative areas. By definition, “transboundary” issues are “strategic” matters; therefore beyond the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. Instead, the Local Plan is the correct forum for addressing any “trans-boundary” issues relating to spatial planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA Directive (Annex II)</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I  Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)</td>
<td>Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection are mostly dealt with by Northamptonshire County Council. East Northamptonshire Council itself has a number of strategies in place, relating to waste collection and environmental protection. Community Plans may identify specific local environmental concerns or issues, but these are almost certainly not issues which could be addressed through a Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J  Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Plans, by definition, will cover small geographical areas. The NPPF (paragraphs 184-185) requires that these should set out specific non-strategic development plan policies to address specific local issues. Therefore, development of a sufficient scale and extent to fall within the requirements of the SEA directive would, by definition, not be appropriate to be included within a Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K  Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected</td>
<td>[e.g. due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; intensive land-use]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| [What statutory natural or built environment designations are situated within designated Neighbourhood Area?] | The neighbourhood plan area includes part of the Stanwick Lakes Special Protection Area and SSSI, Policy 19 seeks to protect this area.  

There is no conservation area.  

There are the following listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments:  

PAIR OF HEADSTONES APPROXIMATELY 4 METRES SOUTH OF TOWER OF CHURCH OF ST PETER  

Listing PAIR OF HEADSTONES APPROXIMATELY 4 METRES SOUTH OF TOWER OF CHURCH OF ST PETER, | N                                                    |
<p>| SEA Directive (Annex II)                                                                 | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N] |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BERRISTER PLACE, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II PROVIDENCE HOUSE  Listing PROVIDENCE HOUSE, BROOKS ROAD, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II DOVECOTE APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 42 (PEVERELS) (NOT INCLUDED)  Listing DOVECOTE APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 42 (PEVERELS) (NOT INCLUDED), GROVE STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II OUTBUILDING AND ATTACHED GATE ARCH APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 2 (MANOR HOUSE)  Listing OUTBUILDING AND ATTACHED GATE ARCH APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 2 (MANOR HOUSE), MANOR STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II NUMBER 59 AND (THORPE HOUSE) AND ATTACHED WALL TO SOUTH  Listing NUMBER 59 AND (THORPE HOUSE) AND ATTACHED WALL TO SOUTH, 59, THORPE STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II* CHURCH OF ST PETER PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER  Listing CHURCH OF ST PETER, BERRISTER PLACE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER, CHURCH STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire I CHEST TOMB APPROXIMATELY 12 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH AISLE OF CHURCH OF ST PETER  Listing CHEST TOMB APPROXIMATELY 12 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH AISLE OF CHURCH OF ST PETER, BERRISTER PLACE, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Directive (Annex II)</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
<th>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire II BERRISTER HOUSE Listing BERRISTER HOUSE, BERRISTER PLACE, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II LIME KILN AT OS TL 00317254 Listing LIME KILN AT OS TL 00317254, MOUNTBATTEN WAY, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II MANOR HOUSE Listing MANOR HOUSE, 2, MANOR STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II THE OLD RECTORY Listing THE OLD RECTORY, RAUNDS ROAD, Stanwick, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II* STABLE APPROXIMATELY 30 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 42 (PEVERELS) (NOT INCLUDED) Listing STABLE APPROXIMATELY 30 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 42 (PEVERELS) (NOT INCLUDED), GROVE STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II No name for this Entry Listing 48, HILL STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II SLADE FARMHOUSE Listing SLADE FARMHOUSE, RAUNDS ROAD, Ringstead, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II CHURCHYARD CROSS APPROXIMATELY 8 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH AISLE OF CHURCH OF ST PETER Listing CHURCHYARD CROSS APPROXIMATELY 8 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH AISLE OF CHURCH OF ST PETER, BERRISTER PLACE, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II* BARN APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 42 (PEVERELS) (NOT INCLUDED) Listing BARN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA Directive (Annex II)</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROPRIATELY 20 METRES EAST OF NUMBER 42 (PEVERELS) (NOT INCLUDED), GROVE STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II NUMBER 47 AND ATTACHED HOUSE Listing NUMBER 47 AND ATTACHED HOUSE, 47, HILL STREET, STANWICK, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II KNIGHTONS ROW Listing KNIGHTONS ROW, 16 AND 18, NORTH STREET, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II WESCAM ENGINEERING (ERNEST CHAMBERS HEEL FACTORY) Listing WESCAM ENGINEERING (ERNEST CHAMBERS HEEL FACTORY), PARK ROAD, Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire II Medieval Settlement of West Cotton Scheduling Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Mallows Cotton deserted medieval village Scheduling Ringstead, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Raunds bowl barrow Scheduling Stanwick, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Thorpe End Iron Age, Saxon and Medieval settlement Scheduling Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire North Raunds Saxon and Medieval Settlement Scheduling Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Churchyard cross in St Peter’s churchyard Scheduling Raunds, East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition the Raunds NDP identifies a number of local heritage assets to be protected:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Directive (Annex II)</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
<th>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                         | • The Roman Catholic Church  
• The Temperance Movement Hall  
• Furnells Farmhouse  
• The Memorial  
• The Old Vicarage  
• Gage’s Manor House  
• Hill End House  
• The Wesleyan Chapel  
• The Coffee Tavern  
• The Town Hall  
• Thorpe House  
• The Globe Inn | | |
| [What other (non-statutory) natural or built environment designations are situated within designated Neighbourhood Area?] | There are no Wildlife Trust sites.  
The plan area falls within the Nene Valley.  
A number of habitats are identified in the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Boddington Reservoir has the very rare Shepherd’s Needle. | N |
<p>| Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status | The presence of a statutory natural or built environmental designation (e.g. SSSI, Scheduled Ancient Monument) in close proximity to a potential Neighbourhood Plan site/area specific designation may be argued to act as a trigger for a “significant effect”; therefore a requirement for a full SEA to be undertaken. Natural England direction regarding Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) “buffer zones” provide an | ? |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Directive (Annex II)</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
<th>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>appropriate specification for where full SEA will be required; i.e. if HRA is deemed necessary, then full SEA will also be required. Potential development proposals which should be subject to EIA screening should be regarded as having a significant environmental impact and, therefore, would require SEA.</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A statutory designation covering any site, area or landscape would effectively preclude most development. The exception to this may be development within the curtilage of, or likely to affect the setting of listed buildings (“designated heritage assets”) and/or conservation areas. In this case potential Neighbourhood Plan policies may require full SEA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Potential site allocations for development]</td>
<td>None.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Potential design policies/ standards/ codes]</td>
<td>The plan includes a policy to promote good design, Policy R2. This is in line with the NPPF. The policy includes a criterion to preserve and enhance the locally distinct built historic environment.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Linkages/ green infrastructure proposals]</td>
<td>The plan has a criteria based green infrastructure policy. It does not include any proposals of this nature.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Community facilities] etc</td>
<td>The plan does not include any community facility proposals.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEA Screening conclusion – Will a full Strategic Environmental Assessment be required, in accordance with the SEA Directive; i.e. is the proposed Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a significant effect on the environment?

The need to ensure compliance with statutory legislation, including European Union Directives, is one of the major challenges associated with Neighbourhood Planning. The requirements of the SEA Directive are potentially far-reaching, but many aspects of this may not be applicable in the case of Neighbourhood Plans, given their “non-strategic”/locally based context.

Already, it must be recognised that, in all but exceptional circumstances, a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) would not require the preparation and submission of a formal SEA. Instead, completion of this Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening pro-forma would be sufficient to comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive.

In the case of a Neighbourhood Plan, it will be necessary for the relevant “responsible body” (i.e. local planning authority, Town Council, Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum/Parish Meeting) to complete questions A, D, K and L (highlighted red) within Part 2 of this pro-forma. Following this, the person(s) preparing this SEA screening assessment will need to briefly summarise these findings and come to a conclusion as to whether the emerging Neighbourhood Plan would have a significant environmental impact so, therefore, whether a full SEA would be needed to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan.

---

**SEA SCREENING CONCLUSION – WILL A FULL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BE REQUIRED?**

The Raunds NDP does not include land allocations. The plan includes a number of policies to protect and enhance key existing areas of the town, including:

- Open spaces
- Local green spaces
- Community facilities
- Retail frontages
- Employment areas
- Stanwick Lakes SPA/SSSI

The plan also includes policies to promote good design and protect green infrastructure.

These polices will be used to assess development proposals as and when they arise and will be used to assess their environmental impacts. Over time the plan will have a positive environmental impact.
Will a full SEA be required [Y/N]? No.

The next stages

If it is concluded that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will not require a full SEA, then it will be necessary to publish the completed pro-forma, using the relevant Neighbourhood Planning forum (e.g. local website, East Northamptonshire Council website). Following this, no further action will be required.

If it is concluded that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, it will be necessary to follow the various stages in the process. These are explained in full detail in the government guidance, “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (ODPM, September 2005). While this guidance pre-dates Neighbourhood Plans, it remains a relevant and useful document and is provides the definitive government guidance.

In the event that a full SEA is deemed necessary, it is advised that the responsible body should contact East Northamptonshire and/or their appointed consultant (in the event that a consultant has been employed to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan). It is likely that a specialist consultant would be needed to prepare the necessary SEA documentation.
# Appendix 2 – Local Green Space Assessment (see also Figure 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref to Figure 5</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Reasonably close proximity to the community</th>
<th>Demonstrably Special (e.g. recreational value /natural beauty)</th>
<th>Local in character</th>
<th>Not an extensive tract of land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amos Lawrence Playing Field, Stanwick Road.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bassfords Recreation Ground, Marshalls Road.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Raunds Town Football Club, Kiln Park, London Road.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>Town club, unique to Town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Raunds Cricket Club, off Marshalls Road.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>Town club, unique to Town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Webb Road Play Area, Webb Road.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Saxon Hall Grounds, Thorpe Street.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>Town Hall Gardens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cemetery, London Road (Current and extension)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Allotments London Road</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Allotments (Brick Kiln Road)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The Square</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>“The farm”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Saddlers Play Area and land at rear (play area)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Reasonably close proximity to the community</td>
<td>Demonstrably Special (e.g. recreational value/natural beauty)</td>
<td>Local in character</td>
<td>Not an extensive tract of land</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Conservative club: Bowls Green</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Memorial Gardens</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational Value i.e. as place of reflection/remembrance</td>
<td>Special to Town</td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Millfield Windmill Play area</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td>Site of former Windmill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Darsdale (Future open space)</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Open Space on Meadow Lane</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational Value</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>St Peter’s Churchyard</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational Value i.e. as place of reflection/remembrance</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>De Ferneus Drive</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Furnells Close</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ponds Close</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Manor Farm Road (footpath)</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Cherry Walk</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smithfield</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Warth Park Nature Area</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td>Recreational value</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Land at Meadow Lane</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Mc Inness Way</td>
<td>🟢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>