



Walton Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Draft

Basic Conditions Statement

April 2015

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Contents

Section 1 Legal Requirements

Section 2 Introduction and Background

Section 3 Conformity with National Planning Policy

Section 4 - General conformity with the strategic Policies of the Wakefield development plan

Section 5 - Contribution to Achieving Sustainable Development

Section 6 - Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation

Section 7 – Conclusions

Section 1 – Legal Requirements

This Statement has been prepared by Walton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to accompany its submission to the local planning authority, Wakefield MDC of the Walton Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Draft (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”).

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Walton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, under delegated authority from Walton Parish Council (the qualifying body), for the Neighbourhood Area covering the Parish of Walton, as designated by Wakefield MDC on 17th January 2013.

The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Area only. The plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan is from 2014 to 2026 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development in accordance with the Regulations.

The Statement addresses each of the four ‘basic conditions’ required of the Regulations and explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.

The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
- The making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

Section 2 - Introduction and Background

In 2012, Walton Parish Council and Walton Action (a group of residents whose aim was to galvanise community interest and action to address specific development proposals) agreed to work together to produce the Walton Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) to be proactive rather than reactive to future development proposals. From these two groups, the Walton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was formed under the mandate of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has a good working relationship with Wakefield Council and approaches to Wakefield Council in March 2012 confirmed that Wakefield Council were willing to support the Parish Council in progressing with a Neighbourhood Plan. It was very beneficial for Walton, that Wakefield Council had an adopted Core Strategy and Development Policies (2009) and Site Specific Local Plan (2012) which set out a clear planning framework for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Consultation was undertaken by Walton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Consultation events took place at the following stages in the neighbourhood planning process:

- Annual Parish Council meeting in April 2012;
- Designation of Neighbourhood Plan area in November/December 2012 ;
- Attendance at Village events and meetings to raise awareness – Summer 2013;
- Consultation on the Issues and Vision for the WNP through the distribution of the WNP Questionnaire to every household, local businesses, landowners, faith groups and sporting groups in October 2013 (for a 6 week comment period);
- School Visioning Day at Walton Primary School on 24th October 2013 and engagement with Walton Students at Crofton Academy;
- Attendance at Village events and meetings to update on progress – Summer 2014;
- Consultation on the Draft WNP in accordance with Regulation 14 through the distribution of the WNP Consultation Draft Plan Questionnaire to every household, local businesses, landowners, faith groups, and sporting groups in October 2013 (for a 6 week comment period). Also issuing the draft WNP to the statutory consultees on 15th October for comment by 26th November;
- Holding a Public Exhibition of the WNP Consultation Draft on 9th November 2014.

Section 3 - Conformity with National Planning Policy

The Walton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of April 2012. It is also taken account of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published by the Government in April 2014 in respect of formulating neighbourhood plans.

Paragraph 16 of the NPPF requires that Neighbourhood Plans should support the strategic development needs set out in Local Plans and paragraph 184 requires Neighbourhood Plans to “be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan”. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan has the benefit of an adopted Wakefield Core Strategy, Development Policies, Waste and Site Specific Local Plan and hence it has an up-to-date policy framework with which to comply. This Basic Conditions Statement shows how it complies in detail but in general terms, Walton is classified as a village which is not the subject of significant development aspirations within the Wakefield Local Plan. The Wakefield Local Plan sets out policies for villages which are more focused upon them meeting their own needs to ensure that such a village is or becomes a sustainable community. In line with paragraph 16 of the NPPF, the Walton Neighbourhood Plan supports appropriate new local development and shapes it to enhance the sustainability of Walton whilst maintaining and enhancing its heritage and environmental assets. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan does “not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies”. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan supports new windfall housing, retains the Protected Area of Search (Safeguarded land) sites and supports new village services and facilities. It also retains the key strategic environmental designations such as Green Belt. At this stage, the Walton Neighbourhood Plan has not proposed any Neighbourhood Development Orders as the largest key development sites within Walton benefit from current planning permissions. This issue will be kept under review. In line with paragraph 183 of the NPPF, the Walton Neighbourhood plan is a “shared vision” which is evident from the support given to the draft policies within the Walton Neighbourhood Plan as set out in the Consultation Statement. This support is reinforced by the support given by Wakefield Council to the process and policies within the Walton Neighbourhood Plan.

Set out in Table I below, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs. It is clear from the table below that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan accords with the NPPF. Since the NPPG provides guidance on the NPPF, it is not considered necessary to show how the Walton Neighbourhood Plan accords with the NPPG as if it accords with the NPPF then it must accord with the NPPG.

Table 1: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan (NP) policies to the NPPF

WNP Policy No. and Title	NPPF paragraph	Comment on conformity
Policy 1 – Extension to Wildlife Network	17 (5), 114, 117,	The extension to the Wildlife Network supports the intrinsic character of the countryside 17 (5); plans positively for the protection of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure (114); and identifies and maps components of local ecological networks (117).
Policy 2 – Local Green Space	17 (7), 76, 77	The designation of areas of Local Green Space is supported by para 76 and those identified meet the criteria in para 77; this approach accords with the Core Planning Principle of conserving the natural environment (17 (7)).
Policy 3 – Improving Local Green Space	17(12), 76, 77	The designation of areas of Local Green Space is supported by para 76 and those identified meet the criteria in para 77; the support for improving them is set out in the Core Planning Principle of supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing (17 (12)).
Policy 4 – Historic Core	17 (10), 126-129, 131-141,	The designation of a Historic Core in Walton supports conservation of heritage assets (17 (10)); the enhancement of the historic environment; and the assessment of the impact of new development on these heritage assets (126-129 and 131-141).
Policy 5 – Waterton Historic Park	17 (10), 109, 126-129, 131-141,	The designation of Waterton Historic Park supports the conservation of heritage assets (17 (10)); the protection of valued landscapes (109); the enhancement of the historic environment; and the assessment of the impact of new development on these

WNP Policy No. and Title	NPPF paragraph	Comment on conformity
		heritage assets (126-129 and 131-141).
Policy 6 – Walton Colliery Heritage Trail	17 (10,11), 75	The identification of the Walton Colliery Heritage Trail supports the conservation of heritage assets (17 (10)) and the support for walking and cycling (17 (11)); as well as providing better facilities for users and adding links to existing rights of way networks (75).
Policy 7 – Walton Heritage Trail	17 (10,11), 75	The identification of the Walton Heritage Trail supports the conservation of heritage assets (17 (10)) and the support for walking and cycling (17 (11)); as well as providing better facilities for users and adding links to existing rights of way networks (75).
Policy 8 – Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths	17 (11), 35, 75	The policy for improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths is supported in the Core Planning Principles (17 (11)) and paragraph 35 through support for walking and cycling; as well as providing better facilities for users and adding links to existing rights of way networks (75).
Policy 9 – Provision of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths	17 (11), 35, 75	The policy for provision of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths is supported in the Core Planning Principles (17 (11)) and paragraph 35 through support for walking and cycling; as well as providing better facilities for users and adding links to existing rights of way networks (75).
Policy 10 – Public Transport	17 (7,11), 30, 35	The policy relating to public transport is supported in the Core Planning Principles (17 (7, 11)) and paragraphs 30 and 35 through support for public transport as a means to reduce pollution and deliver sustainable modes of transport.

WNP Policy No. and Title	NPPF paragraph	Comment on conformity
Policy 11 – The Grove Protected Area of Search site	47, 85	The policy to retain the site at The Grove as Protected Area of Search (safeguarded land) is supported by paragraph 85; the ability to bring forward the Close Care Retirement Community on the site reflects the planning permission which exists on the site and hence is in accord with paragraph 47.
Policy 12 – Waterways Land (PAS 13) site	85	The policy to retain the site known as Waterways Land as Protected Area of Search (safeguarded land) is supported by paragraph 85.
Policy 13 – New Windfall housing sites	17 (3,4), 50, 55, 58, 95, 100-103,	The policy to support new Windfall housing is in line with the Core Planning Principles (17 (3,4)) to meet development needs and deliver high quality design; it is a criteria based policy to ensure that new development meets development management considerations and appropriately respects the heritage and environment assets of Walton (paragraphs 50, 55, 58, 95, 100-103).
Policy 14 – Safeguarding existing services	17(12), 28, 37, 70	The policy to safeguard existing services is in line with the Core Planning Principles (17 (12)) to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing; support sustainable growth of rural businesses (28); reinforce the sustainability of Walton (37); and plan positively for the use of community facilities and guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services (70).
Policy 15 – Providing new services	17 (3,4,12), 28, 37, 58, 70, 95, 100-103	The policy to support the provision of new services is in line with the Core Planning Principles (17 (3, 4, 12)) to meet development needs, deliver high quality

WNP Policy No. and Title	NPPF paragraph	Comment on conformity
		design and improve health, social and cultural wellbeing; it is a criteria based policy to ensure that new development meets development management considerations, reinforces the sustainability of Walton and appropriately respects the heritage and environment assets of Walton (paragraphs 28, 37, 58, 95, 100-103).
Policy 16 – Provision of new allotments and community gardens	17 (12), 73	The policy to support the provision of new services is in line with the Core Planning Principles (17 (12)) to meet development needs and improve health, social and cultural wellbeing. The provision of new allotments and community gardens is needed to meet local needs (73).
Policy 17 – Community Infrastructure Levy	175	The policy relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy accords with paragraph 175, Wakefield Council are in the process of preparing and consulting on their draft Charging Schedule.
Policy 18 – Section 106 Agreements and Planning Conditions	176, 203-204, 206.	New developments need to be acceptable in planning terms and hence may need planning conditions or legal agreements to facilitate this (176), the draft policy meets the requirements set out in paragraphs 203, 204 and 206.

Section 4 - General conformity with the strategic Policies of the development plan

The development plan for the Walton Neighbourhood Plan is the Wakefield Core Strategy (April 2009), the Wakefield Development Policies (April 2009) and the Wakefield Site Specific Policies Local Plan (September 2012).

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to ensure its general conformity with the development plan for Wakefield. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan has the benefit of an adopted Wakefield Core Strategy, Development Policies and Site Specific Local Plan and hence it has an up-to-date policy framework with which to comply. The Core Strategy sets out a Spatial Vision in which it seeks to promote most new development within higher order settlements. Walton is classified as a village within which the Spatial Vision indicates that “new development will be limited to that which enhances or maintains their sustainability”. The Spatial Vision also seeks to ensure that the quality of the district’s rich historic and natural heritage, its diverse wildlife and habitats and the character of its landscape and open spaces are protected and enhanced and that the Green Belt will be maintained. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan is in full accord with this Spatial Vision in that it seeks to meet its own needs to ensure that it can enhance its sustainability. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan supports appropriate new local development and shapes it to enhance the sustainability of Walton whilst maintaining and enhancing its heritage, environmental and social assets. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan supports new windfall housing, retains the Protected Area of Search (Safeguarded land) sites and supports new village services and facilities. It also retains the key strategic environmental designations such as Green Belt and enhances wildlife, open space and heritage designations.

Table 2 below sets out how each policy is in general conformity with the Wakefield Core Strategy (April 2009), the Wakefield Development Policies (April 2009), Waste (December 2009) and the Wakefield Site Specific Policies Local Plan (September 2012).

Table 2: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan policies with the strategic development plan policies

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
Policy 1 – Extension to Wildlife Network	CS10.	D6.	Part unallocated and part Green Belt.	The extension to the Wildlife Network protects and enhances the district’s biological diversity and green infrastructure in line with CS10(d). It extends and links together existing Wildlife Habitat Networks in line with D6. It passes through both unallocated land within the village boundary and Green Belt.
Policy 2 – Local Green Space	CS5, CS11, CS12.	D2.	Part unallocated, part PAS13, and part Green Belt.	The designation of areas of Local Green Space is a new policy designation supported by the NPPF. Such public open spaces are however supported by CS5 (2a) and CS11 (1 and 3). LGS1 and 2 form part of PAS13 (D2); LGS3 is unallocated; LGS4 and 5 are in the Green Belt (CS12). Designation as Local Green Space accords with the Site Specific Policies Local Plan.
Policy 3 – Improving Local Green Space	CS5, CS11.	D8.	Part unallocated, part PAS13, and part	The designation of areas of Local Green Space is a new policy designation supported by the NPPF. Enhancement of

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
			Green Belt.	existing public open spaces is supported by CS5 (2a) and CS11. Protection of the recreational quality of the district's landscape character is supported by D8. Enhancement of Local Green Space accords with the Site Specific Policies Local Plan.
Policy 4 – Historic Core	CS10.	D17, D18, D19.	Unallocated	The designation of a Historic Core in Walton supports the conservation of heritage assets in line with CS10(c) and the Development Management policies relating to Archaeology and Historic Buildings (D17, 18 and 19).
Policy 5 – Waterton Historic Park	CS8, CS10, CS12.	D7, D8, D17, D18, D19.	Green Belt, Local Wildlife Site and part Ancient Woodland	The designation of Waterton Historic Park supports the conservation of heritage assets in line with CS10 (c) and the encouragement of facilities for tourists CS8 (1i). It is also supported by the Development Management policies relating to Archaeology and Historic Buildings (D17, 18 and 19) and to trees, woodland and landscape character (D7 and D8). Designation as Historic Park accords with the Site

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
				Specific Policies Local Plan.
Policy 6 – Walton Colliery Heritage Trail	CS8, CS11, CS12.	D8.	Green Belt and Local Nature Reserve	The identification of the Walton Colliery Heritage Trail supports the encouragement of facilities for tourists (CS8 1i), and the enhancement of leisure, recreation and open space especially on former colliery sites (CS11 1e). Protection of the recreational quality of the district’s landscape character is supported by D8. Designation as a Heritage Trail accords with the Site Specific Policies Local Plan.
Policy 7 – Walton Heritage Trail	CS8, CS9, CS12.	D8.	Part unallocated, part Green Belt, part Local Wildlife Site and part Ancient Woodland	The identification of the Walton Heritage Trail supports the encouragement of facilities for tourists (CS8 1i), and supports walking and cycling in line with CS9(e). Protection of the recreational quality of the district’s landscape character is supported by D8. Designation as a Heritage Trail accords with the Site Specific Policies Local Plan.
Policy 8 – Improvements to existing footpaths,	CS4, CS9.	D14.		The policy for improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths reflects

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
cycle ways and bridle paths				the support for walking and cycling in line with CS4 (a and g) and CS9(e). Easy and safe access by all sections of the community to existing and proposed pedestrian and cycle routes is supported by D14(d).
Policy 9 – Provision of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths	CS4, CS9, CS12.	D14.	FL1 - Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve and part Ancient Woodland. FL2 - PAS13	The policy for improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths reflects the support for walking and cycling in line with CS4 (a and g) and CS9(e). Easy and safe access by all sections of the community to existing and proposed pedestrian and cycle routes is supported by D14(d). Provision of new paths accords with the Site Specific Policies Local Plan.
Policy 10 – Public Transport	CS4.	D14, D20.		The policy relating to public transport is supported by CS4 and D14(b) and (c). Reduction of air pollution by reducing vehicle emissions is supported by D20.
Policy 11 – The Grove Protected Area of Search site	CS12.	D2.	PAS 12	The policy to retain the site at The Grove as Protected Area of Search (safeguarded land) is supported by Development Management policy D2 which

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
				in turn supports CS12 in respect of the Green Belt. The site benefits from an existing planning permission and this is reflected in the WNP Policy 11. The site is accessed from The Grove which passes adjacent to Walton Primary School and through an Aged Persons development and the need for any temporary uses to assess this is set out within the policy.
Policy 12 – Waterways Land (PAS 13) site	CS12.	D2.	PAS 13	The policy to retain the Waterways Land site as Protected Area of Search (safeguarded land) is supported by Development Management policy D2 which in turn supports CS12 in respect of the Green Belt.
Policy 13 – New Windfall housing sites	CS1, CS3, CS6, CS10.	D7, D8, D9, D12, D14, D15, D24, D25, D27, D28.		The policy to support new Windfall housing is in line with CS1 (d) to meet local needs. The need to provide affordable housing is in line with CS6 and the restriction to a maximum scheme size of 10 dwellings is in line with CS3 (d). The need to deliver high design, safety and environmental quality is

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
				reflected in CS10. WNP Policy 13 is a criteria based policy to ensure that new development meets development management considerations and appropriately respects the heritage and environment assets of Walton (D7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 25, 27, and 28).
Policy 14 – Safeguarding existing services	CS5, CS8.			The policy to safeguard existing services is in line with CS5 (3) and CS8 (3).
Policy 15 – Providing new services	CS1, CS5, CS10.	D7, D8, D9, D12, D14, D15, D24, D25, D27, D28,		The policy to support new services of an appropriate scale is in line with the CS1 (d) and CS5 to meet local needs. The need to deliver high design, safety and environmental quality is reflected in CS10. WNP Policy 15 is a criteria based policy to ensure that new development meets development management considerations and appropriately respects the heritage and environment assets of Walton (D7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 25, 27, and 28).
Policy 16 – Provision of new allotments and	CS11			The provision of new allotments and community gardens is needed to meet

WNP Policy Number and Title	Relevant Local Plan policy			Comment on conformity
	Core Strategy	Development Policies	Site Specific Policies Local Plan	
community gardens				local needs in accordance with CS11.
Policy 17 – Community Infrastructure Levy			Infrastructure planning Chapter.	The policy relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy accords with emerging policy approaches within Wakefield who are in the process of preparing and consulting on their draft Charging Schedule.
Policy 18 – Section 106 Agreements and Planning Conditions				New developments need to be acceptable in planning terms and hence may need planning conditions or legal agreements to facilitate this.

Section 5 - Contribution to Achieving Sustainable Development

A Sustainability Appraisal, which includes a Strategic Environmental Assessment, has been undertaken for the Walton Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft. The Walton Neighbourhood Plan has taken account of the need to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

The following is taken from the Sustainability Appraisal dated April 2015. The key environmental, social and economic issues and opportunities that relate to the neighbourhood area were identified and formed the basis for the initial Sustainability Appraisal. The framework, developed as part of the scoping report stage, comprehensively covers a range of sustainability related topics which were used to assess objectives, site allocations and policies associated with the WNP.

The WNP provides a vision for the future of the parish of Walton, Wakefield and sets out clear planning policies to realise that vision. The vision is made up of key statements which are supported by key objectives:

Table 1: Walton Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	
No.	Objective
1.	Continue to have a close relationship with the open countryside around the village.
2.	Continue to protect and enhance village green spaces.
3.	Sustain existing services and facilities and support the delivery of new complementary services and facilities.
4.	Improving the village environment for residents and visitors.
6.	Focus future development to cater for local needs
7.	Support local events.
8.	Continue to act as a centre for its rural community.
9.	Preserve existing heritage buildings, features and assets.
10.	Widen knowledge of the heritage of Walton.
11.	Support local distinctiveness.
12.	Protect Walton's landscape and nature conservation, and support initiatives for restoration and sustainable management.
13.	Maintain and enhance the bus linkages to key settlements.
14.	Enhance pedestrian facilities within the village and to key settlements.

The key environmental, social and economic issues and opportunities that relate to the neighbourhood area, were identified and formed the basis for the SA. The framework, developed as

part of the scoping report stage, comprehensively covers a range of sustainability related topics which were used to assess objectives, site allocations and policies associated with the WNP. Based on these key issues, the fifteen SA Objectives identified are:

Table 3: Sustainability Objectives		
Economic	SA1	Encourage businesses to remain, grow or move into the area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it encourage inward investment?</i> - <i>Will it encourage diversification of the rural economy?</i>
	SA2	Focus future development to cater for local needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it provide employment opportunities?</i> - <i>Will it maintain the viability of local services?</i>
	SA3	Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the village centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it support the vibrancy of the village centre?</i> - <i>Is it of a scale appropriate to the type and size of the village?</i>
Social	SA4	Reduce social exclusion and incidents of poverty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it enhance the quality of life for all of the community?</i> - <i>Will it increase community participation in activities?</i>
	SA5	Increase provision, variety and accessibility of culture, leisure and recreation activities venues to all the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it increase provision and variety of culture, leisure and recreation activities/venues for all sections of the community?</i> - <i>Will it support the provision of identified local need?</i>
	SA6	Improve health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it improve equitable access to health service (especially to groups of people most excluded and in highest need)?</i> - <i>Will it promote positive health and prevent ill-health?</i>
	SA7	Provide the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations through sustainable forms of construction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it assist in providing high quality sustainable homes?</i> - <i>Will it support the provision of identified local need?</i>
	SA8	Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities that meet local needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it improve and increase community facilities?</i> - <i>Will it improve and provide identified local needs?</i>
	SA9	Improve accessibility to facilities and services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it ensure that essential services (e.g. health services and shops)</i>

		<p><i>and resources are within walking distance or are available by public transport?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it increase access to open spaces?</i>
	SAI0	<p>Safety and security for people and property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it reduce crime through design measures?</i> - <i>Is it likely to increase the frequency of nuisance complaints and criminal/anti-social activity (noise pollution, vandalism, anti-social behaviour orders?)</i>
Environmental	SAI1	<p>Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and enable more people to appreciate it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it preserve or, where appropriate, enhance architectural, archaeological or other heritage assets?</i> - <i>Will it increase accessibility to architectural, archaeological or other heritage assets?</i>
	SAI2	<p>Protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape, and enable more people to appreciate it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it preserve or, where appropriate, enhance the character and quality of the landscape?</i> - <i>Will it promote, educate, raise awareness and increase accessibility of the enjoyment and benefits of the natural environment?</i>
	SAI3	<p>Conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it protect and enhance existing priority habitats and species and provide for appropriate long term management of wildlife habitats?</i> - <i>Will it protect and enhance nationally, regionally and locally designated sites?</i>
	SAI4	<p>Increase usage of public transport, cycling and walking and reduce car travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it reduce the need to travel by increasing access to key resources and services by means other than the car?</i> - <i>Will it improve accessibility and to public transport and/or cycling and walking networks?</i>
	SAI5	<p>Reduce pollution levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it reduce air, water, land and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution?</i> - <i>Will it reduce pollution to water bodies?</i>

Compatibility of the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives with the Sustainability Appraisal Framework - Results.

The objectives for both the WNP and SAF were assessed for compatibility based on: + = Compatible 0 = Neutral - =Incompatible

		Walton Neighbourhood Plan Objectives (Table 1)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (Table 3)	SA1	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
	SA2	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
	SA3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	SA4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+
	SA5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
	SA6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
	SA7	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
	SA8	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
	SA9	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+
	SA10	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
	SA11	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	SA12	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	SA13	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
	SA14	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
	SA15	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+

Conclusion on Compatibility of Objectives There is no apparent incompatibility between the WNP objectives and the SAF objectives. At the very worst there appears to be a neutral effect but overall there is compatibility and each set of objectives support the other. There is no requirement for any mitigation measures to be considered to off-set any potential negative impact.

Site Option Sustainability Appraisal

A site option has been defined as a piece of land where it is proposed there may be potential for a physical change. The draft WNP proposes seven such sites – five Local Green Spaces and two new footpath links. Each site option of the WNP has been assessed using the appraisal criteria set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. The listed indicators were used to determine the outcome against each criterion.

Assessment criteria of site options against the sustainability criteria and indicators.		
Question	Criteria	Indicator
1	Would allocation of the site result in an impact on any national and international nature conservation sites (Natura 2000 sites)?	R = Allocation of the site is likely to result in a significant effect on the integrity of a European Designated Site. A = Allocation of the site has potential to result in a significant effect on the integrity of a European Designated Site. G = Allocation of the site is unlikely to result in a significant effect on the integrity of a European Designated site.
2	Does the site contain any UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species or habitats?	R = Site contains BAP priority species or habitats G = Site does not contain BAP priority species or habitats
3	Would the allocation result in the use of previously developed land?	R = Site is not previously developed land. A = Site is a mix of previously developed land and greenfield land. G = The site is previously developed land.
4	Has the site been identified as being potentially contaminated?	R = The site could potentially be contaminated G = There is nothing to suggest that the site is contaminated
5	Would allocation result in contaminated land being improved?	R = Site is potentially contaminated but would not be improved. A = Site is potentially contaminated and will be partially improved. G = Site is potentially contaminated and will be improved or the site is not potentially contaminated.
6	Is the site within an identified flood zone?	R = Flood Zone 3a or 3b A = Flood Zone 2 G = Flood Zone 1
7	Would the allocation result in loss of any land within the Green Belt?	R = Yes G = No
8	Would the allocation result in the loss of high grade agricultural land?	R = Agricultural Land Classification 1 or 2 A = Agricultural Land Classification 3a or 3b G = Agricultural Land Classification 4 or 5

Question	Criteria	Indicator
9	Would the allocation result in an impact on any known mineral resource?	R = Site contains existing mineral reserves with planning permission or site part of a mineral safeguarding area A = Mineral resources are known to be on the site but cannot be extracted, within a reasonable timescale or local or community benefits clearly outweigh the likely impact of the development. G = Where there will be no impact on mineral resources
10	Would the allocation result in the loss and any public open space?	R = Contains or is adjacent to an existing site. A = Contains or is adjacent to a proposed site. G = Does not contain and is not adjacent a site.
11	Would allocation result in the loss of a community facility or service?	R = Total loss of a community facility or service. A = Loss but satisfactory alternative provision provided. G = No loss of community facility or service.
12	Would allocation result in an impact on a site designated for its national, regional or local environmental significance?	R = Contains or is adjacent to an existing site A = Contains or is adjacent to a proposed site G = Does not contain and is not adjacent a site
13	Would allocation result in an impact on a site designated for its national, regional or local biological significance?	R = Contains or is adjacent to an existing site A = Contains or is adjacent to a proposed site G = Does not contain and is not adjacent a site
14	Would allocation result in an impact on a site designated for its national, regional or local geological significance?	R = Contains or is adjacent to an existing site A = Contains or is adjacent to a proposed site G = Does not contain and is not adjacent a site
15	Would allocation result in an impact on a site or structure designated for its national, regional or local historical significance?	R = Contains or is adjacent to an existing site or structure. A = Contains or is adjacent to a proposed site or structure G = Does not contain and is not adjacent site or structure.
16	Can the site be served by alternative modes of transport other than the car, such as public transport, walking and cycling?	R = No alternative modes are available. A = One or two alternative modes are available. G = More than two alternative modes are available.
17	How accessible is the site to the nearest public transport route?	R = More than 800m A = Between 400 and 800m G = Less than-400m
18	How accessible is the site to an established cycle route?	R = More than 800m A = Between 400 and 800m G = Less than-400m

WNP Site Options Sustainability Appraisal - Results

Sustainability Appraisal Framework - Site appraisal results																			
Site Ref	Site Name	1. Natura 2000 site?	2. UK (BAP) priority species or habitat?	3. Previously developed land?	4. Potentially contaminated?	5. Contaminated land improved?	6. Within an identified flood zone?	7. Green Belt?	8. High grade agricultural land?	9. Known mineral resource?	10. Loss of public open space?	11. Loss of a community facility or service?	12. Environmental significance?	13. Biological significance?	14. Geological significance?	15. Historical significance?	16. Alternative modes of transport?	17. Accessibility public transport route?	18. Accessibility to cycle route?
LGS1	Community Centre Fields																		
LGS2	Walton Allotments																		
LGS3	School Lane Rec.																		
LGS4	Brooklands Playing Fields																		
LGS5	Walton Jubilee Fields																		
FL1	Stubbs Wood Footpath Link																		
FL2	Brook Farm Footpath Link																		

Conclusion on Site Option Sustainability Appraisal

The sites with the prefix 'LGS' are proposed as Local Green Space sites. The aim of these allocations is to protect the sites as they are of particular importance to the local community and make a significance contribution to sustainable development in the neighbourhood area. The proposals are mainly for protection of the sites but the WNP does provide for limited appropriate development on them.

By the very nature of them being local green spaces there is a degree of tree cover and it is green space rather than previously developed land. On LGS4 the south-eastern part of the site is designated a Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat (England) area. This site is also in the green belt and so has other levels of protection from inappropriate development. Policy 3 of the WNP provides for limited development of this site but will only be supported if there is no adverse impact on ecology or biodiversity. Therefore, the WNP protects the Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat (England) area from development which may have an adverse impact on ecology or biodiversity.

The sites with the prefix 'FL' are proposed new Footpath Links. As it is not clear where exactly route of the link it is shown on the Policies Map as a 'Safeguarded Area' through which it is proposed a footpath will be created. The aim of these allocations is to improve accessibility in the neighbourhood area by linking existing footpaths to form more of a coherent and circular network of publicly accessible paths. A small section of the Stubbs Wood Footpath Link goes through an area designated a Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat (England) area. As the proposal is for a footpath then the path can go between the trees rather than any having to be removed to create it. As the footpath will not be used by vehicles then there will be no negative impact on the designated area. There should be overall benefit as the new footpath link will encourage more people to use modes of transport other than the motor car in the neighbourhood area, thereby reducing pollutants which may have a negative effect of the designated area.

Similarly, by the very nature of them being proposed footpaths they run through green spaces and are not previously developed land. Also, access by public transport to the Stubbs Wood Footpath Link is poor but as the proposal will improve accessibility by other, more sustainable, modes of transport e.g. walking and cycling then this outweighs that negative.

In summary, as the site proposals aim to protect and provide better access to public open green space then then, overall, they make a positive contribution to sustainable development in the neighbourhood area.

Policy Sustainability Appraisal – Results

++ Major positive effect or no environmental constraints. + = Minor positive effect or very limited environmental constraints. 0 = Neutral effect.
 - = Minor negative effect or several environmental constraints. -- = Major negative effect or substantial environmental constraints

	Economic Objectives		Social Objectives		Environmental Objectives
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Assessment of Compatibility between the Walton Neighbourhood Plan Policies and the Sustainability Appraisal Framework																		
Walton Neighbourhood Plan Policies																		
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (Table 3)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	SA1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0
	SA2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	0
	SA3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	0
	SA4	0	++	+	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	++	++	++	++
	SA5	0	++	++	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	++	++	++
	SA6	0	++	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	++	++	++
	SA7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
	SA8	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	++	++	++
	SA9	0	++	++	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	++	++	++
	SA10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0
	SA11	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SA12	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	++	++	0	0	0	++
	SA13	++	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0
	SA14	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SA15	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
Economic	SA1. Encourage businesses to remain, grow or move into the area. - Will it encourage inward investment? - Will it encourage diversification of the rural economy?	Policy 14	++	Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities. Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.
		Policy 15	++	
	SA2. Focus future development to cater for local needs. - Will it provide employment opportunities? - Will it maintain the viability of local services?	Policy 13	++	Provision of new housing for local needs.
		Policy 14	++	Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.
		Policy 15	++	Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.
		SA3. Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the village centre. - Will it support the vibrancy of the village centre? - Is it of a scale appropriate to the type and size of the village?	Policy 13	+
		Policy 14	++	Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.
		Policy 15	++	Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.
		Social	SA4. Reduce social exclusion and incidents of poverty. - Will it enhance the quality of life for all of the community? - Will it increase community participation in activities?	Policy 2
Policy 3	+			Permits only suitable development for 'Local Green Spaces'
Policy 6	++			Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
Policy 7	++			Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
		Policy 8	++	Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 9	++	Creation of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 10	++	Enhancements to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.
		Policy 13	++	New and affordable housing based on local needs.
		Policy 14	++	Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.
		Policy 15	+	Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.
		Policy 16	++	Supports the provision of new allotments and community gardens.
	<p>SA5. Increase provision, variety and accessibility of culture, leisure and recreation activities venues to all the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it increase provision and variety of culture, leisure and recreation activities/venues for all sections of the community?</i> - <i>Will it support the provision of identified local need?</i> 	Policy 2	++	Protection for locally important community spaces as 'Local Green Spaces'.
		Policy 3	++	Permits only suitable development for 'Local Green Spaces'
		Policy 6	++	Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 7	++	Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 8	++	Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 9	++	Creation of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
		Policy 10	+	community. Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.
		Policy 14	++	Restricts the use of allocated PAS land.
		Policy 11	++	Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.
		Policy 15	++	Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.
		Policy 16	++	Supports the provision of new allotments and community gardens.
	<p>SA6. Improve health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will it improve equitable access to health service (especially to groups of people most excluded and in highest need)? - Will it promote positive health and prevent ill-health? 	Policy 2	++	Protection for locally important community spaces as 'Local Green Spaces'.
		Policy 6	++	Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 7	++	Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 8	++	Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 9	++	Creation of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 10	+	Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.
		Policy 14	++	Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.
		Policy 15	++	Support for diversification and

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
		Policy 16	++	enhancement of the range and facilities in the area. Supports the provision of new allotments and community gardens.
	<p>SA7. Provide the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations through sustainable forms of construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will it assist in providing high quality sustainable homes? - Will it support the provision of identified local need? 	Policy 13	++	New and affordable housing based on local needs.
	<p>SA8. Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities that meet local needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will it improve and increase community facilities? - Will it improve and provide identified local needs? 	<p>Policy 2</p> <p>Policy 3</p> <p>Policy 10</p> <p>Policy 13</p> <p>Policy 14</p> <p>Policy 15</p> <p>Policy 16</p>	<p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>+</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p>	<p>Protection for locally important community spaces as 'Local Green Spaces'.</p> <p>Permits only suitable development for 'Local Green Spaces'</p> <p>Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.</p> <p>New and affordable housing based on local needs.</p> <p>Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.</p> <p>Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.</p> <p>Supports the provision of new allotments and community gardens.</p>
	<p>SA9. Improve accessibility to facilities and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will it ensure that essential services (e.g. health services 	<p>Policy 2</p> <p>Policy 3</p>	<p>++</p> <p>++</p>	<p>Protection for locally important community spaces as 'Local Green Spaces'.</p> <p>Permits only suitable development for</p>

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
	<p><i>and shops) and resources are within walking distance or are available by public transport?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it increase access to open spaces?</i> 	<p>Policy 6</p> <p>Policy 7</p> <p>Policy 8</p> <p>Policy 9</p> <p>Policy 10</p> <p>Policy 14</p> <p>Policy 15</p> <p>Policy 16</p>	<p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>+</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p> <p>++</p>	<p>'Local Green Spaces'</p> <p>Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.</p> <p>Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.</p> <p>Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.</p> <p>Creation of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.</p> <p>Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.</p> <p>Protects existing retail, leisure, sporting and community facilities.</p> <p>Support for diversification and enhancement of the range and facilities in the area.</p> <p>Supports the provision of new allotments and community gardens.</p>
	<p>SA10. Safety and security for people and property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Will it reduce crime through design measures?</i> - <i>Is it likely to increase the frequency of nuisance complaints and criminal/anti-social activity (noise pollution, vandalism, anti-social behaviour orders?)</i> 	<p>Policy 10</p> <p>Policy 13</p>	<p>+</p> <p>+</p>	<p>Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.</p> <p>New and affordable housing based on local needs.</p>

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
Environmental	SA11. Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and enable more people to appreciate it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will it preserve or, where appropriate, enhance architectural, archaeological or other heritage assets? - Will it increase accessibility to architectural, archaeological or other heritage assets? 	Policy 4	++	Protection for the historic core of the village.
		Policy 5	++	Protection for Waterton Historic Park.
		Policy 6	++	Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 7	++	Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
	SA12. Protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape, and enable more people to appreciate it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will it preserve or, where appropriate, enhance the character and quality of the landscape? - Will it promote, educate, raise awareness and increase accessibility of the enjoyment and benefits of the natural environment? 	Policy 1	++	Creation of an ecological link along the mineral line within the plan area.
		Policy 2	++	Protection for locally important community spaces as 'Local Green Spaces'.
		Policy 3	++	Permits only suitable development for 'Local Green Spaces'
		Policy 5	++	Protection for Waterton Historic Park. Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 6	++	Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 7	++	Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 8	++	Creation of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 9	++	Restricts the use of allocated PAS land.
		Policy 11	++	Restricts the use of allocated PAS land.
	Policy 12	++	Restricts the use of allocated PAS	

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
		Policy 16	++	land. Supports the provision of new allotments and community gardens.
	SA13. Conserve and enhance biodiversity. - Will it protect and enhance existing priority habitats and species and provide for appropriate long term management of wildlife habitats? - Will it protect and enhance nationally, regionally and locally designated sites?	Policy 1	++	Creation of an ecological link along the mineral line within the plan area.
		Policy 2	++	Protection for locally important community spaces as 'Local Green Spaces'.
		Policy 3	+	Permits only suitable development for 'Local Green Spaces'
		Policy 5	++	Protection for Waterton Historic Park.
		Policy 11	++	Restricts the use of allocated PAS land.
		Policy 12	++	Restricts the use of allocated PAS land.
	SA14. Increase usage of public transport, cycling and walking and reduce car travel. - Will it reduce the need to travel by increasing access to key resources and services by means other than the car? - Will it improve accessibility and to public transport and/or cycling and walking networks?	Policy 6	++	Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 7	++	Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 8	++	Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 9	++	Creation of new footpaths new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 10	++	Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.
	SA15. Reduce pollution levels. - Will it reduce air, water, land and light pollution from	Policy 6	++	Supports the creation of the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.

Theme	Sustainability Objectives	Relevant Policy	Appraisal	Justification
	<i>current activities and the potential for such pollution?</i> - <i>Will it reduce pollution to water bodies?</i>	Policy 7	++	Extension to the Walton Colliery Nature Park Heritage Trail for use by the community.
		Policy 8	++	Improvements to existing footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 9	++	Creation of new footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths for use by the community.
		Policy 10	++	Enhancement to public transport which will improve accessibility for all of the community.

Conclusion on Policy Sustainability Appraisal

As most of the policies were derived from higher level planning policies and guidance then most seeks to protect and enhance existing community assets to create new ones. Most of the policies are the result of extensive community participation and consultation and therefore focus on local need and equality for all members of the community. As sustainability was an important factor throughout the preparation of the draft WNP then only sustainable and beneficial policies have been included.

The conclusion is that the policies in the draft WNP are consistent with achieving the aims of sustainable development.

5. OVERALL SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

Overall the Neighbourhood Plan has a good performance on sustainability issues. There are no significant areas where sustainability has not been addressed.

As Walton is a village the higher level local plan sets out that only small scale development will take place where it helps to meet identified local needs within the settlement boundary. On this basis no sites are proposed for development.

In accordance with the plan's vision statement the draft WNP largely seeks to protect and enhance existing community assets and linkages and to create new ones. Most of the policies in the plan are the result of extensive community participation and consultation and therefore focus on local need and equality for all members of the community. As sustainability was an important factor throughout the preparation of the draft WNP then only sustainable and beneficial policies were included.

Section 6 - Compatibility with EU Obligations and legislation

The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.

An Appropriate Assessment screening opinion was issued by Wakefield MDC in June 2014 which examined all European sites within the district boundary and within 10km of Wakefield District boundary. The Appropriate Assessment screening opinion advised that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to affect the integrity of the Denby Grange Special Area of Conservation, either directly or indirectly and therefore a full Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations is not required.

An Initial Sustainability Appraisal (including a Strategic Environmental Assessment) was also undertaken and found that overall the Neighbourhood Plan has a good performance on sustainability issues which is in accordance with EU obligations and legislation.

Section 7 – Conclusions

This Walton Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement addresses each of the four ‘basic conditions’ required of the Regulations and demonstrates that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.

In line with the Regulations, this Basic Conditions Statement demonstrates that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan has:

- Had regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- The making of the Walton Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for Wakefield;
- The making of the Walton Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development; and
- The making of the Walton Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.