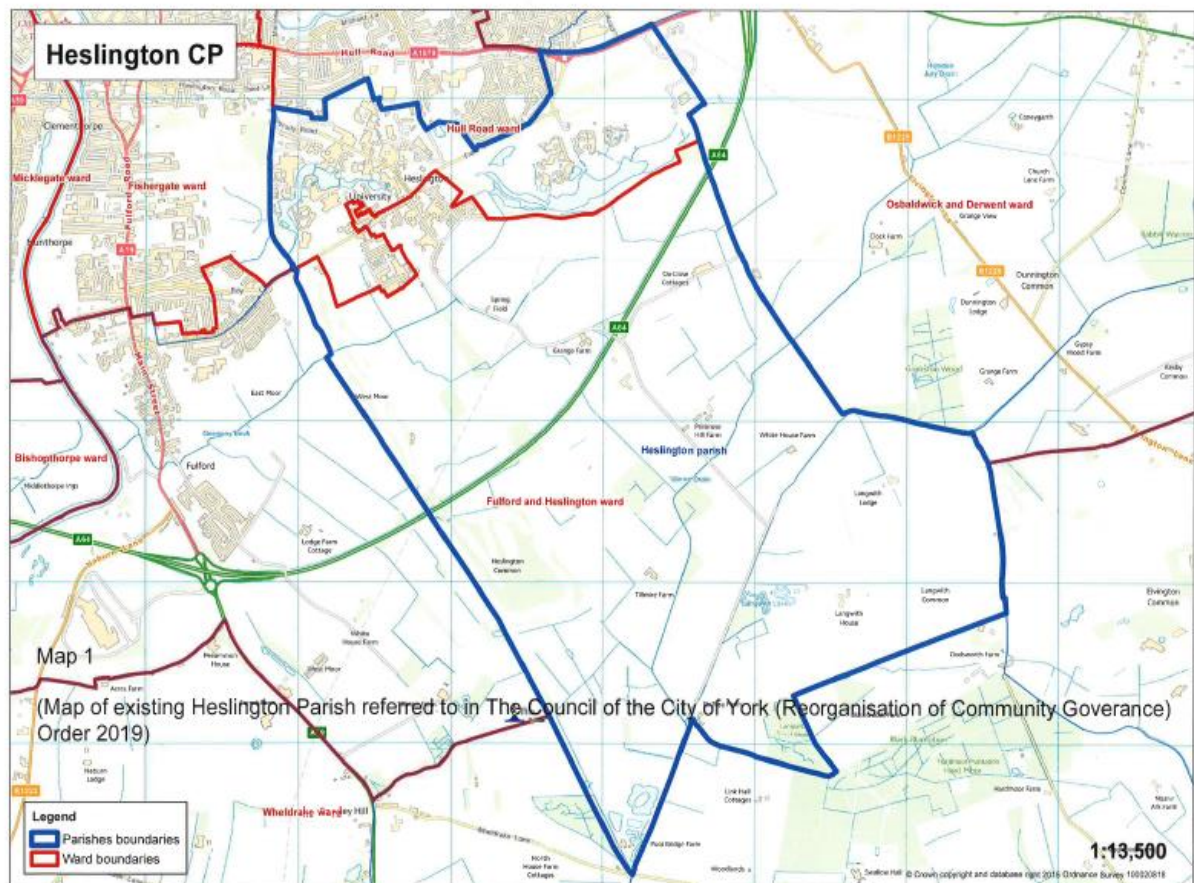




HESLINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION STATEMENT

September 2019



Prepared By

Heslington Parish Council acting as Qualifying Body

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2	BACKGROUND.....	3
3	COMPLIANCE WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATIONS	4
4	DEVELOPMENT OF THE HESLINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.....	5
5	HPNP PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION.....	8
6	ACTION TAKEN	9
7	APPENDICES	9
	APPENDIX 1 PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION RESPONSES – UOY	9
	APPENDIX 2 PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION RESPONSES - RESIDENTS	9
	APPENDIX 3 PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION RESPONSES - CONSULTEES	9
	APPENDIX 4 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS - ALL.....	9

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The unusual combination of a major UK university embedded in a predominantly rural parish, on the outskirts of one of Europe's great medieval cities makes the Parish of Heslington unusual, if not unique, in England. This report summarises the methods used to gather information to develop the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP) and shows how the consultations informed both policy development and the Plan to final submission.

2 Background

- 2.1 Heslington Parish Council established the Heslington Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) to be responsible for the development of the HPNP in compliance with the Localism Act 2011. The NPWG is a sub-committee of the Parish Council with clear terms of reference.
- 2.2 The HPNP development process commenced in November 2015, with Heslington Parish Council submitting an application for designation of a Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.3 People who live, work and conduct business in the area were able to comment on the application and boundary from 18 January 2016 to 29 February 2016 as part of a 6 week consultation.
- 2.4 Heslington Parish Council withdrew the Neighbourhood Plan area application on 13 April 2016.
- 2.5 A revised area application was submitted by Heslington Parish Council on 10 October 2016 for the whole Parish. This application was granted automatic designation on 22 November 2016 following amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016, which came into force on 1 October 2016.
- 2.6 The HPNP has been developed in parallel with the emerging City of York Local Plan following consultation and advice from CYC. The HPNP has been informed by, and is consistent with, the evidence and strategies contained in that emerging Local Plan.

3 Compliance with Neighbourhood Plan Regulations

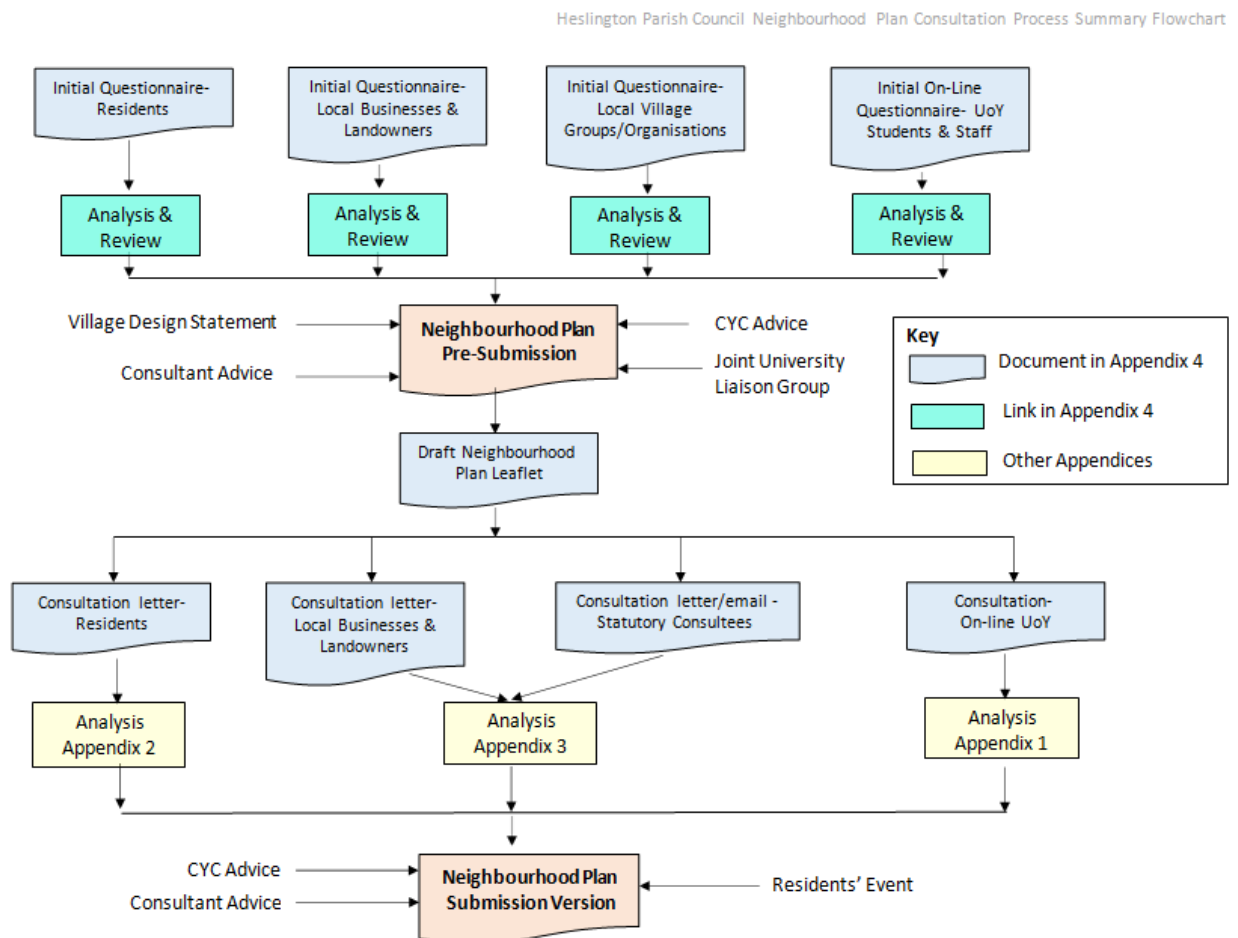
- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
Regulation 15.

Plan proposals:

- 15 — (1) Where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority, it must include—
- (a) map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;
 - (b) a consultation statement;
 - (c) the proposed neighbourhood development plan; and
 - (d) a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act.
- (2) In this regulation “consultation statement” means a document which—
- (a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
 - (b) explains how they were consulted;
 - (c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - (d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

4 Development of the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

In order to fulfil the legislative requirements, the NPWG gathered evidence and feedback from a range of sources. The process is shown as a flow chart and is described below:



4.1 Initial Survey Questionnaires

In February 2017, as part of the continuing process of community and stakeholder engagement and consultation in developing the HPNP, questionnaires were sent to a number of groups:

Printed copies (hand-delivered)

- All resident households
- All businesses, landowners, other stakeholders and community organisations

On-line through the University of York (UoY)

- Undergraduate students
- Postgraduate students
- University academic staff

All groups were asked broadly the same series of 'core' questions, but with tailored modifications appropriate to their involvement in the Parish. The questionnaires sought to identify key issues for each of these groups, and canvassed their opinions about their 'likes and dislikes' plus issues and concerns including future potential developments over a wide range of topics. An analysis of the response rates to these follows below.

4.1.1 Residents

A single copy of the paper version of the questionnaire was delivered to every household in the Parish (486 questionnaires). A notice about the survey questionnaire was also available on-line on the Heslington website. Notices about the Neighbourhood Plan, the purpose of the questionnaire and how to respond were posted on the Parish Council notice board.

88 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 18.1% of eligible households. There were two kinds of questions – quantitative ('box-ticking'), and qualitative (requiring an 'open', verbal answer).

4.1.2 Businesses, Landowners and other Organisations

A single copy of the paper version of the questionnaire was delivered to all businesses, landowners and other bodies and organisations in the Parish (180 questionnaires). Every effort was made to contact all eligible businesses and landowners based on information provided by CYC, the University of York and the Science Park. A stamped addressed envelope was provided for responses.

39 questionnaires were returned, an overall response rate of 21.7%.

Response rates for specific segments of the community were as follows:

	Questionnaires		
	Distributed	Returned	% Return
Science Park/Businesses	153	27	(17.6%)
Working farms	7	2	(28.6%)
Landowners/farmers	5	3	(60.0%)
Other village and Parish	14	7	(50.0%)

The responses to both Resident and Science Park/Business survey questionnaires were analysed by a retired natural scientist with additional input from a retired data-analyst.

4.1.3 Liaison with University of York

As already indicated, Heslington is unusual (possibly even unique) in hosting a world-class university on two main sites (Campus East and Campus West) within what is still a predominantly rural Parish. Accordingly, a joint Neighbourhood Plan working sub-group was established with the University. Meetings were held with senior representatives from the University of York, who shared with us their plans for future developments. NPWG are extremely grateful to the University for facilitating electronic communication with staff and students.

4.1.4 University Undergraduates, Postgraduates and Staff

An electronic version of the questionnaire using Google Forms was circulated by the University of York to all undergraduates (approx. 12,500), postgraduates (approx. 4,500) and staff (approx. 3,500) using the internal e-mail system and staff newsletter, irrespective of whether they lived in the Parish or outside it, making clear that their responses should refer only to their activities (i.e. work, leisure and using facilities) within the Parish and not the wider City of York. NPWG are extremely grateful to the

University for facilitating electronic communication with staff and students.

Responses were analysed automatically using spread sheets.

Response rates

Undergraduates	278 (2.2%)
Postgraduates	99 (2.2%)
Staff	238 (6.8%)

Details of the questionnaires and analysis of the responses can be found at:

<https://www.heslington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/np-questionnaire-analyses/>.

4.1.5 Village Design Statement

The HPNP also incorporates appropriate elements of the Heslington Village Design Statement¹ produced, following extensive consultation, and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2004 in its evidence base and in its policies.

4.1.6 The City of York Council provided a large body of background information and detailed maps on topics ranging from population statistics to traffic flows, local green spaces to listed buildings, and city-wide housing policies to footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes. Throughout the process, the HPNP has been developed in consultation with CYC, who have been generous with their help and advice. The HPNP has been informed by, and is consistent with, the evidence and strategies contained in the emerging York Draft Local Plan.

4.1.7 Detailed advice was also taken from an independent planning consultant on a range of matters in the course of the Plan development.

4.2 The NPWG met regularly in the Village Meeting Room; all meetings were advertised and open to the general public. The Parish Council also established a Neighbourhood Plan webpage and dedicated email address (heslingtonpcnplan@outlook.com) to make all public documents easily accessible and to provide up-to-date information.

4.3 Progress was reported to the Parish Council at their monthly meetings. Details of meeting minutes, consultation questionnaires and supporting documents are available on the Heslington website: <https://www.heslington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>.

4.4 In addition, residents and other stakeholders were kept up-to-date with progress on the Plan development via monthly minutes of Parish Council meetings, a quarterly Heslington newsletter, the Heslington website and the village notice board.

4.5 Findings from all these consultations, specifically common response themes referring to business and facilities, the advantages and disadvantages of having a university close by, transport, housing and the green and built environment were carefully analysed and collated. This provided important and substantial input to the policy development informed the development of policies in the Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

¹ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/3239/heslington_village_design_statement

5 HPNP Pre-Submission Consultation

- 5.1 In January 2019 a Draft Plan consultation letter and a Draft Plan summary booklet were delivered to every household, all businesses were contacted by letter and all statutory consultees and landowners/agents contacted by email/letter. Hard copies of the full Plan were made available locally in libraries, etc and their locations advertised. All appropriate documents were made available on Heslington website: www.heslington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/.
- 5.2 In January 2019 all University of York students and staff received an electronic communication giving details of the Pre-Submission Draft Plan for consultation and with information on how to view the Plan in full or where hard copies of the Plan were available.
- 5.3 A ‘drop-in’ meeting was held in the Heslington Village Meeting Room on 11 February 2019 to provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions and express their views. Thirty residents attended over the course of the day.
- 5.4 Pre-Submission Consultation on the Plan took place from 29 January to 14 March 2019, inviting responses electronically to heslingtonpcnplan@outlook.com, in paper form (by post to the Parish Clerk, or in a dedicated mailbox at a business on Heslington Main Street).
- 5.5 As part of the Pre-Submission Consultation all interested parties and statutory consultees were directly mailed or emailed copies of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan seeking comments. Consultees included:

Fulford Parish Council	Northern Gas
Osbalwick Parish Council	National Grid
Murton Parish Council	British Gas
Wheldrake Parish Council	Yorkshire Water
Deighton Parish Council	Campaign to Protect Rural England
Elvington Parish Council	National Farmers’ Union
Kexby Parish Council	York CVS
Coal Authority	National Trust
Homes England	North Yorkshire Police
Natural England	Heslington Brownies/Rainbows
Environment Agency	York Civic Trust
Historic England	Badger Hill Residents Group
Network Rail	Heslington Village Trust
Highways England	Heslington Sportsfield
Northern Powergrid	UoY Allotment Association
University of York	Persimmon Homes
O’Neill Associates	Halifax Estates
Quod	City of York Council

5.6 The response rates to the consultations were:

Residents	153 ²
Business, Landowners, Other stakeholders/consultees	13
Undergraduates/University Staff	13

5.7 A summary of all responses and comments made can be found in the Appendices and on the Heslington website.

6 Action Taken

Following the Pre-Submission Consultation all responses were analysed in detail. As a result of these responses several amendments were made to the HPNP and these revisions are noted in the Appendices below that accompany this Consultation Statement.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 Pre-Submission Consultation responses – UoY

Appendix 2 Pre-Submission Consultation responses - Residents

Appendix 3 Pre-Submission Consultation responses - Consultees

Appendix 4 Consultation Documents - All

² Includes 107 responses to an independently prepared and distributed flyer by a local resident (highlighting the importance of Heslington's Local green spaces).