

Template for production of information and evidence for the Plan Document	Theme:	Access
	Subject:	Disabled Access

Neighbourhood Plan Vision:

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

<p>For the next 20 years Higham Ferrers will be:</p> <p>A sustainable, vibrant, thriving community: <i>Strongly based on its history with an emphasis on its individuality, which encourages growth that supports its market town heritage.</i></p> <p>A community which encourages attractive, high quality development: <i>Including new housing, commercial property and community facilities within a compact market town environment.</i></p> <p>A community that is inclusive: <i>With safe access to its town centre and excellent links to adjacent housing estates, the surrounding countryside and the regional transportation network.</i></p> <p>An attractive town centre: <i>With increased vitality and activity that attracts variety of new businesses to create a thriving High Street and encourage tourism.</i></p>	<p>SERVICES: To enhance residents' quality of life by improving leisure, educational, health and environmental services</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT: To promote some housing and commercial development to meet the needs of residents and to attract visitors, thereby providing a degree of growth and employment opportunity whilst retaining the historic character of the town</p> <p>DESIGN: To conserve and enhance the town's heritage and environmental features and promote visually attractive and sustainable design in all new developments</p> <p>ACCESS: To improve transport links within the town's boundary and to the surrounding countryside; provide better parking and safer access to the town centre for residents and visitors.</p>
NOTE	
The most relevant parts of the vision and objectives for the subject are shown in red above	
The Plan aims to deliver the vision and objectives in partnership with residents, other stakeholders and all necessary statutory authorities	
The Plan must be compatible with EU obligations, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), human rights, etc	
Sustainable solutions are required for all the subjects in order to satisfy the Vision and Objectives	

Source documents:

Subject Name	Date	Originator/Author
East Northamptonshire Local Plan (saved policies only)	1996	East Northamptonshire Council (ENC)
Three Towns Plan	Sept 2006	ENC
Three Towns Preferred Options: Summary of Consultation	April 2007	ENC
North Northamptonshire Spatial Strategy	June 2008	North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (NNJPU)
Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance	March 2011	Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
National Planning Policy Framework	March 2012	Dept for Communities & Local Government
North Northamptonshire Interim Housing Statement	2013	NNJPU
Rushden and Higham Ferrers Masterplan	2004	Atkins Consultants
Northamptonshire Transportation Plan - Fit for Purpose	March 2012	NCC
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan (HFNP) Issues Survey	June 2012	Higham Ferrers Town Council
HFNP Issues Survey - Results	Oct 2012	Higham Ferrers Town Council
Higham Ferrers Transport Study	Nov 2012	WYG Transport (Consultants)
HFNP - Community Plan	Aug 2013	HFNP Steering Group
HFNP - Public Consultation on Development Options	Sept 2013	HFNP Steering Group
HFNP - Public Consultation on Development Options - Results	Dec 2013	HFNP Steering Group

1. Brief background/history on the subject:

Describe briefly background and history of when things happened

Write the information/evidence here:

Most of the roads within Higham Ferrers have continuous pedestrian provision to one or both sides of the carriageway, over recent years drop-down curbs have been installed with bubble paving for the blind at most major junctions and crossing points. Whilst some of the Green Links have hard surfaces many remain gravelled or un-surfaced which make it difficult for wheelchair and pushchair users to have access to the surrounding countryside.

2. Source evidence on the subject:

- National Planning Policy Framework view or Policy on the subject
- Local Plan Policy - Core Strategy view or comments on the subject
- Any available statistics that should be considered
- Any other authoritative source, view or comments on the subject i.e. best practice or leading practitioners view
- Sustainable solutions are required across all subjects and themes

Write the information/evidence here:

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 makes it unlawful for people with disabilities to be discriminated against, amongst other things, in the access to goods, facilities and services. Duty placed on public services to amend their service or facilities so that disabled people can access the service better. New development needs to take account of disabled access.

Paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods and people. Therefore developments should be located and designed where practical to:

- e) consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport.

North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008

Policy 13 – General Sustainable Development Principles

Meet Needs

- a) Incorporate flexible designs for buildings and their settings, including access to amenity space, enabling them to adapt to future needs and to take into account the needs of all users;

3. View of relevant authorities:

- Recommendations from any commissioned studies or reports
- Comments or responses received from relevant authorities in relation to recommended development option or if the authorities have a preference for an alternative option.

Write the information /evidence here:

No information found at this time will investigate further.

Local Authorities are bound by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995/2005 and Equalities Act which requires public bodies to make reasonable adaptations to their services for disabled people to access them more easily.

4. Community views about the subject:

- Original questionnaire view
- Community Plan action
- Feedback from latest questionnaire
- Any other comments, feedback or concerns received

Write the information/evidence here:

5. **Draft Policies:** These should flow from the vision and relevant objectives to ensure that development will respond satisfactorily to them. They need to relate to both National and Local Planning Policy and take account of the latest views of relevant authorities and the views of the Community.

N.B. The Policies from other Neighbourhood Plans that have similar issues could be helpful.

James Wilson will write the policies but it would be good to indicate the policy area that you think should come out of the information/evidence that you have found.

Indicate the policy area here:

All future development should consider the needs of the disabled.