

Information and evidence for the Plan Document	Theme:	Services
	Subject:	Environment

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	

1. Brief background/history on the subject:

Describe briefly background and history of when things happened

Write the information/evidence here:

Intro

There are eight important open spaces within the historic town centre which can be enjoyed by members of the public, the main ones being Saffron Road Recreation Ground and Castle Fields.

Riverside Park is a pocket park situated at the lower end of Wharf Road and has the back channel for the River Nene passing through it, the river having been diverted by the construction of the A45. The park is managed by the Council with a band of volunteers – Friends of Riverside Park'. A pedestrian access link has been negotiated, which will link to Kings Meadow Lane estates once the open space behind the houses built by David Wilson Homes has been adopted by the Town Council. Kings Meadow Estate phase one is separated from phase two by The Ride, a walking route linking with the Nene Way and Nene River Valley. There is a play area off Fitzwilliam Leys which is maintained by the Council and another off Villa Rise which is yet to be transferred from the developer. Other open spaces owned and maintained by the Council include Tollbar, William Steele Way, Bede Close, Bates Close and Bailey Court. The Council also cuts urban grass verges on an agency basis for Northamptonshire County Council.

Table 1 provides full details of open spaces.

Table 1: Higham Ferrers Public Open Space Register Jan14

Location	Size (sqm/ha)	Notes
EH Important Open Space		
Saffron Rd Recreation Ground	45,409	
Castle Fields	52,549	Contains EH listed monument
Chichele College	143	Part of EH listed monument Restricted access
Churchyard	4,710	
Dovecote	424	Private ownership
Market Square	166	Used for vehicle parking
John White Close	116	
Bede Close	?	
Other Open Space		
KML Phase 1	9,211	
KML Phase2	3,926	
KML Phase 3	373	To be adopted- Includes Play Area
KML Phase 4	1622	Management Company -Includes Play Area
KML Phase 5	2711	To be adopted in 12 months' time
KML The Ride	8,340	
Parker Way	5,777	
School Lane	758	
Common Land	1430	
Riverside Park	3,000	
Walnut Tree Amenity Area	315	
Tollbar	8,253	
William Steele Way	2,174	
Queensway	580	
Bates Close/Bailey Court	1,266	
Rear of Henry Chichele School	7,110	
Cemetery	15,343	
Total	175,706 (17.571ha)	

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:

CLG National Planning Policy Framework

Natural England Planning for the Environment at NP level Mar13

NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008 Policies 5,13&16

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan

NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11

ENC HF Townscape Appraisal Map 2008

ENC Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policy EN20) July 2011

ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-15 Feb09

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:

EA response to NP consultation 20 Nov13

ENC Green Spaces Survey Results Feb 14-AWAITING OUTCOME

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:

HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013

HFNP - Options Survey Results Nov 2013

Community Clubs and Groups: Sports, Cultural, Heritage, Youth, Ramblers. CF TEAM TO SEEK COMMENTS

- 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. 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:

Table 2: Proposals for sustainable environmental facilities:

Proposal	Evidence	Policy Area
2.1 Protect the character of local landscape in any greenfield development	CLG National Planning Policy Framework Sections 8,9&11 NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008 Policies 5,13&16 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11 ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-15 Feb09 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11 ENC Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policy EN20) July 2011 HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013 HFNP - Options Survey Results Nov 2013	Services-Environment Development-Housing, Employment, Commercial Design-Statement for new Developments
2.2 Consider a lime tree planting scheme in any development	CLG National Planning Policy Framework Sections 8&11 NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008 Policies 5,13&16 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11 ENC Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policy EN20) July 2011 ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-15 Feb09 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11	Services-Environment Development-Housing, Employment, Commercial Design-Statement for new Developments
2.3 Create greenbelt separation in any mixed use development and on the parish border.	CLG National Planning Policy Framework Sections 8&9 Natural England Planning for the Environment at NP level Mar13 NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008 Policies 5,13&16 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11 ENC Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policy EN20) July 2011 ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-15 Feb09 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11 HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013 HFNP - Options Survey Results Nov 2013	Services-Environment Development-Housing, Employment, Commercial Design-Statement for new Developments
2.4 Consider a wildlife habitat in any greenfield development	CLG National Planning Policy Framework Section11 NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008	Services-Environment Development-Housing, Employment, Commercial

	<p>Policies 5,13&16 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11 Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan ENC Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policy EN20) July 2011 ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-15 Feb09 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11 HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013 HFNP - Options Survey Results Nov 2013</p>	<p>Design-Statement for new Developments</p>
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