

Appendix 3

Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

July 2022

Introduction

This Consultation Statement for the Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:

- 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
- d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

Aims of consulting on the Plan

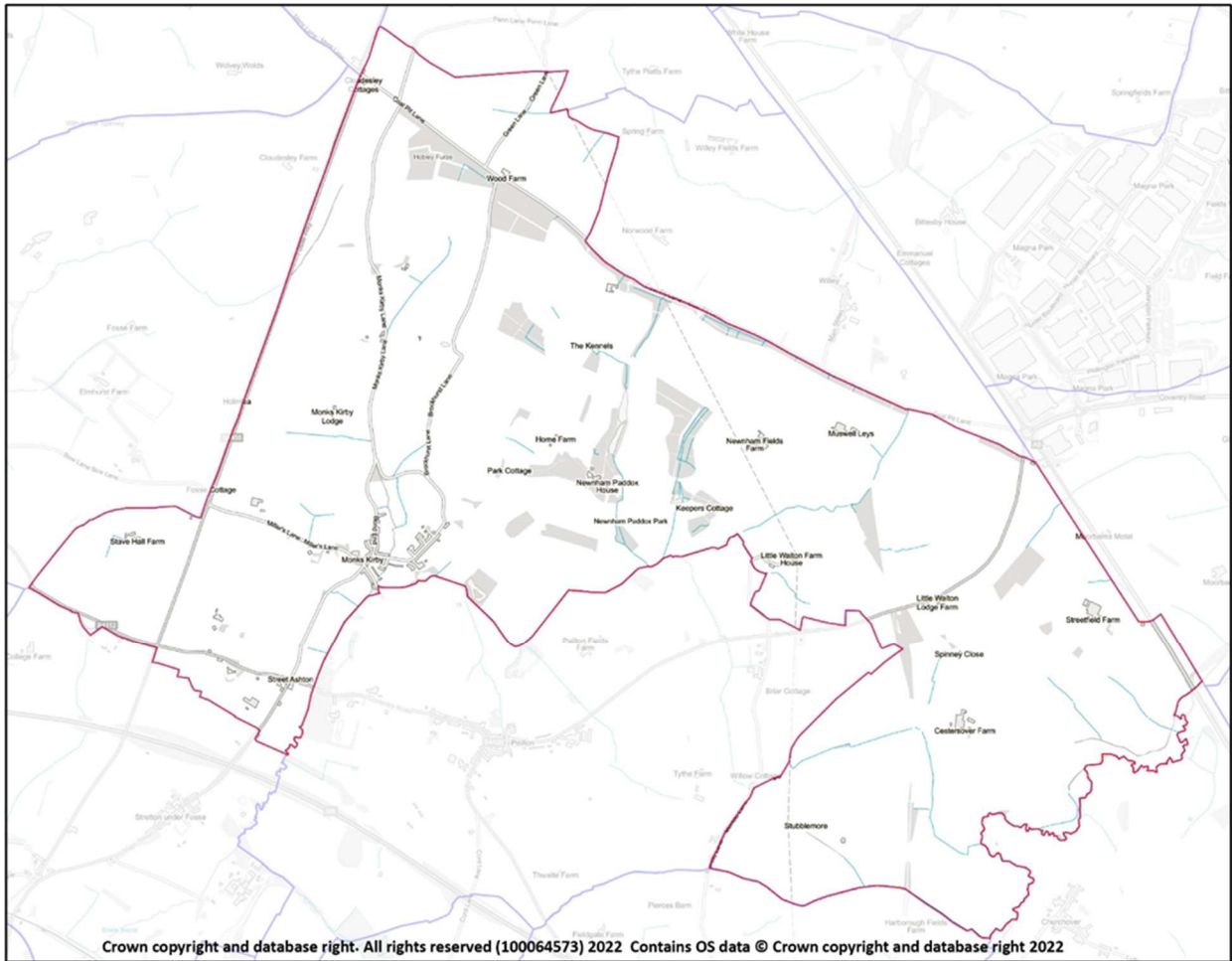
The aim of the engagement process was to:

- Inform residents, local businesses, and other stakeholders about the neighbourhood planning process and to invite their participation so that local opinion informed the plan
- Ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process.
- Ensure that as wide a range of people as possible were involved, that they could receive information and could provide feedback in a way that suited them.
- Ensure that information was readily available and accessible to everyone.
- Make sure that consultation feedback was available as soon as possible after events

Background to the consultation - Initiating the Neighbourhood Plan

The whole of the parish was formally designated by Rugby Borough Council for neighbourhood planning purposes on 8 June 2021.

Figure 1 - Parish of Monks Kirby Designated Area

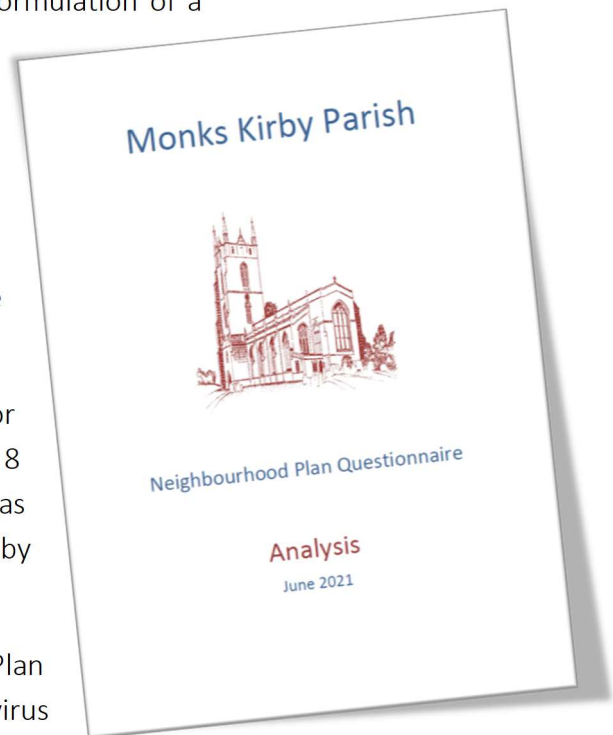


The Parish Council decided to undertake the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Monks Kirby in February 2020 and appointed an Advisory Committee to take the process forward.

The mandate of the Advisory Committee was to drive the process, consult with the local community, gather evidence to support the development of policies and deliver the plan.

Monks Kirby applied to be a Qualifying Body for neighbourhood planning purposes on 8 December 2020. The whole of the Parish was designated as a neighbourhood area by Rugby Borough Council on 8 June 2021.

Arrangements to progress the Neighbourhood Plan were delayed by the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic and opportunities to consult with the



community were reduced.

Nonetheless, the Advisory Committee continued to meet via Zoom. A questionnaire was distributed throughout Monks Kirby in the spring of 2021. 79 completed questionnaires were returned representing 20 % of the population aged 16 or over (276 residents as at the 2011 Census) and up to 43% of households.

Some key findings included the following: The most important features of Monks Kirby were identified as access to the countryside; peace and tranquillity; a lack of major through roads and village character. Concerns included fly tipping, unlawful development and an abuse of the greenbelt. Homes for young people were the top category when asked about housing need, followed by small family homes and homes for older people. Owner-Occupied housing was welcomed followed by Affordable Housing for Sale.



When restrictions were relaxed in July 2021, two Theme Groups were launched to explore potential policy options in greater detail and to begin to gather evidence. A total of 11 residents

attended the launch event and signed up to groups which were facilitated by our Neighbourhood Planning consultants YourLocale.



All of the analyses of the consultation processes are available on the Parish Council website. An Open Event was held on 1 May 2022 to share the draft Plan with the community and to receive feedback, attended by 42 residents.

Advisory Committee Meetings

The Advisory Committee met regularly and in accordance with Parish Council regulations. The meeting dates are as follows:

- 17th November 2020
- 8th December 2020
- 28th January 2021
- 4th March 2021
- 9th June 2021
- 5th April 2022

A full set of meeting minutes can be found on the Monks Kirby Parish Council Website (www.monkskirby.org.uk)

Theme Groups

Two Theme groups were formed to manage Neighbourhood Plan policy development with focus on the Environment. Local Amenities and Housing Requirements. Each Theme group was supported by a YourLocale facilitator with expertise in the relevant field. Other members of the community volunteered to participate in the Theme Groups.

The aim of these groups was to explore in detail the issues that had been raised by villagers through the Questionnaire in the spring of 2021 and to collate evidence and identify emerging priorities. Their expertise, local knowledge and commitment was invaluable in making sure that the Plan reflects the requirements of Monks Kirby and represents the views of the parishioners. They met regularly over the duration of the project, conducted research and collated a significant amount of evidence that formed the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan policy development. A further group was established to progress issues related to community facilities and employment.

The Housing Theme Group meeting dates are as follows:

- 21st June 2021
- 12th August 2021
- 1st September 2021
- 6th October 2021
- 27th October 2021

The Environment Theme Group meeting dates are as follows:

- 10th August 2021
- 9th September 2021
- 2nd October 2021
- 26th October 2021
- 18th November 2021
- 9th December 2021

Full sets of meeting minutes for these groups can be found on the Monks Kirby Parish Council Website (www.monkskirby.org.uk)

Questionnaire

An important part of this inclusive process is, of course, obtaining the views and aspirations of the community. Key to this has been the development and dissemination of a community questionnaire.

The questionnaire contains 40 questions and is based on important themes established following initial consultation work by the team leading the Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan.

The questionnaire took place during April and May of 2021. It was available to complete electronically and as a paper version. The level of response from the community was good, there being 79 responses. This represents a return from over 20% of the adult population, (382 aged 16 plus).

Given that some households choose to respond collectively rather than as individuals; it is also pertinent to consider the number of responses in relation to the number of households in the

Neighbourhood Plan area. The number of responses represents the equivalent of up to 43% of the 181 occupied households.

A copy of the Questionnaire analysis is available as Appendix 1

This demonstrates a good level of commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan by the community and, in turn, adds strength to the validity of the collected views expressed.

Open Event

An Open Event to share the emerging policies was held in the Village Hall in Monks Kirby on 1 May 2022

This was an engaging event where people had the opportunity to see the draft policies and to ask questions of those who have drafted the Plan. People stayed for a long time to read and consider each policy area and the turnout was very good for a community the size of Monks Kirby.

There was overwhelming support for the policies on display.

A copy of the Open Event analysis is available as Appendix 2

Ongoing Communication with Parishioners

The parishioners of Monks Kirby were kept informed and consulted on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan Development via a series of communication methods:

- Public participation at monthly Parish Council Meetings
- Articles in the Monks Kirby Village Hall Newsletter (approx. 3 times per year)
- Articles on the Monks Kirby WhatsApp Network (over 100 members)
- Articles on the Parish Council Noticeboard outside Village Hall

Funding and Support

YourLocale was appointed to provide professional support to the Advisory Committee.

Funding for YourLocale as well as community consultation and engagement, was by the Parish Council and by grants from the Locality.

Consultation – list of people and bodies consulted

The following stakeholders were contacted at the start of the process and again prior to the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation:

- The Coal Authority

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- Homes and Communities Agency
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Historic England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- Highways Agency
- British Telecommunications Plc
- Open Reach
- NHS Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Grid
- British Gas Properties
- Severn Trent Water Ltd
- Anglian Water Ltd
- Age UK Warwickshire
- Voluntary Action Rugby
- CPRE
- Equality and Inclusion Partnership
- Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- Rugby Interfaith Forum
- Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
- Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living
- Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service
- Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire Fire and Recue

Local Planning Authority

- Warwickshire County Council.
- Rugby Borough Council
- County Councillor Adrian Warwick
- Borough Councillors Tony Gillias, Heather Timms, Belinda Garcia

Adjoining Parishes

Member of Parliament:

- MP Mark Pawsey

Summary of findings from the events and questionnaires

By involving residents, business owners and other stakeholders at key stages in the development of the Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan, the plan is both evidence-based and has been shaped by local opinion, with policies being tested as they have been developed.

There was a detailed analysis after the consultation event which has informed the next step in drafting the plan.

Regulation 14, Pre-Submission Consultation

This consultation took place over a six-week period (3 May – 13 June 2022). The comments received were collated by the Parish Clerk and after an initial review by YourLocale, the updated the plan was agreed and submitted to the Parish Council for final approval ahead of submission to Rugby Borough Council.

The comments and responses are attached as Appendix 3.

Conclusion

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be submitted to Rugby Borough Council who will publicise it for a further six weeks and then forward it, with accompanying documents and all representations made during the publicity period, to an Independent Examiner who will review it and check that it meets the 'Basic Conditions'. If the Plan successfully passes this stage, following any modifications, it will be put forward for referendum.

The referendum question will be a straight "yes" or "no" on the entire Plan, as set out by Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. People will not be able to vote for or against individual policies. If 50% or more of respondents vote for the Plan, it will be brought into force ('Made') and become part of Borough-wide planning policy.

This Consultation Statement and the supporting Appendices are provided to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.