

## Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan - Reg.16 Consultation Responses

Summary of representations received by Durham County Council as part of Regulation 16 Submission Draft publication and submitted to the independent examiner pursuant to paragraph 9 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act

<b>WHORLTON VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – SUBMISSION VERSION</b>		
<b>Agent</b>	<b>ORGANISATION DETAILS</b>	<b>COMMENTS ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b>
	Local resident	<p><b>Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Draft</b></p> <p>Dear Mr. Dickinson.</p> <p>I have read the Village Plan, and I can agree with certain statements that have been made by the Committee.</p> <p>The points that I feel need to be added to this document are listed below.</p> <p>Landscape character.</p> <p>I expected the quality of existing residential areas amongst mature trees and hedgerows to be shown on a proposals map for assessment as the potential framework of the growth areas, all should be protected during the development period and retained as part of local distinctiveness.</p> <p>Where appropriate such features should be enhanced as part of any adjacent development. Where the removal of vegetation required facilitating development, any such removal should be kept to a minimum and appropriate replacement planting should be delivered as part of the detailed proposal.</p> <p>Sustainable drainage</p> <p>Where it is feasible, sustainable drainage schemes should be used to provide wildlife areas, linking where possible with the biodiversity of existing natural environment areas. I would hope that if this suggestion was adopted they would be designed with the appropriate level of percolation and safety in mind and as an integral part of the infrastructure.</p> <p>Provide for sustainable water management and run-off from rainfall recognizing the current increased incidence of higher than average rainfall.</p> <p>Open spaces</p> <p>The village green should be protected against any built developments including roads buildings or any type of enclosure. Any attempt to deregister any part of the green should be resisted, the green is the village</p> <p>New growth areas</p> <p>All new housing developments should include planting programmes incorporating native arboreal species to enhance the landscape character.</p> <p>Where feasible, community woodland should interconnect and provide</p>

		<p>defined areas for public access and as wildlife corridors.</p> <p><b>On street parking</b>  In proposals for new residential development, design solutions should be planned and implemented to minimize car parking other than in designated parking areas. Particular attention should be given to ensuring that access routes are designed to prevent or discourage more on street parking.  Blocking and parking on the pavements should be discouraged by the Council and reports sent to the police.</p> <p><b>Sustainability</b>  A complete sustainability appraisal does not appear to have been carried out on the plan, using a matrix to compare policies against objectives.</p> <p><b>Risk Assessment</b>  Has the plan been subject to a risk assessment in order to identify threats that could destabilise the Parish's Vision up to 2035 and affect its delivery.  I expect that most of these are outside the control of the Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in planning policies at national and county level before the end of the planning period in 2035</li> <li>• An inconsistent interpretation of national and local planning policy by decision makers including appeal decisions.</li> <li>• The transfer of responsibility for planning and providing the transport infrastructure away from the County Council, or a change in status of the Parish Council.</li> <li>• The use of imprecise language leading to ambiguity in Neighbourhood Planning policies that obscures the intentions of this plan, or allows unintended interpretation.</li> <li>• Failure to relate the Neighbourhood Plan adequately to Durham County Planning policies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring and Review</b>  The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2015 to 2035. Development will take place during this time, both in the Village the Parish also in neighbouring areas. This will have an impact on the community as well as on the physical fabric of the village. Each new development will influence what happens next and where, it is therefore, essential to the long term success of the Plan that developments in Whorlton and Westwick and neighbouring parishes, are monitored and reviewed against the plans objectives and against the policies designed to implement them,  It is hoped that the Parish Council will make arrangements to monitor developments and carry out an annual review.  The Parish Council should seek to retain existing businesses, look to new businesses, identify deficiencies in local services and help to facilitate the creation of employment opportunities in the area especially farming and tourism.</p>
Barbara Hooper Local	Historic England	<b>re: Whorlton Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation</b> Further to your correspondence of 23 December 2015, thank you very

<p>Historic Environment Planner</p>	<p>much for consulting Historic England over the Submission Consultation document for the Whorlton Neighbourhood Plan. We have previously commented upon the draft document (our letter of 10 June refers), and many of these comments still apply. We are pleased to offer our further comments at this stage of the plan.</p> <p>We are pleased to note that the plan refers to the Conservation Area and listed buildings within the plan area, and contains a policy (WP5) for the protection of the historic environment. Heritage assets are often a strong element of what makes a place distinctive, and including heritage in the Neighbourhood Plan will therefore help to protect those areas that are valued locally, and ensure that they remain in productive use where appropriate, and that any new development is properly integrated with what is already there.</p> <p>As we have previously noted in our earlier response, the key to good plan-making is having a sound evidence base, as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). However, at present, we cannot find any reference to an evidence base within the Whorlton Neighbourhood Plan, or any assessment of the historic environment or the significance of the assets, although the need for sound evidence is identified in paragraph 7.1. While it may not be necessary to include the evidence base within the plan itself, it should be referenced, with a clear indication of how the vision, aims, policies and proposals of the plan have been generated and informed by the evidence base. With regards to the historic environment, the evidence base should include a good understanding of what is significant about an area or asset, in order to guide future decisions that may affect its character and heritage. It would also be extremely helpful to have the heritage assets identified on a map.</p> <p>In our previous correspondence, we suggested that a very useful first stage might be the carrying out of a Character Appraisal for the Conservation Area, which does not currently have a management plan. We are pleased that the intention to prepare a Conservation Area Character Appraisal is now referenced within paragraph 7.5.8. We also referred to the importance of managing the setting or important views. Much of the advice given in our letter of 10 June remains relevant, and there is a lot of external guidance available, including some excellent examples from other Neighbourhood Plan areas. Historic England has produced its own guidance on Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment (attached), and the 'Placecheck' website, <a href="http://www.placecheck.info">www.placecheck.info</a> provides very useful information on how to identify what is good about a place and what can be improved.</p> <p>With regards specific sections of the plan, our previous comments as regards paragraphs 3.5 and 7.5.1 still apply. With regards Policy WP5, we would suggest tightening the wording to be more compliant with the NPPF, in particular paragraphs 126, and 132 – 135, and referring to the <u>significance</u> of assets to be clear about the purpose of the policy.</p>
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Daniel Woodward	Northumbria Water	<p><b>Subject: Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan- Submission Consultation</b></p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide a consultation response to the Whorlton neighbourhood Plan at this submission consultation stage. As a statutory consultee, Northumbrian Water (NW) offers a considered response to various elements of the Plan.</p> <p>We have reviewed the Plan in detail and we have set out comments below on a range of topics which we feel are of relevance or have an impact on us, as the statutory water and sewerage undertaker.</p> <p>During the plan preparation process we have worked with the Whorlton Neighbourhood plan steering group in order to give advice on NW infrastructure in the area and give support to the process where required. It is encouraging to see that the steering group have taken into account the infrastructure in the area when developing the plan and how the infrastructure may impact upon future development within the community.</p> <p>It is good to see that NW's previous comments regarding the capacity of Whorlton Sewage Treatment Works (STW) &amp; capacity of the local sewerage infrastructure have been included in the plan. These comments are still applicable and it is pleasing to know that we are in a position to support the village's plans for an additional 10 dwellings in Wharleton in terms of sewerage infrastructure.</p>