

HISTON & IMPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	Council	17 Sep 18
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Neighbourhood Plan

Version 1.4 of the Neighbourhood Plan is now available for your review. It's available on www.hiplan.net. Go to <https://wp.me/p4i84O-1kX> to view and/or download it.

It's not quite what we had expected because an extensive review of syntax and the like has been conducted but unfortunately we've run into a matter of incompatible versions of Microsoft Word. No matter; we know what the problem is and understand what we need to do to work around it. That will give us version 1.5 which in terms of the subject matter of the Plan will be the same as this version 1.4.

Version 1.0 went public early this year. The current version builds on that but recognises important recent events and the reflects the excellent advice we've had from Rachel Hogger.

Specifically:

- On Rachel's advice we have made the Design Guide a free-standing document. This preceded our application to join South Cambs' Village Design Statement program and was clearly right to do.
- We have understood better what we can do to protect our green spaces and have done so through the designation of Local Green Spaces, Valued Community Spaces and Important Natural Habitats.
- The County Council has announced its plans for the new primary school at Buxhall Farm which is Green Belt land. We have recognised the challenge of protecting the Green Belt and enabling delivery of needed extra primary school places by limiting the definition of the Buxhall Farm Local Green Space to the part of the site not needed for the school and access to it.
- Highways England moved in with its chainsaws in March and since then the Community has realised what the impact of much needed A14 development will be. We have therefore developed an A14 mitigation policy which recognises the role that vegetation (green infrastructure) plays in mitigating noise and air pollution and protects it. Note that this policy is in a separate document because it has only just been finalised and adding in will take a little more reorganisation of the main document
- We have also added a policy which encourages landowners to make available land for through walking and cycle routes both around the Community and between it and its neighbours.
- And finally we have taken out policies which merely replicate what's in South Cambs Local Plan. These are the ones relating to 'retail outlets', 'affordable housing' and 'exception sites'. In no way does this weaken our Plan.

We are now ready to embark on the 'regulation 14 consultation' which will start 1 Oct 18. Details of this consultation are provided in the document 'Reg 14 consultation strategy' which accompanies this update. Council is asked to support this strategy.

All the documents referred to above are available at <https://wp.me/p4i84O-1kX>.