



ENGLEFIELD GREEN VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

**February
2023**

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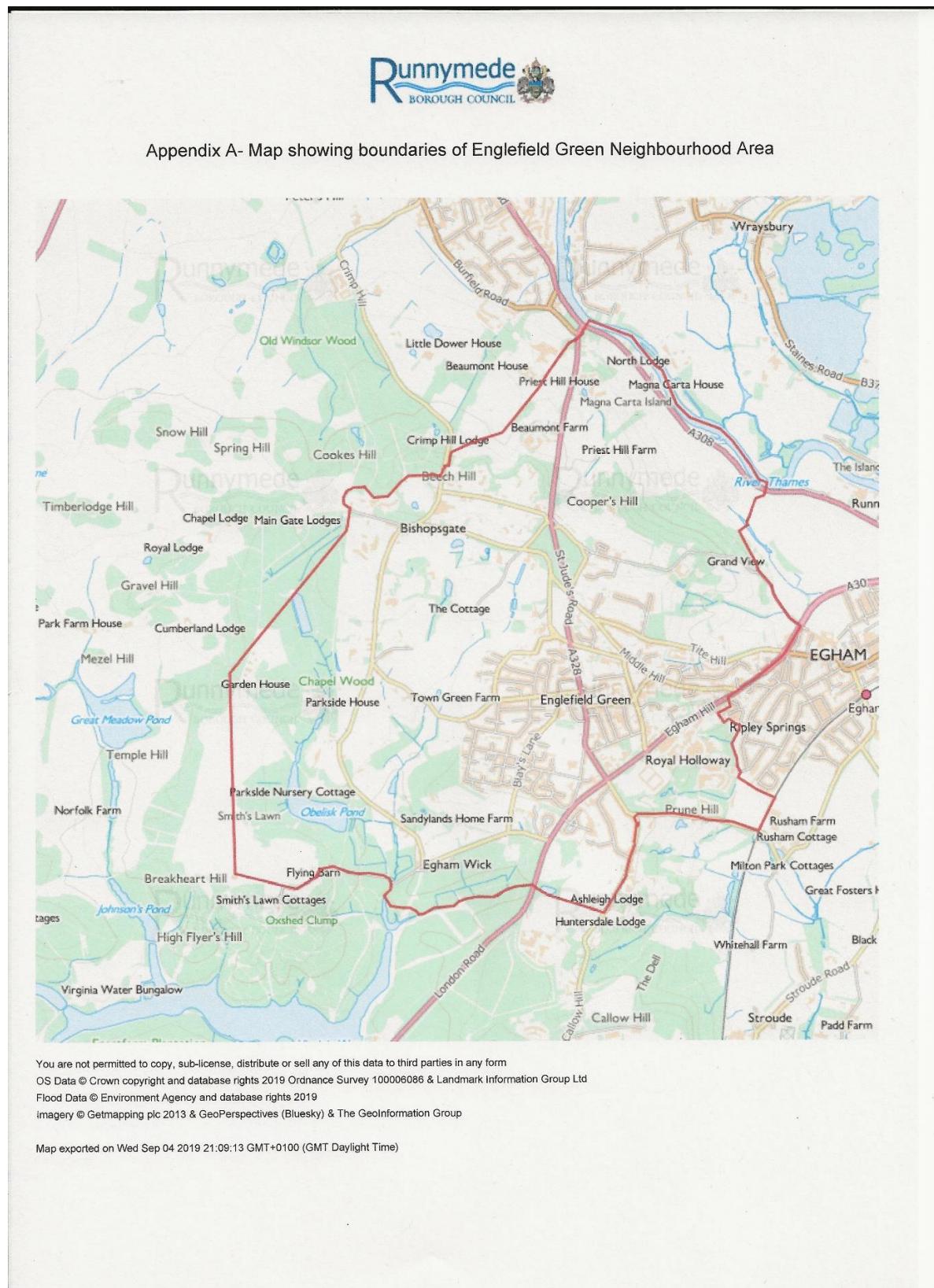
1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement has been prepared by Englefield Green Neighbourhood Forum (EGNF) to accompany the Englefield Green Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2030 (Submission Version January 2023) on submission to Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2. On 13 November 2019, members of Runnymede Borough Council Planning Committee resolved to designate The Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Forum and Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.3. The Neighbourhood Forum Constitution is available to view on RBC’s website <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/downloads/file/1096/egvn-forumconstitution>. The Neighbourhood Area is shown in Figure 1.

2. The Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for the Neighbourhood Area. The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Area and do not relate to any other designated Neighbourhood Area. The plan period is from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2030.
- 2.2. The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain policies relating to excluded development in accordance with the Regulations. The document also contains a number of non-statutory proposals that relate to Aspirations which do not form part of the examined ‘neighbourhood development plan’ but provides a ‘wish list’ that has emerged during consultation that the Forum has considered during the preparation of the document.
- 2.3. This Statement addresses each of the four ‘basic conditions’ required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 2.4. The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
 - Having regard to National Policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan,
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations,
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan.

Figure 1: Map showing extent of Neighbourhood Planning Area



3. Background

- 3.1. The plan preparation has been led by Englefield Green Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee. It has comprised three main stages:
- Evidence gathering and community engagement which has been incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan September 2022 (Draft version); the draft plan and accompanying background documents were published for more than 6 weeks in accordance with regulation 14 of the Regulations.
 - Submission Neighbourhood Plan (January 2023) which takes into account representations received on the earlier version and has been modified for submission to RBC; it is accompanied by the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement, Englefield Green Design Codes (by Aecom), Masterplans (by Aecom), History Report; Demography Report, Questionnaire Report, Placemaking Report, Biodiversity and Green Spaces Report (by Surrey Wildlife Trust), Housing Audit, Survey of Non-designated Heritage Assets, Views Report, Placemaking and Movement (by I-Transport).
- 3.2. The Steering Committee has consulted the local community extensively throughout the process.
- 3.3. The website <https://egvplan.org.uk/> has been used throughout the process to disseminate information, act as a depository for documentation and to publicise consultations.
- 3.4. A number of methods to raise awareness have been used, including banners, flyers and notices on noticeboards around the Area.
- 3.5. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was formally consulted upon from 12th September to 6th November 2022. Full details are set out in the separate Consultation Report.
- 3.6. It has also worked closely with officers of RBC since the start of the project to collate and examine the evidence base, to design and iterate policy proposals and to define the proper relationship between the NP and the Local Plan.
- 3.7. The Plan has not duplicated Local Plan policies which will be used in determining planning applications. This has allowed the Neighbourhood Plan to focus on a smaller number of locally relevant and important policies.

4. Conformity with National Planning Policy

- 4.1. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) and the revised Framework of July 2021 and is mindful of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) in respect of formulating neighbourhood plans.
- 4.2. There are several NPPF paragraphs that provide general guidance on neighbourhood planning, to which the Neighbourhood Plan has directly responded:
- 4.3. In relation to the presumption in favour of sustainable development:
- Paragraph 12: the development plan is the starting point for decision making and this includes any neighbourhood plan.
 - Paragraph 13: neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies.
 - Paragraph 14: reminds us of the adverse impact of allowing development that conflicts with the neighbourhood plan is likely to be significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits provided, four criteria apply.

- 4.4. The Neighbourhood Forum believes that the Neighbourhood Plan is planning positively for future development in the Area and supports the delivery of the strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan as advised in the above paragraphs of the NPPF.
- 4.5. Paragraphs 18 and 21 advise that policies to address non-strategic matters and detailed matters should be included within neighbourhood plans, and the Neighbourhood Plan contains such policies.
- 4.6. Advice on non-strategic policies and the role of neighbourhood plans is identified in paragraphs 29 and 30. The Neighbourhood Plan establishes a shared vision for the area and its policies shape, direct and help deliver sustainable development. It has sought to translate aims into a number of meaningful planning policies to complement other development plan policies for managing development.
- 4.7. The Neighbourhood Plan strikes a positive balance between the policy constraints of the Area and the need to support the general requirements of the development plan as set out in section 5 below.
- 4.8. The Neighbourhood Plan avoids duplicating development plan policies by focusing on policies that translate the general requirements of the development plan into a local context. Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan should be easily considered alongside the development plan and any other material considerations in determining planning applications.
- 4.9. Set out below is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

Table 1: NPPF Conformity

Policy	Policy Title	NPPF Para no.	Commentary
ND1	Development within the Settlement Boundary	79, 144, 149	The emphasis on supporting new development within the Settlement Boundary is consistent with NPPF policies, including Green Belt policy.
ND2	First Homes	62	Housing should be provided for different groups in the community.
ND3	Blays Lane/Wick Road allocated site	126, 127, 129	The NPPF requires the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places and good design in the form of locally produced design guides and codes. This policy applies this principle at a site level with the supporting master plan document.
ND4	Coopers Hill site	126, 127, 129	The NPPF requires the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places and good design in the form of locally produced design guides and codes. This policy applies this principle at a site level with the supporting master plan document.
ND5	High Quality Design	92, 126, 127, 130, 134	This policy seeks high quality sustainable design for new development which respects the character of the Area.
ND6	Provision of Sustainable Buildings	8c, 152, 154, 157	Ensuring that new development is built sustainably and is energy and water efficient.

Policy	Policy Title	NPPF Para no.	Commentary
C1	Retaining the Rural Character	126, 127, 130, 174, 175	Sets the context for new development to ensure rural character is retained.
C2	Special Views	126, 127, 130, 174	In an Area such as this, the retention of special views will contribute to the protection of the landscape and special character of the Area.
HE1	Conservation Area and its Setting	130, 189, 190, 191, 194, 195, 199, 201, 207	Seeks to emphasise the importance of high quality design and development in and close to the Conservation Area
HE2	Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets	130, 189, 195, 199, 201, 203	Seeks to conserve and non-designated historic assets and their setting
NE1	Green and Blue Infrastructure	174, 175, 179	Green and Blue infrastructure including existing networks will be protected and enhanced
NE2	Biodiversity	174, 179, 180	New development is expected to retain natural features, and enhance them, provide at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity and plant new landscaping.
NE3	Trees, Hedgerows and Planting	130, 131	Trees and hedgerows are an intrinsic part of landscape and biodiversity qualities of the Area and their role is to be protected and enhanced.
CF1	Community facilities	92,93,	Promotes protection of existing community facilities which are locally valued and increase community cohesion.
CF2	Local Green Spaces	101, 102, 103	Designates Local Green Spaces in line with the criteria set out in the NPPF.
ES1	Supporting Local Employment	81, 84, 85,	New businesses and expansion of existing businesses are supported in line with the NPPF principle of building a strong competitive economy
ES2	Local Centre and Commercial facilities	84, 86, 92, 93	Appropriate business uses will be supported and retained, including Class E premises. Supporting such businesses will improve social cohesion where local people are encouraged to interact.
ES3	Public Houses	83	Supporting such businesses will improve social cohesion where local people are encouraged to interact.
I1	Infrastructure provision	55, 57	The planning system allows for development to be accompanied by planning obligations which ensure that contributions to facilities and infrastructure are made to accompany new development.
TT1	Car Parking	107, 108	Requires new parking for new development and retain existing off road parking spaces.
TT2	Storage for bicycles and mobility aids	104, 106, 112	Providing storage for cycles and mobility aids encourages accessibility, sustainable transport and addresses the needs of people with reduced mobility in line with NPPF policy, particularly in a location where there is a large student population.

Policy	Policy Title	NPPF Para no.	Commentary
TT3	Provision for pedestrians and cyclists	100, 104, 106	New development to provide pavements and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety particularly important in a location where there is a large student population.
RHUL1	RHUL Development Proposals	93, 96	The Forum wishes to work proactively and positively with RHUL to plan for required facilities and resolve planning issues before applications are submitted.

5. Contribution to Sustainable Development

- 5.1. The basic condition of “contributing to the achievement of sustainable development” requires a broad scope of assessment to embrace social and economic as well as environmental objectives.
- 5.2. The vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals. The social goals are to retain and encourage the local facilities including green and blue infrastructure. Economic goals are relatively limited in scale in the Area, but the provision of local businesses including RHUL and shops is recognised. Environmental goals include the protection and enhancement of the area’s natural and historic environment.
- 5.3. However, the aims make clear that there are environmental parameters within which the social and economic goals must be kept by ensuring development is in scale with the character of the existing village and Area.
- 5.4. The chosen policies therefore translate the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan into viable and effective development management policies which will deliver strong social, economic and environmental impacts.
- 5.5. The sustainability attributes of each policy are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Sustainability Attributes

Key: *positive - neutral x negative

Policy	Policy Title	Soc	Econ	Env	Commentary
ND1	Development within the Settlement Boundary	*	*	*	Supporting development within the settlement ensures that development is compact which contributes to social interaction and reduces the impact on the environment. There is a minimal economic positive impact because the policy allows for appropriate development.
ND2	First Homes	*	-	-	Housing should be provided for different groups in the community including first time buyers which has a beneficial social impact.
ND3	Blays Lane/Wick Road allocated site	*	*	-	In economic terms, this policy is positive because well designed places can ensure value is retained/increased, plus the investment during building works and associated employment in the location. It is positive in social terms as there will be more residents but neutral in environmental terms because although it seeks to ensure that important biodiversity features are retained and enhanced, some features will be lost to development.
ND4	Coopers Hill site	*	*	-	In economic terms, this policy is positive because well designed places can ensure value is retained/increased,

Policy	Policy Title	Soc	Econ	Env	Commentary
					plus the investment during building works and associated employment in the location. It is positive in social terms as there will be more residents but neutral in environmental terms because although it seeks to ensure that important biodiversity features are retained and enhanced, some features will be lost to development.
ND5	High Quality Design	*	*	*	In economic terms, this policy is only slightly positive because well designed places and buildings can ensure value is retained/increased, but it is positive in environmental and social terms. It seeks to ensure that important design and biodiversity features are retained and enhanced
ND6	Provision of Sustainable Buildings	-	*	*	Ensuring that new development is built sustainably and is energy and water efficient.
C1	Retaining the Rural Character	*	*	*	Ensures rural character is retained which is beneficial to both the environment and the wellbeing of residents. There is a minimal economic positive impact because the policy allows for appropriate development.
C2	Special Views	*	-	*	Ensures the character of the area is retained which adds to residents well being and also is positive for the environment (landscape). There is no economic impact.
HE1	Conservation Area and its Setting	*	-	*	This policy will deliver a very positive impact on the historic environment and enhance the wellbeing of residents through sympathetic design
HE2	Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets	*	-	*	This policy will deliver a very positive impact on the historic environment and enhance the wellbeing of residents through sympathetic design
NE1	Green and Blue Infrastructure	*	-	*	Provides a positive impact for the natural environment and for the sense of place which can enhance the wellbeing of residents.
NE2	Biodiversity	*	-	*	Provides a positive impact for the natural environment and for the sense of place which can enhance the wellbeing of residents.
NE3	Trees, Hedgerows and Planting	*	-	*	Provides a positive impact for the natural environment and for the sense of place which can enhance the wellbeing of residents.
CF1	Community facilities	*	*	*	The retention and encouragement of community facilities will clearly be positive in terms of wellbeing and social aspects of village life as well as retaining local businesses.
CF2	Local Green Spaces	*	-	*	This policy protects green spaces from being developed and therefore has a positive social and environmental impact
ES1	Supporting Local Employment	*	*	x	Local employment being supported has benefits to both the economy and social aspects of sustainability. Environmental factors may be negatively impacted,

Policy	Policy Title	Soc	Econ	Env	Commentary
					depending on levels of traffic and the impact of building and activity on the environment.
ES2	Local Centre and Commercial facilities	*	*	-	Supporting local business is very important and contributes to the economic aspect of sustainable development. Retaining neighbourhood centre facilities is very positive for social cohesion.
ES3	Public Houses	*	*	-	Supporting local business is very important and contributes to the economic aspect of sustainable development. Retaining pub facilities is very positive for social cohesion.
I1	Infrastructure provision	*	*	*	This policy is positive for all sustainability aspects because it ensures that new development is accompanied by essential infrastructure and social facilities and services.
TT1	Car Parking	-	-	x	Encouraging parking could be seen as having a negative impact on the environment in terms of emissions etc.
TT2	Storage for bicycles and mobility aids	*	-	*	Providing storage for cycles and mobility aids encourages sustainable transport which is good for the environment and health and well being of residents.
TT3	Provision for pedestrians and cyclists	*	-	*	The provision of footpaths and cycleways improve the health of residents and also is a positive benefit for the environment, reducing pollution.
RHUL1	RHUL Development Proposals	-	-	-	The impact of this policy is neutral because whilst expansion of the RHUL may have benefits nationally and regionally, the impact on local residents is likely to be negative.

6. General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

- 6.1. Englefield Green Neighbourhood Area lies within the local planning authority of the Runnymede Borough Council. The Development Plan currently consists of the following:
 - Runnymede Local Plan 2030 which was adopted in July 2020. This Local Plan includes policies for development management as well as allocating sites for new housing and employment development.
 - The 'Made' Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan
 - Policy NRM6: THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA of the South East Plan
 - Adopted Surrey County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Framework (various dates)
- 6.2. There is a requirement for neighbourhood plans to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with this in mind.
- 6.3. **Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan:** the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan is beyond the boundaries of the Englefield Green Neighbourhood Area.
- 6.4. **South East Plan:** Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan relates to the Thames Basin Heath SPA and the 5-7km Buffer Zone runs through the Area. However, there are no allocations proposed in the NP which would necessitate an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations Assessment. Accordingly the NP is in conformity with this policy.
- 6.5. **Minerals and Waste Development Framework** (Surrey County Council): There is a mineral safeguarding area (MSA) to the west of the main village, within the Area that the Neighbourhood

Plan covers. Minerals and Waste Planning Authority seeks to safeguard MSAs from other development that would sterilise the underlying mineral resource as per Policy MC6 of the Surrey Minerals Plan. The Minerals and Waste Planning Authority is concerned not only with non-minerals development within MSAs but also development proposed adjacent or within proximity to a MSA or an existing mineral working. This is mentioned in paragraph 2.4 (page 5) of the NP. There are no designations for development or Local Green Space within the MSA and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with this Policy.

- 6.6. **Runnymede Local Plan 2030:** Paragraph 5.14 of the Local Plan states that policies within the Local Plan are considered strategic policies where they set out an overarching strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for development (including housing etc), infrastructure, community facilities and the conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment. The policies which are considered to be non-strategic are set out.
- 6.7. The following table sets out the comparison of Neighbourhood Plan policies with policies from the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with all relevant policies in the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan policies have been designed to add local context to the existing development plan policies of the area.

Table 3: Conformity with RBC Local Plan (Non-strategic policies are shown in *italics*)

Policy	Policy Title	Local Plan Policy	Assessment
ND1	Development within the Settlement Boundary	<i>EE14</i>	This NP policy clarifies what is appropriate development within the settlement boundary of the Neighbourhood Area (Englefield Green village).
ND2	First Homes	SL20	The NP policy adds to the LP policy by including a government scheme not available at the time the LP was adopted.
ND3	Blays Lane/Wick Road allocated site	SD2, SL5, EE1	This site is allocated in the Local Plan. The NP policy allows more detailed issues and criteria to be considered through the master plan produced by AECOM to ensure that the development of this site is of high quality and least impact on the local area and environment.
ND4	Coopers Hill site	EE1, EE17	The NP policy allows more detailed issues and criteria to be considered through the master plan produced by AECOM to ensure that the development of this site is of high quality and least impact on the local area and environment.
ND5	High Quality Design	EE1	The NP policy seeks to ensure that development is of high quality, reflecting the detailed context of Englefield Green as set out in the Design Codes which is a background document to the NP. This complements the LP policy.
ND6	Provision of Sustainable Buildings	SD7, SD8,	The provision of sustainable and efficient buildings, design and construction is of critical importance to the future. This NP policy complements the LP policies and signposts the Design Codes and other relevant background information.
C1	Retaining the Rural Character	EE1	The LP policy is very general and the NP policy provides more detailed policy requirements.

Policy	Policy Title	Local Plan Policy	Assessment
C2	Special Views	EE1	The LP policy is very general and the NP policy provides more detailed policy requirements.
HE1	Conservation Area and its Setting	EE3, EE5	The importance of the Conservation Area and its setting is a critical component of the character of Englefield Green, centred on the Green. There isn't yet an updated Conservation Area document, although this is currently being produced by Surrey County Council. This NP policy is in conformity with LP policies.
HE2	Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets	EE8	There are a large number of important historic buildings and features in the Area currently not highlighted or protected for their historic importance. The NP identifies those assets of merit, the details of the methodology and assessment are set out in the background evidence report. This policy adds detail to the non-strategic policy in the LP.
NE1	Green and Blue Infrastructure	SL1, EE11, EE12	The LP has fairly detailed policies regarding Green and Blue Infrastructure as well as an SPD. The NP has a background document produced by Surrey Wildlife Trust which provides a comprehensive review of relevant policies, designations and aims for wildlife, green spaces and green and blue infrastructure for Englefield Green. The NP policy signposts this document and generally supports the retention and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure in line with the LP policies.
NE2	Biodiversity	SD7, EE9,	The NP has a background document produced by Surrey Wildlife Trust which provides a comprehensive review of relevant policies, designations and aims for wildlife, green spaces and green and blue infrastructure for Englefield Green. The NP policy signposts this document and generally supports the concept of biodiversity net gain, encouraging the provision of 20% rather than 10% which will be required by legislation. This aim is in general conformity with the LP policy which does not specify a %.
NE3	Trees, Hedgerows and Planting	EE11	There is no specific LP policy regarding trees and hedgerows in the LP, although Tree Preservation Orders are mentioned in EE11. The NP policy is more specific, seeking to retain and enhance natural features and requires planting of trees.
CF1	Community facilities	SD6, SL1	The LP puts great importance on retaining community facilities and the NP policy identifies those of most value in the Area, seeking to retain them and encouraging new facilities to be provided.
CF2	Local Green Spaces	SL1, SL25, SL27	This policy designates Local Green Space in accordance with NPPF criteria, adding to LP policy SL27 and supporting the principles set out in SL1
ES1	Supporting Local Employment	IE4	LP policy supports the visitor economy which is relevant to the Area which has several important visitor attractions. There is no LP policy supporting new and expanding local small scale businesses. The NP policy seeks to support such development provided that the local area and residents are not adversely affected.

Policy	Policy Title	Local Plan Policy	Assessment
ES2	Local Centre and Commercial facilities	SD6, IE5, IE13, IE14	The NP policy seeks to retain important local shopping and community facilities within the village centre and also the services outside the centre, to serve local people where they can be accessed by active and sustainable modes of transport.
ES3	Public Houses	SD6	LP policy SD6 does not make it clear whether pubs are considered to be a community facility or a social facility. The pubs in the Area make a very important contribution to the recreation and social facilities available and therefore the NP policy sets out the terms for their retention.
I1	Infrastructure provision	SD5	Policy SD5 expects development proposals to deliver infrastructure through on site provision or financial contributions. The NP policy clarifies which infrastructure and facilities are relevant to the provision of infrastructure for Englefield Green.
TT1	Car Parking	SD4	As is common in most places in the UK with older housing stock, parked cars is a problem and therefore new development must provide adequate parking both for housing and public facilities. The NP policy elaborates on LP policy which mentions parking.
TT2	Storage for bicycles and mobility aids	SD7	This is a particularly important issue for Englefield Green due to the large number of students who cycle and the rise in e-scooters. The NP policy emphasizes this, adds references to e-scooters, mobility scooters, charging points and very much complements the aims of the LP policy.
TT3	Provision for pedestrians and cyclists	SD3, SD4, SL1	This is a particularly important issue for Englefield Green due to the large number of students who use footpaths and cycleways, the NP policy emphasizes this and very much complements the aims of the LP policies.
RHUL1	RHUL Development Proposals	SD1, SL23	The inclusion of this policy in the NP is very important for local people to understand that RHUL has a Masterplan in place and new RHUL development must be considered against the impact that it may have on the local landscape and residents. It adds detail to the LP policies.

7. Compatibility with EU Legislation and other Prescribed Conditions

- 7.1. **Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment.** RBC have issued a final screening assessment, determination and statement of reasons for the determination of the need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the emerging Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with EU Directives, as incorporated into English law. The report is dated 17th February 2023 and the conclusion at Paragraphs 8.4 and 8.5 is as below.

‘8.4 Therefore, Runnymede Borough Council determines that the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and thus does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).’

‘8.5 Runnymede Borough Council also determines that the Englefield Green Village Neighbourhood Plan will not give rise to significant effects on National Network sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects. Given the findings of the screening assessment it is considered that a full appropriate assessment is not required.’

- 7.2. The Neighbourhood Plan has accordingly been prepared in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42 on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as incorporated into English law. The conclusions of the screening assessment outlined above also demonstrate that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan will not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The SEA/HRA Screening Report including the responses from the statutory bodies has been submitted as part of the Regulation 15 submission documents.
- 7.3. **Human Rights.** The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act. The overall purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to improve the quality of life for people living and working now and in the future in the Area from an environmental, social and economic point of view. The aims and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have been formulated in response to local people’s views and in the light of evidence gathered for the Area, in order to meet the needs expressed and address the issues identified. In order to confirm that the NP does not have any unintended consequences for particular groups the strategic aims and the policies in the Plan have been systematically scrutinised to ensure that they do not disadvantage any potentially vulnerable groups. The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. “Protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 7.4. An assessment has been made on whether the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics.
- 7.5. Certain protected characteristics are not affected by the Neighbourhood Plan, namely gender reassignment, race, religion, or sexual orientation. For persons with these characteristics, the Plan has a neutral effect. Where policies in the Plan would adversely affect persons with these protected characteristics, they would not be differently affected than persons without these characteristics. For example, if a person with these protected characteristics were disadvantaged by a policy, it would have the same consequence for a person without the protected characteristic who wished to do the same thing. Similarly, if a person with one of these protected characteristics were to benefit from a policy, it would have the same benefit for a person without the protected characteristic in the same way.

Table 4: Human Rights

7.1. Policy	Policy Title	Outcomes for persons with certain protected characteristics
ND1	Development within the Settlement Boundary	Broadly positive impact

7.1. Policy	Policy Title	Outcomes for persons with certain protected characteristics
ND2	First Homes	Broadly positive impact
ND3	Blays Lane/Wick Road allocated site	Neutral impact
ND4	Coopers Hill site	Neutral impact
ND5	High Quality Design	Broadly positive impact
ND6	Provision of Sustainable Buildings	Neutral impact
C1	Retaining the Rural Character	Neutral impact
C2	Special Views	Neutral impact
HE1	Conservation Area and its Setting	Neutral impact
HE2	Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets	Neutral impact
NE1	Green and Blue Infrastructure	Broadly positive impact
NE2	Biodiversity	Neutral impact
NE3	Trees, Hedgerows and Planting	Neutral impact
CF1	Community facilities	Broadly positive impact
CF2	Local Green Spaces	Broadly positive impact
ES1	Supporting Local Employment	Broadly positive impact
ES2	Local Centre and Commercial facilities	Broadly positive impact
ES3	Public Houses	Broadly positive impact
I1	Infrastructure provision	Neutral impact
TT1	Car Parking	Neutral impact
TT2	Storage for bicycles and mobility aids	Broadly positive impact
TT3	Provision for pedestrians and cyclists	Broadly positive impact
RHUL1	RHUL Development Proposals	Neutral impact

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. Englefield Green Neighbourhood Plan has been carefully prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and satisfies the Basic Conditions as set out in Paragraph 2.4 thereby contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.