

BOTESDALE &
RICKINGHALL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2017-2036



BOTESDALE &
RICKINGHALL
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

January 2019

Prepared by Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils

Prepared for Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils by



January 2019

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1 Introduction

As part of the formal submission of the Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan (BRNP) for Examination, there is a requirement for the Parish Councils, as the 'qualifying bodies' to illustrate that they have complied with a series of 'basic conditions' as set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as Amended). This Statement accompanies the submission to the local planning authority, Mid Suffolk District Council, of the BRNP under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations"). Regulation 15 requires a submission neighbourhood development plan to be accompanied by "*a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act*".

This statement has been prepared in order to confirm compliance with these basic conditions as follows:

- Section 2 identifies the legislative requirements for the 'basic conditions';
- Section 3 identifies the matters that the appointed examiner must consider and confirms how the neighbourhood plan responds to them;
- Sections 4 to 9 set out the basic conditions and review how the neighbourhood plan meets these requirements;
- Section 10 confirms that the neighbourhood plan is compatible with the Convention Rights.

It is considered that the neighbourhood plan (NP) complies with the requirements of the basic conditions as set out in Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

2. Legal Requirements

2.1 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) identifies the "Basic Conditions" that the neighbourhood plan must comply with.

2.2 Paragraph 8 (1) states that the examiner must consider:

- (a) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions (see subparagraph (2)),
- (b) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 38A and 38B of this Act,
- (d) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood development plan relates, and
- (e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

2.3 Paragraph 8 (2) states that a draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:

- (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan,
- (d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
- (e) 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),
- (f) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and
- (g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood development plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood development plan.

The requirements of Paragraph 8(2)(b), (2)(c) (3), (4) and (5) are not of relevance to the compliance with the basic conditions tests.

2.4 Paragraph 8 (6) stipulates that the examiner is not to consider any matter that does not fall within subparagraph (1) apart from considering whether the draft neighbourhood plan is compatible with the Convention rights.

2.5 On 28 December 2018 the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 came into force. Amongst other things, these Regulations amend the basic condition prescribed in Regulation 32 and Schedule 2 (Habitats) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) which stated:

- The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

The Regulations substitute a new basic condition which states:

- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Meeting the Legal Requirements

Compliance with the individual elements of the legal requirements is set out below.

Requirement	Interpretation	BRNP response
4B 8 (1)(a) Whether the Draft NP meets the Basic Conditions	This requires the BRNP to demonstrate compliance with paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the T&CP Act.	This is considered in detail in later sections of this Statement.
4B 8 (1)(b) Whether The Draft Order Complies with Sections 38A & 38B of the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	This requires the draft order to comply with Sections 38A & 38B of the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Section 38A sets out the "Meaning of Neighbourhood Development Plan".	Compliance with Sections 38A and 38B is demonstrated in the following rows.
	Section 38A(1) "any qualifying body is entitled to initiate a process for the purpose of requiring a Local Planning Authority in England to make a Neighbourhood Development Plan."	The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils, a qualifying body (as defined in the Localism Act 2011),
	Section 38A(2) A "Neighbourhood Development Plan is a plan which sets out policies (however expressed) in relation to the development and use of land in the whole or any part of a particular neighbourhood area specified in the plan."	The BRNP sets out Policies that relate to the development and use of land for the Neighbourhood Area covering the Parishes of Botesdale and Rickinghall, as designated by Mid Suffolk District Council on 11 May 2017. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area is shown in Map 1 in the BRNP
	Section 38A, Paragraphs (3) - (12)	These paragraphs are not of relevance to the submission phase of the NP
	Section 38B1(a) The Neighbourhood Development Plan "Must specify the period for which it is to have effect."	The plan period of the BRNP is from 2017 to 2036
	Section 38B1(b) A Neighbourhood Development Plan "may not include provision about development that is excluded development."	The BRNP does not contain policies relating to excluded development as defined in Section 61K of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
	Section 38B1(c) A Neighbourhood Development Plan may not relate to more than one neighbourhood area	The BRNP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It solely relates to the Neighbourhood Plan Area as designated by Mid Suffolk District Council on 11 May 2017.
	Section 38B(2) Only one Neighbourhood Development Plan may be made for each neighbourhood area.	There are currently no other NP's in place in this neighbourhood area.
	Section 38B(3) If to any extent a policy set out in a Neighbourhood Development Plan	There are no conflicts within the BRNP

Requirement	Interpretation	BRNP response
	<p>conflicts with any other statement or information in the plan, the conflict must be resolved in favour of the policy.</p> <p>Section 38B(4)(a) Regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provisions for "restricting the provision that may be included in Neighbourhood Development Plans about the use of land." These Regulations are set out in Statutory Instrument 2012 No 637, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>Section 38B(4)(b) Regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provisions "requiring Neighbourhood Development Plans to include such matters as are prescribed in the Regulations."</p> <p>Section 38B, which include paragraphs 38B(4)(c), 5 & 6,</p>	<p></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have been used to inform the preparation of the BRNP.</p> <p>A screening process was carried out by the local planning authority to determine whether a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required in support of the BRNP. In both cases it was considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects and that no European sites would be affected by the policies described in the BRNP.</p> <p>The remaining requirements are not of relevance to this Basic Conditions Statement</p>
4B 8 (1)(d) Whether The Referendum Should Extend Beyond The NP Area	This requires the examiner to consider whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the NP Area to which it relates.	The BRNP relates solely to land that falls within the Parish of Botesdale and Rickinghall.
4B 8 (1)(e) Other Matters 3.28.	This requires the examiner to consider such other matters as may be prescribed	There are no other prescribed matters.
Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018	These Regulations require an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan to be carried out should the SEA and HRA Screening Opinion deem it necessary.	The SEA and HRA Screening Opinion has concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is not required.

3. Compliance with Basic Conditions

Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act sets out the basic conditions that must be met by a draft Neighbourhood Plan. Subsections (a), (d), (e), (f), and (g) are of relevance to this statement.

The Regulations state that the neighbourhood plan will have met the basic conditions if it:

1. Has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
2. Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. Is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area; and
4. Is compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Right (ECHR) obligations.

3.1 National Policy

The Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policy. The following section describes how the BRNP relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was originally published in 2012 and amended in July 2018. However, the transitional arrangements for the introduction of the new NPPF states that, where a neighbourhood plan is submitted to the local planning authority before 24 January 2019, then the 2012 NPPF will apply for the purposes of examining the plan. This Basic Conditions Statement therefore assesses the Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan against the provisions of the 2012 NPPF.

The 2012 NPPF is framed around a basic premise of the presumption in favour of sustainable development, comprising three main dimensions: economic, social and environmental. It requires the planning system, including the Neighbourhood Plan, where appropriate, to:

- contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

The 2012 NPPF, based on its principle of the presumption in favour of sustainable development, contains 12 core planning principles and 13 sustainability goals. The following section identifies how the Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the basic condition of having regard to the 12 core planning principles.

Core Planning Principles appraisal

NPPF Core Principle	Botesdale and Rickinghall NP Objectives	Botesdale and Rickinghall NP Policies
<p>Plan-led</p> <p>Enhance and improve places</p>	<p>All the BRNP objectives apply this approach</p> <p>All the BRNP objectives apply this approach</p>	<p>The Plan provides a positive vision to shape the villages and deliver change</p> <p>Policy B&R1 - Ensures that Botesdale and Rickinghall plans positively for the amount and location of new development in the villages during the plan period and commensurate with their Key Service Centre designation.</p> <p>Policy B&R12 – Designates an area of high landscape value as an Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity.</p> <p>Policy B&R13 - Ensures that locally identified green spaces that meet the national criteria are protected from inappropriate development.</p> <p>Policy B&R14 – Identifies locally significant heritage assets.</p> <p>Policy B&R15 – Protects identified and designated heritage assets.</p> <p>Policy B&R16 – Sets out a number of criteria against which the design of new development will be judged.</p> <p>Policy B&R20 - Protects local facilities and services from being lost.</p> <p>Policy B&R21 – Safeguards open space, sport and recreation facilities.</p>
<p>Sustainable transport</p>	<p>Objective 10: Deliver development that is permeable by pedestrians and cyclists and has improved access to rights of way in and around the villages.</p> <p>Objective 14: Support and encourage safe and sustainable transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>Objective 15: Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education</p>	<p>Policy B&R16 – Sets out a number of criteria against which the design of new development will be judged.</p> <p>Policy B&R20 - Protects local facilities and services from being lost.</p> <p>Policy B&R22 – Seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way.</p>

Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019

NPPF Core Principle	Botesdale and Rickinghall NP Objectives	Botesdale and Rickinghall NP Policies
Economic Development	<p>and employment.</p> <p>Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community.</p> <p>Objective 13 Support small-scale business creation and retention.</p>	<p>Policy B&R17 – Seeks to retain existing employment sites.</p> <p>Policy B&R18 – Supports the creation of new business and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Policy B&R19 – Supports the conversion of farm buildings to employment uses.</p>
High quality design and standard of amenity	<p>Objective 1 Conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Botesdale and Rickinghall.</p> <p>Objective 2 Protect and improve the features which contribute to historic character.</p> <p>Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.</p>	<p>Policy B&R10 – Seeks to ensure that new homes are built to Lifetime Homes standards.</p> <p>Policy B&R11 – Sets minimum floorspace standards for new homes.</p> <p>Policy B&R16 – Sets design criteria against which new proposals will be assessed.</p> <p>Policy B&R20 – Protects against the loss of shops, facilities and services.</p>
Health, social and cultural well being	<p>Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services.</p> <p>Objective 14 Support and encourage safe and sustainable transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>Objective 15 Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education and employment.</p>	<p>Policy B&R21 – Safeguards open space, sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Policy B&R10 - Seeks to ensure that new homes are built to Lifetime Homes standards.</p> <p>Policy B&R20 – Protects against the loss of shops, facilities and services.</p> <p>Policy B&R21 – Safeguards open space, sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Policy B&R22 – Seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way.</p>

3.2 The Sustainability Policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The following section compares the thirteen Sustainable Development themes of the 2012 NPPF with those of the Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan.

1. Building a strong, competitive economy

The Neighbourhood Plan acknowledges the Core Strategy designation as a Key Service Centre and promotes the retention and appropriate expansion of employment opportunities commensurate with the village's size and location.

Policy B&R17 – Seeks to retain existing employment sites.

Policy B&R18 – Supports the creation of new business and employment opportunities.

Policy B&R19 – Supports the conversion of farm buildings to employment uses

2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres

Shops and amenities located in the village are supported by Policy B&R20 which seeks to protect locally important services and facilities.

3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy

A number of policies in the Plan encourage the retention and increased provision of appropriate forms of employment.

Policy B&R17 – Seeks to retain existing employment sites.

Policy B&R18 – Supports the creation of new business and employment opportunities.

Policy B&R19 – Supports the conversion of farm buildings to employment uses.

4. Promoting sustainable transport

Policy B&R10 - requires new housing to provide electric vehicle charging points.

Policy B&R11 - requires covered cycle parking in new homes in accordance with adopted cycle parking standards.

Policy B&R22 - seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way

5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure

The Plan is supportive of improving access of residents and businesses to broadband and the mobile network. Policy B&R10 requires new homes to provide suitable ducting that will be capable of accepting fibre cables to enable the provision of superfast broadband.

6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.

Paragraph 50 of the 2012 NPPF requires plans to cater for current and future needs, to identify size, type and tenure, and to provide affordable housing where needed. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies amount of new housing that will be constructed during the Plan period and allocates sites where the majority of these homes will be built. In addition, Policy B&R8 make provision for the delivery of local needs affordable housing on exception sites in the village.

Policies B&R10 and B&R11 seek to ensure that all new homes are built to a high standard in terms space standards and meeting the needs of all potential occupants.

7. Requiring good design.

The requirement for new development to be of a high-quality design is a central theme of the Plan. The content of the Plan has been informed by a Landscape Character Appraisal and a Locality grant funded Design Support Document.

Policy B&R16 seeks to ensure that new development reflects the local characteristics and circumstances in the Plan area and create and contribute to a high quality, safe and sustainable environment.

8. Promoting healthy communities

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that any development is proportionate to local need and that services and infrastructure is capable of accommodating such growth.

Policy B&R 13 designates sites that meet the NPPF Local Green Space criteria.

Policy B&R21 – Safeguards open space, sport and recreation facilities.

Policy B&R22 – Seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way.

9. Protecting Green Belt land

The Botesdale and Rickingham Neighbourhood Area does not include any designated green belt.

10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Policy B&R16, in particular, promotes the inclusion of measures in new homes that will promote environmental sustainability and resource efficiency. This includes rain water harvesting and recycling, which will reduce the risk of surface water flooding arising from developments.

11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

The NPPF requires the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. The landscape setting of the village is especially important, as has been described in the Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Character Appraisal. The Plan has been prepared to have particular regard to the landscape and ensure that it is not undermined by inappropriate development.

Policy B&R12 – Designates an area of high landscape value as an Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity.

Policy B&R13 - Ensures that locally identified green spaces that meet the national criteria are protected from inappropriate development.

Policy B&R16 – Sets design criteria against which new proposals will be assessed, including having regard to the impact on the natural environment.

12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

The presence of the important heritage assets has informed and shaped the strategy of the Plan. A Historic Character Appraisal has been undertaken to supplement the Conservation Area Appraisal. It has identified a number of locally important heritage assets that are not statutorily protected. Furthermore, the Design Support Document has helped to inform the Neighbourhood Plan planning policies.

Policy B&R14 – Identifies locally significant heritage assets.

Policy B&R15 – Protects identified and designated heritage assets.

Policy B&R16 – Sets out a number of criteria against which the design of new development will be judged.

13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Mineral extraction is excluded development and is therefore not dealt with in the DNNDP.

3.3 Achieving Sustainable Development

The Neighbourhood Plan is required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF and summarised elsewhere in this Basic Conditions Statement. Paragraph 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) states that there are three dimensions to sustainable development:

- to contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy,
- to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities; and
- to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

The following statements identify how the BRNP delivers sustainable development.

How the BRNP Objectives relate to the three NPPF dimensions of sustainable development

NPPF Component	BRNP Objectives
Economic	Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community. Objective 13 Support small-scale business creation and retention.
Social	Objective 8 Deliver housing that is tailored to the needs of local residents, and specifically includes affordable housing provision. Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services. Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community. Objective 14 Support and encourage safe and sustainable transport, including walking, cycling and public transport. Objective 15 Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education and employment.
Environmental	Objective 1 Conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Botesdale and Rickinghall. Objective 2 Protect and improve the features which contribute to historic character. Objective 3 Maintain the villages' rural setting. Objective 4 Protect the important green spaces, woodland and countryside and public rights of way. Objective 5 Protect important views and links to the wider countryside. Objective 6 Promote the inclusion of native planting in and around existing and new developments. Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.

3.4 How the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan policies achieves sustainable development

The table below identifies the purpose of each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan and its intended outcome in relation to achieving sustainable development as defined by the 2012 NPPF.

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
B&R1	Ensures that Botesdale and Rickingham plans positively for the amount and location of new development in the villages during the plan period and commensurate with their Key Service Centre designation.	Ensures that Botesdale and Rickingham plans positively for the amount and location of new housing required in the village during the plan period. Directs new development to locations within or closely related to the main part of the village where the exiting services and facilities are located and ensures development will be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of the villages.
B&R2	Identifies the amount of housing growth planned and sets out how the requirement will be delivered	Policy ensures that the identified housing requirement for the Plan Area will be met in full.
B&R3	Housing Site Allocation	Policy makes provision for housing development during the lifetime of the Plan.
B&R4	Housing Site Allocation	Policy makes provision for housing development during the lifetime of the Plan.
B&R5	Housing Site Allocation	Policy makes provision for housing development during the lifetime of the Plan.
B&R6	Housing Site Allocation	Policy makes provision for housing development during the lifetime of the Plan.
B&R7	Housing Site Allocation	Policy makes provision for housing development during the lifetime of the Plan.
B&R8	Enabling the provision of local needs affordable housing outside the settlement boundary as an exception to policy	Contributes to meeting identified housing need in suitable locations in close proximity to the village centre.
B&R9	Ensures a more appropriate mix of house sizes in the village	Helps to meet the identified local needs for three-bedroomed homes.
B&R10	Delivers homes that meet modern needs	Ensures homes are built to lifetime standards and provide for broadband and electric vehicle charging.
B&R11	Sets minimum space standards for new homes	Ensures that new homes meet the space requirements for current living requirements.
B&R12	Identifies an area of Local Landscape Sensitivity	Protects an area of locally distinct landscape from inappropriate development.
B&R13	Identifies and designates Local Green Spaces	Ensures that locally identified green spaces that meet the national criteria are protected from

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
B&R14	Identifies locally important non-designated heritage assets	Provides a policy that enables Paragraph 139 of the 2012 NPPF to be taken into account when considering development proposals.
B&R15	Provides criteria for the consideration of development proposals that could affect a heritage asset.	Ensures that heritage assets are protected from the consequences of inappropriate development.
B&R16	Provides criteria for the consideration of all development proposals.	Ensures that new development contributes to maintaining a high quality, safe and sustainable environment.
B&R17	Seeks to maintain a level of employment opportunities in the Plan area.	Ensures that opportunities for local employment remain in the villages.
B&R18	Provides criteria for the consideration of new employment premises.	Ensures that proposals for new business development are appropriate in scale and location to the role of Botesdale and Rickinghall.
B&R19	Enables opportunities for farm diversification to employment uses.	Enables the re-use of redundant farm buildings for economic development purposes.
B&R20	Protects the loss of important and valued local facilities.	Maintaining local facilities reduces the need to travel.
B&R21	Provides for the provision and retention of sport and recreation facilities.	Ensures that playing pitches are retained and only lost if paragraph 74 of the NPPF is complied with.
B&R22	Seek to protect and enhance public rights of way	Increases the opportunity to take journeys by foot or cycle.

3.5 General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan

The Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan (BRNP) must demonstrate that it is in general conformity with the development plan for the local authority area concerned. The development plan currently in force for the BRNP is the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (adopted September 2008), the Core Strategy Focused Review (adopted 2012) and the saved policies of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (adopted September 1998).

Mid Suffolk District Council has announced its intention to prepare a new joint local plan with Babergh District Council to cover the two local planning authority areas. Consultation on Issues and Options to be considered in the Joint Local Plan took place between January and March 2015 and a further options consultation occurred in August 2017. A new Local Development Scheme was approved by the District Council in July 2018. It envisaged a “preferred options” consultation taking place in December 2018, examination in June 2019 and adoption in February 2020. However, at the time of submission of this Neighbourhood Plan, the Preferred Options consultation had not commenced. Given the early stages of preparation, there is no requirement for the BRNP to be in conformity with anything published to date in relation to the Joint Local Plan.

Vision of BRNP and the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008

The Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008 Vision states, in relation to the BRNP, that:

- By 2025 the district will become a more prosperous, healthy, safer, attractive and greener place to live with fewer inequalities, improved access to and provision of housing, employment and services for all;
- Concentrating employment opportunities where they are most accessible, including Key Service Centres;
- Key Service Centres will accommodate appropriate levels of residential growth;
- The Vision will be achieved in ways that reduce the impact of society on the environment, improve the quality of design of the built environment and protect and enhance settlement character, environmental assets such as its biodiversity, geodiversity and historic environment;
- Development will need to address the issues of energy and resource conservation; good design in new development; incorporate sustainable drainage systems; and the enhancement of the natural and built environment and heritage

The BRNP Vision is set out below, broken down in to distinct elements, with an indication as to how it conforms with the Core Strategy Vision.

BRNP Vision	Conformity with Core Strategy Vision
In 2036 Botesdale and Rickinghall will have maintained its significant historic built and natural environment	Conforms
While accommodating sustainable growth that meets the needs of the Parishes and their hinterland	Conforms
and ensures that appropriate levels of infrastructure and services are retained and improved.	Conforms

Fit of the Objectives of Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan with the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008 as amended by the Focused Review 2012

The table below identifies how the objectives of the Core Strategy and the BRNP complement each other.

Core Strategy Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
SO1: To protect, manage, enhance and restore the landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity of the district.	Objective 3 Maintain the villages' rural setting. Objective 4 Protect the important green spaces, woodland and countryside and public rights of way. Objective 5 Protect important views and links to the wider countryside. Objective 6 Promote the inclusion of native planting in and around existing and new developments. Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.
SO2: To seek to improve water quality and reduce pollution to the wider environment	Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.
SO3 (2012): To respond to the possible harm caused by climate change Mid Suffolk will seek to minimise its carbon footprint, by encouraging a shift to more sustainable travel patterns. In particular the Council will address congestion and pollution and ensure that all new development minimises its carbon emissions, and carbon consumption and is adapted to future climate change.	Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.
SO4: To protect, manage, enhance and restore the historic heritage / environment and the unique character and identity of the towns and villages by ensuring that new developments are appropriate in terms of scale and location in the context of settlement form and character.	Objective 1 Conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Botesdale and Rickinghall. Objective 2 Protect and improve the features which contribute to historic character. Objective 3 Maintain the villages' rural setting. Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.
SO5: Reinforce the vitality and viability of local shops, schools, services, recreation and community facilities in towns and key service centres and primary villages.	Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services. Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community.

Core Strategy Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
<p>SO6 (2012): Provision of housing, employment, retail infrastructure and access to services will be coordinated to ensure that delivery of necessary infrastructure takes place to accommodate new development and to enable communities to be balanced, inclusive and prosperous.</p>	<p>Objective 7 Ensure that the amount of new housing growth in Botesdale and Rickinghall, collectively a Core Village, is appropriate and a scale that the local infrastructure can support.</p> <p>Objective 8 Deliver housing that is tailored to the needs of local residents, and specifically includes affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services.</p> <p>Objective 14 Support and encourage safe and sustainable transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>Objective 15 Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education and employment.</p>
<p>SO7: To support sustainable communities by locating development where it will enable people to access jobs and key services, such as education, health, recreation and other facilities recognising and respecting the diversity in the function and character of Mid Suffolk's towns, key service centres and primary and secondary villages and countryside.</p>	<p>Objective 7 Ensure that the amount of new housing growth in Botesdale and Rickinghall, collectively a Core Village, is appropriate and a scale that the local infrastructure can support.</p> <p>Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services.</p> <p>Objective 13 Support small-scale business creation and retention.</p> <p>Objective 15 Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education and employment.</p>
<p>SO8: To meet the requirement set by the Regional Spatial Strategy for new housing while maintaining the special character of Mid Suffolk's towns, villages and countryside. New development will be of a high standard of design and layout and will address the need for energy and resource conservation.</p>	<p>The Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets were quashed in 2013.</p> <p>Objective 7 Ensure that the amount of new housing growth in Botesdale and Rickinghall, collectively a Core Village, is appropriate and a scale that the local infrastructure can support.</p> <p>Objective 8 Deliver housing that is tailored to the needs of local residents, and specifically includes affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Objective 9 Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.</p> <p>Objective 10 Deliver development that is</p>

Core Strategy Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
	permeable by pedestrians and cyclists and has improved access to rights of way in and around the villages.
SO9: Planning and housing policies will maximise the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.	Objective 8 Deliver housing that is tailored to the needs of local residents, and specifically includes affordable housing provision.
SO10: To prepare for an ageing population, including the provision and retention of community facilities and suitable housing, including sheltered and assisted accommodation.	Objective 8 Deliver housing that is tailored to the needs of local residents, and specifically includes affordable housing provision.
SO11: To support the growth of the local economy and rural regeneration in ways which are compatible with environmental objectives, and which deliver increased prosperity for the whole community.	Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community. Objective 13 Support small-scale business creation and retention.
SO12: Promote high quality, sustainable tourism.	There are no objectives that link directly to the Core Strategy objectives.
SO13: Support and enable public and community transport services and encourage walking and cycling initiatives to provide access to jobs, shops and services and consider new methods of delivering and protecting existing services for smaller communities.	Objective 10 Deliver development that is permeable by pedestrians and cyclists and has improved access to rights of way in and around the villages. Objective 15 Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education and employment.
SO14: To provide accessible and varied opportunities for leisure, cultural and recreational activities in order to promote healthy lifestyles.	Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services.
SO15: To develop vibrant and prosperous towns and service centres by encouraging development that supports their function with a range of good quality jobs, businesses, shops and services that meet the needs of local people.	Objective 11 Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services. Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community. Objective 13 Support small-scale business creation and retention.

3.6 Compatibility of the BRNP with the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan

The Government's Planning Practice Guidance states:

"Strategic policies will be different in each local planning authority area. When reaching a view on whether a policy is a strategic policy the following are useful considerations:

- whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
- whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
- the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
- whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
- whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan
- in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan
- whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic"

A significant number of policies in the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) are officially "saved" by direction of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. In total these amount to over 150 policies. Mid Suffolk District Council has not identified which of the saved local plan policies are of a strategic nature. In the absence of this, we have assessed compatibility of the BRNP policies against all policies that are considered relevant to Botesdale and Rickinghall. Those that are not considered relevant are listed in Appendix A of this statement.

The Core Strategy (2008) and Focused Review (2012) remain the relevant in relation to the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan whereas the emerging Joint Babergh / Mid Suffolk Local Plan is at an early stage of preparation and is not capable of assessment at this time.

The table below provides details of the policies in the development plan, a link to the BRNP policy (where relevant) and a narrative of conformity of the BRNP with the development plan.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008		
CS1: Settlement Hierarchy	B&R1 – Spatial Strategy	Policy CS1 identifies Botesdale and Rickinghall as a Key Service Centre. The BRNP provides opportunities for sustainable growth of housing, jobs and services.
CS2: Development in the Countryside and Countryside Villages	B&R1 – Spatial Strategy B&R2 – Housing Development	Policy CS2 restricts development in the countryside to defined categories. The BRNP confirms this approach.
CS3: Reduce contributions to Climate Change	B&R16 – Design Considerations	Policy CS3 relates to standalone renewable energy proposals and sustainable construction techniques. The BRNP complements this approach.
CS4: Adapting to Climate Change	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The policy covers flood risk, pollution and protection of biodiversity. The BRNP does not propose development in the Flood Zones around the village, seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity, and promotes the inclusion of measures to promote environmental sustainability and reduce climate change
CS5: Mid Suffolk's Environment	B&R1 – Spatial Strategy B&R12 – Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity B&R13 – Local Green Spaces B&R14 – Local Heritage Assets B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to maintain and enhance the environment, including the historic environment. The policies referred to in the BRNP complement these policies.
CS6: Services and Infrastructure	B&R20 – Protecting existing services and facilities B&R21 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The policy requires development to provide or support the delivery of appropriate infrastructure. The BRNP seeks to protect existing services and facilities
CS7: Brownfield Target	B&R1 - Spatial Strategy B&R2 – Housing Development B&R18 – New businesses and employment	The Core Strategy sets a target of 50% of new homes on brownfield sites. The BRNP supports the redevelopment of previously developed land and buildings.
CS9: Density and Mix	B&R9 – Housing Mix	The policy requires a mix of house types, sizes and affordability, reflecting that lower densities may be justified in villages to take account of the character and appearance of the area. BRNP requires housing on large sites to provide a higher proportion of three bedroomed homes to meet identified need.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
CS10: Gypsy and Travellers	No specific policies apply	The policy seeks to provide appropriately located pitches to meet the identified need between 2006 and 2016. The BRNP does not compromise the ability to use the criteria in Policy CS10 to consider the location of suitable sites.

Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Focused Review 2012

Policy FC1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy confirms that the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development will be applied. The BRNP meets the NPPF sustainable development criteria.
Policy FC1.1: Mid Suffolk approach to delivering Sustainable Development	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy requires development proposals to demonstrate the principles of sustainable development. The policies of the BRNP support the local plan approach.
Policy FC2: Provision and Distribution of Housing	B&R1 - Spatial Strategy B&R2 – Housing Development	The policy identifies the minimum amount of housing to be provided in the district to 2027 and locational strategy for where it will be provided. It identifies that at least 750 new homes will be constructed across the 12 Key Service Centres. Planning consents have already been granted for in excess of this requirements across Key Service Centres. Policy B&R2 states that 200 new homes will be built in Botesdale and Rickinghall over the neighbourhood plan period to 2036, representing a significant proportion of known housing requirement across Mid Suffolk and is therefore in conformity with the Core Strategy.
Policy FC3: Employment	B&R17 – Retention of Existing Employment Sites B&R18 – New businesses and employment B&R19 – Farm Diversification	The policy identifies the number of new jobs that are likely to be required in the district by 2031 and provides a locational strategy for these jobs. The BRNP policies seek to retain existing employment and promote small-scale employment development opportunities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Mid Suffolk Local Plan First Alteration 2006 Saved Policies

H4 Proportion of Affordable Housing in new housing developments	B&R3 - Land at Back Hills B&R4 – Land north of Garden House Lane	The Local Plan policy seeks to negotiate up to 35% of housing to be affordable on sites of 5 or more or 0.17ha and above in villages. The NPPF has potentially superseded the threshold and replaced it with 10 dwellings.
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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
	<p>B&R6 – Land to the rear of Willowmere, Garden House Lane B&R7 – Land south of Diss Road</p>	<p>The identified policies in the BRNP require the allocated sites to deliver 35% affordable housing as part of the developments.</p>
<p>H5 Affordable Housing on rural exception sites</p>	<p>B&R8 – Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites</p>	<p>The Local Plan policy identifies a process for delivering local needs affordable housing on sites abutting the settlement boundary of a small rural settlement. Policy B&R8 updates the local plan policy in line with the broad approach of the NPPF.</p>

Mid Suffolk Local Plan 1998 Saved Policies

<p>SB2 Development appropriate to its setting</p>	<p>B&R1 – Spatial Strategy B&R2 – Housing Development B&R16 – Design Considerations B&R14 – Local Heritage Assets B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets</p>	<p>The local plan policy sets out design criteria by which new development will be considered. The policies in the BRNP complement the saved policies by providing a local context.</p>
<p>SB3 Retaining visually important open spaces</p>	<p>B&R13 – Local Green Spaces B&R16 – Design Considerations B&R21 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities</p>	<p>The local plan policy seeks to protect visually important open spaces. This is updated by locally developed BRNP policies that identify important local characteristics in the Plan Area including important views, local green spaces and recreational open space.</p>
<p>GP1 Design and layout of development</p>	<p>B&R16 – Design Considerations</p>	<p>The local plan policy sets out criteria for the design and layout of new development. Policy B&R16 provides criteria by which the design of development and its setting will be considered.</p>
<p>HB1 Protection of historic buildings</p>	<p>B&R14 – Local Heritage Assets B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets</p>	<p>The local plan provides a strategic policy for protecting the character and appearance of buildings of architectural or historic interest and setting of listed buildings. Policy B&R14 identifies important non-designated heritage assets in accordance with para 139 of the 2012 NPPF. Policy B&R15 brings the local plan policy up to date and in accordance with the NPPF in that it relates to all heritage assets in the Plan Area rather than just listed buildings.</p>
<p>HB2 Demolition of listed buildings</p>	<p>B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets</p>	<p>The local plan policy resists the demolition of listed buildings. However, it does not reflect the content of para 132 of the NPPF. The BRNP policy brings</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
HB3 Conversions and alterations to historic buildings	B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets	the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence. The local plan policy resists the conversion or alteration of listed buildings. However, it does not reflect the content of para 132 of the NPPF. The BRNP policy brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB4 Extensions to listed buildings	B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets	The local plan policy enables the sympathetic extension of listed buildings. The BRNP policy brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB5 Preserving historic buildings through alternative uses	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the change of use of listed buildings subject to certain criteria.
HB6 Securing the repair of listed buildings	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy relates to the use of statutory powers to secure the repair of listed buildings.
HB8 Safeguarding the character of conservation areas	B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy identifies the matters that will be considered when determining proposals in conservation areas. The BRNP policies brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB9 Controlling demolition in conservation areas	B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy identifies the matters that will be considered when determining proposals for demolition in conservation areas. The BRNP policies brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB10 Advertisements in conservation areas	B&R15 – Protection of Heritage Assets B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy identifies the matters that will be considered when determining proposals for advertisements in conservation areas. The BRNP policies brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB14 Ensuring archaeological remains are not destroyed	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy protects archaeological remains according to their significance.
H3 Housing development in villages	B&R1 – Spatial Strategy B&R2 – Housing Development B&R3 - Land at Back Hills B&R4 – Land north of Garden House Lane B&R5 – Land east of Rectory Hill B&R6 – Land to the rear of Willowmere, Garden House Lane	The local plan policy provides a presumption in favour of development within housing settlement boundaries, subject to the consideration of certain criteria. The policies of the BRNP identified are in conformity with Policy H3.

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
	B&R7 – Land south of Diss Road	
H7 Restricting housing development unrelated to needs of countryside	B&R1 – Spatial Strategy	The local plan policy controls proposals for new housing in the countryside. The BRNP does not conflict with the Local Plan approach and accords with the more up-to-date NPPF.
H8 Replacement dwellings in the countryside	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of replacement dwellings in the countryside. The BRNP does not contradict the local plan policy.
H9 Conversion of rural buildings in the countryside	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides criteria for the consideration of buildings in the countryside. The BRNP does not contradict the local plan policy.
H10 Dwellings for key agricultural workers	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for agricultural workers' dwellings. The BRNP does not contradict the local plan policy.
H11 Residential caravans and other mobile homes	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of residential caravans or mobile homes. The BRNP does not contradict the local plan policy.
H13 Design and layout of housing development	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for new homes. Policy B&R16 supports the criteria by referring to up-to-date and locally specific evidence.
H14 A range of house types to meet different accommodation needs	B&R9 – Housing Mix B&R10 – Delivering homes to meet the needs of all potential occupants B&R11 – Housing Space Standards	The local plan policy seeks a variety of house types and design in development of 10 or more. The BRNP policies support the criteria by applying up-to-date and locally evidenced requirements.
H15 Development to reflect local characteristics	B&R14 – Local Heritage Assets B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy requires that the development of new homes should be consistent with the pattern and form of development in the surrounding area. The BRNP policies support the criteria.
H16 Protecting existing residential amenity	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy seeks to protect existing amenity and character of residential areas. Policy B&R16 supports the criteria.
H17 Keeping residential development away from pollution	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy does not allow residential development which will be impacted by existing noise, smell or other forms of pollution or hazardous installations. Policy B&R16 supports the criteria.
H18 Extensions to existing dwellings.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The policy regulates the potential impact of extensions to homes. Policy B&R16 supports this approach.

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
H19 Accommodation for special family needs.	B&R10 – Delivering homes to meet the needs of all potential occupants	The local plan policy addresses how proposals for residential annexes in the countryside will be considered. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL2 Development within special landscape areas.	B&R12 – Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity	The local plan policy identifies matters that will be considered for development proposals in a Special Landscape Area. Policy B&R12 updates the policy and has regard to the locally produced evidence that refines the boundaries of the SLA and designates it as an Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity
CL3 Major utility installations and power lines in the countryside.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks the careful siting of major installations for utilities and power lines. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL5 Protecting existing woodland.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy seeks to protect woodland, particularly ancient woodland. Policy B&R16 supports this approach.
CL6 Tree preservation orders.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy states that TPOs will be used to prevent the loss of important trees and woodland. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL8 Protecting wildlife habitats.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy protects important habitats and species. The BRNP policies support this approach.
CL9 Recognised wildlife areas.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy will not allow development that would harm sites with a nature conservation interest. The BRNP policies support the criteria.
CL11 Retaining high quality agricultural land.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy encourages the conservation of the best agricultural land. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL12 The effects of severance upon existing farms.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides for consideration of the impact of a development proposal on farm severance and fragmentation. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL13 Siting and design of agricultural buildings.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy requires proposals for farm buildings to have regard to visual amenity. Policy B&R16 supports this approach.
CL14 Use of materials for agricultural buildings and structures	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy requires materials chosen for such buildings to be sympathetic to their setting. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL15 Livestock buildings and related development.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy restricts the siting of such buildings where they significantly intrude into the countryside. The BRNP does not preclude the

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
CL16 Central grain stores, feed mills and other bulk storage buildings.	No specific policies apply	use of this policy. The local plan policy restricts the siting of such buildings where they significantly intrude into the countryside. The BRNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL17 Principles for farm diversification.	B&R19 – Farm Diversification	The local plan policy enables changes of use for farm diversification subject to a number of criteria. Policy B&R19 updates this approach in the light of the more recent NPPF approach.
CL18 Changes of use for agricultural and other rural buildings to non-residential uses.	B&R19 – Farm Diversification	The local plan provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for converting agricultural buildings to non-agricultural uses. Policy B&R19 updates this approach in the light of the more recent NPPF approach.
CL19 Farm shops.	B&R19 – Farm Diversification	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of farm shop proposals. Policy B&R19 updates this approach in the light of the more recent NPPF approach.
CL20 Garden centres.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides criteria restricting the location of garden centres. The policies of the BRNP are compatible with this approach.
CL21 Facilities for horse riding.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides criteria for considering proposals for the use of land for horse riding and the need to protect landscape, habitats and residential amenity. The policies of the BRNP are compatible with this approach.
CL22 Advertisements in a countryside setting.	B&R12 – Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy provides criteria for the siting of advertisement in the countryside. The policies of the BRNP are compatible with the local plan policy.
CL24 Wind turbines in the countryside.	B&R12 – Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy requires careful consideration of the siting of wind turbines to minimise visual impact. The policies of the BRNP are compatible with the local plan policy.
E3 Warehousing, storage, distribution, and haulage depots.	No specific policies apply	The policy identifies how proposals for such uses will be considered, including in the countryside. The policies of the BRNP do not conflict with the local plan approach.
E4 Protecting existing industrial/business areas for employment-generating uses.	SNP15 – Retention of employment, retail and business premises	The local plan prevents development within or adjacent to existing business areas that would prejudice their continued use. The BRNP policies do not conflict with this approach.
E5 Change of use within existing industrial/commercial areas.	B&R17 – Retention of Existing Employment Sites	The local plan policy provides for considering proposals for the change of use or new buildings for employment uses in existing employment areas. Policy B&R17 supports this approach.

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
E6 Retention of individual industrial and commercial sites.	B&R17 – Retention of Existing Employment Sites	The local plan policy sets out how proposals for the change of use of existing employment sites will be considered. Policy B&R17 supports this approach.
E7 Non-conforming industrial uses.	B&R17 – Retention of Existing Employment Sites	The local plan policy restricts the intensification of businesses that are inappropriate to the surroundings and encourages their relocation. The BRNP does not conflict with this approach.
E8 Extensions to industrial and commercial premises.	B&R17 – Retention of Existing Employment Sites	The local plan policy provides consideration as to how proposals for extensions to existing premises will be considered. The BRNP policies do not conflict with this approach.
E9 Location of new businesses.	B&R18 – New businesses and employment	The local plan provides criteria for the consideration of the siting of new business premises. Policy B&R18 provides up-to-date and locally specific criteria for the consideration of such proposals.
E10 New industrial and commercial development in the countryside.	B&R18 – New businesses and employment	The local plan restricts the development of new industrial development in the countryside unless a need to locate it away from towns and villages can be justified. Policy B&R18 provides up-to-date and locally specific criteria for the consideration of such proposals.
E11 Re-use and adaption of agricultural and other rural buildings for industrial or commercial use	B&R19 – Farm Diversification	The local plan supports such proposals subject to certain criteria. Policy B&R19 provides up-to-date and locally specific criteria for the consideration of such proposals.
E12 General principles for location, design and layout of industrial and commercial development.	B&R16 – Design Considerations B&R18 – New businesses and employment	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location and design of new industrial and commercial development. The policies in the BRNP do not conflict with this approach.
S3 Amusement centres.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location of amusement centres and does not permit them in conservation areas. The policies in the BRNP do not conflict with this approach.
S5 Living accommodation above shops and other commercial premises.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides for the creation of homes above shops. Although more appropriate to town centres, the BRNP policies to not conflict with this approach.
S7 Provision of local shops.	B&R20 – Protecting existing services and facilities	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of additional shopping floorspace within settlement boundaries. The policies in the BRNP do not conflict with this approach.
S8 Shop front design.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy provides for how proposals for new shop fronts will be considered.

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
S9 Retaining traditional shop fronts.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The policies in the BRNP do not conflict with this approach. The local plan seeks the retention of traditional shop fronts within conservation areas. The policies in the BRNP do not conflict with this approach.
S10 Convenience goods stores.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for supermarkets will be considered. It is unlikely that such a proposal will be forthcoming in Botesdale and Rickinghall but policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
S11 Retail warehousing.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for retail warehouses will be considered. It is unlikely that such a proposal will be forthcoming in Botesdale and Rickinghall but policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
S12 Retail on industrial estates and commercial sites.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for retail on industrial estates will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
S13 Ancillary retail uses.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for ancillary uses will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T1 Environmental impact of major road schemes.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for assessing the benefits and impacts of major road schemes. No such schemes are currently proposed in the BRNP area but policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T4 Planning obligations and highways infrastructure.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy refers to the ability for developers to enter into Section 106 agreements to secure necessary highway improvements. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T6 Petrol filling station and other roadside services.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location of petrol filling station and roadside services. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T7 Provision of public car parking.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to provide adequate public car parks to meet identified needs. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T9 Parking standards.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan states that development should accord with the adopted parking standards. Policy B&R16 supports this approach.

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
T10 Highway considerations in development.	B&R16 – Design Considerations	The local plan policy sets out criteria for the consideration of highway matters. Policy B&R16 supports this approach.
T11 Facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.	B&R16 – Design Considerations B&R11 – Housing Space Standards	The local plan policy seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan support this approach.
T12 Designing for people with disabilities.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to ensure that highways proposals have regard to the needs of people with disabilities. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T13 Bus services.	B&R1 – Spatial Strategy	The local plan policy seeks to locate new development in ways which support the network of bus services. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan support this approach.
RT1 Sports and recreation facilities for local communities.	B&R21 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for new sport and recreation facilities. Policy B&R21 does not conflict with this approach.
RT2 Loss of existing sports and recreation facilities.	B&R21 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy seeks to protect existing facilities or ensure suitable replacement facilities are provided. Policy B&R21 supports this approach.
RT3 Protecting recreational open space.	B&R21 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy safeguards recreational open space from development. Where development is allowed, suitable and equivalent provision should be made. Policy B&R21 supports this approach.
RT4 Amenity open space and play areas within residential development.	B&R16 – Design Considerations B&R21 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy sets a standard for the provision of open space and play areas in large sites. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan support this approach.
RT5 Recreational facilities as part of other development.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks, where appropriate to secure recreation facilities as part of an office, retail, commercial or mixed-use development. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT6 Sport and recreational facilities in the countryside.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of new or extensions of such facilities in the countryside. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT7 Noisy sports.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of the location of noisy sports. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT8 Motor sports.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of the location of motor sports. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT9 Facilities for air sports.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for

Botesdale and Rickingham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
RT10 Golf courses.	No specific policies apply	air sports. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT11 Facilities for informal countryside recreation	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for golf courses. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach. The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals such as picnic areas and country parks. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT12 Footpaths and bridleways.	B&R22 – Public Rights of Way	The local plan policy seeks to maintain and improve the public rights of way network. Policy B&R22 supports this approach.
RT13 Water-based recreation.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports then development of water-based recreation facilities subject to impact on the character and appearance of the countryside. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT14 Art in public places.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy encourages the provision of public art. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT16 Tourism facilities and visitor attractions.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location, design and scale of facilities and attractions. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT17 Serviced tourist accommodation.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for tourist accommodation will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT18 Touring caravan and camping sites.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for touring caravans and camping sites will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT19 Static caravans and holiday chalets.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for such accommodation will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC2 Septic tanks.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies when the use of septic tanks in development will be acceptable. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC3 Small sewage treatment plants.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals involving small scale sewage treatment plants will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC4 Protection of groundwater supplies.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to protect damage to and contamination of groundwater resources. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC6 Recycling centres.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to provide recycling centres within major development schemes. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.

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Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
		approach, although it is likely that such a major development would be contrary to the development plan.
SC7 Siting of telecommunications equipment	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to minimise the visual impact of telecommunications equipment including masts. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC8 Siting of new school buildings.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for new school buildings will be considered. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC9 Conversion of premises to residential homes	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the conversion of premises to residential homes. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC10 Siting of local community health services.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the provision of local community health facilities in towns and villages. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC11 Accommodation for voluntary organisations.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the conversion of redundant public buildings for use by voluntary organisations for community facilities. Policies in the BRNP would not conflict with this approach.

4. Compatibility with European Union Obligations and Human Rights

Environmental Impact and Habitat Regulations

Section 4B 8 (2)(f) states that a draft Neighbourhood Plan will meet the basic conditions if, the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations and the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken for certain types of plan or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) that this is to be determined by a screening process which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in a SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Regulations, Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils requested Mid Suffolk District Council, as the responsible body, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan is required. The District Council subsequently made this determination following consultation with the statutory consultees. The determination is set out in reports "Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination" and the "Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Screening Determination" both dated January 2019.

In line with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) these documents are also submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council alongside the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Human rights and equality impact assessment

The overall purpose of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to improve the quality of life for people living and working now and in the future in the parish 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 parish, in order to meet the needs expressed and address the issues identified. In order to confirm that the BRNP 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. This section assesses the Submission Draft of the BRNP to ensure that Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils is satisfying its statutory duties in this regard. An assessment has been made on whether the objectives and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. The purpose of each of the objective and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are provided, and their likely impact on persons with protected characteristics is assessed.

Impact of Objectives of Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan on Persons with Protected Characteristics

BRNP Objectives		Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics
Objective 1	Conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Botesdale and Rickinghall.	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics.
Objective 2	Protect and improve the features which contribute to historic character.	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 3	Maintain the villages' rural setting.	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics.
Objective 4	Protect the important green spaces, woodland and countryside and public rights of way.	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 5	Protect important views and links to the wider countryside.	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics.
Objective 6	Promote the inclusion of native planting in and around existing and new developments.	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 7	Ensure that the amount of new housing growth in Botesdale and Rickinghall, collectively a Core Village, is appropriate and a scale that the local infrastructure can support.	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 8	Deliver housing that is tailored to the needs of local residents, and specifically includes affordable housing provision.	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics.
Objective 9	Ensure all development is of high-quality design, eco-friendly and of a scale and nature that reinforces local character.	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 10	Deliver development that is permeable by pedestrians and cyclists and has improved access to rights of way in and around the villages.	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 11	Protect and improve the range of existing community facilities and services.	Positive impact on persons with protected characteristics

BRNP Objectives	Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics
Objective 12 Ensure that the broadband and mobile connectivity throughout the Plan Area meets the domestic, social and business needs of the community.	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 13 Support small-scale business creation and retention	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 14 Support and encourage safe and sustainable transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 15 Improve bus services to enable access to services, secondary and tertiary education and employment.	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics

Impact of Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies on Persons with Protected Characteristics

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
B&R1	Ensures that Botesdale and Rickinghall plans positively for the amount and location of new development in the villages during the plan period and commensurate with their Key Service Centre designation.	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R2	Identifies the amount of housing growth planned and sets out how the requirement will be delivered	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R3	Housing Site Allocation	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R4	Housing Site Allocation	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R5	Housing Site Allocation	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R6	Housing Site Allocation	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R7	Housing Site Allocation	Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics
B&R8	Enabling the provision of local needs affordable housing outside the settlement boundary as an exception to policy	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
B&R9	Ensures a more appropriate mix of house sizes in the village	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
B&R10	Delivers homes that meet modern needs	Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
B&R11	Sets minimum space standards for new homes	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R12	Identifies an area of Local Landscape Sensitivity	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R13	Identifies and designates Local Green Spaces	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R14	Identifies locally important non-designated heritage assets	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R15	Provides criteria for the consideration of development proposals that could affect a heritage asset.	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R16	Provides criteria for the consideration of all development proposals.	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R17	Seeks to maintain a level of employment opportunities in the Plan area.	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R18	Provides criteria for the consideration of new	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
	employment premises.	
B&R19	Enables opportunities for farm diversification to employment uses.	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R20	Protects the loss of important and valued local facilities.	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R21	Provides for the provision and retention of sport and recreation facilities.	Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
B&R22	Seek to protect and enhance public rights of way	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics

Certain protected characteristics are not affected by the BRNP, 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 circumstances.

APPENDIX A

Adopted development plan policies that do not apply to Botesdale and Rickinghall Neighbourhood Plan

Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008	
CS8: Provision and Distribution of Housing	This policy was replaced by the Core Strategy Focused Review adopted in 2012
CS11: Supply of Employment Land	This policy was replaced by the Core Strategy Focused Review adopted in 2012
CS12: Retail Provision	The policy covers the identified town centres in Mid Suffolk. It does not apply to Botesdale and Rickinghall.
Mid Suffolk Local Plan 1998 Saved Policies	
SB1 Directing new development to existing settlements	This is listed as a "saved policy" but has been superseded by the Core Strategy (2008) CS1 and CS2
GP2 Development Briefs	The policy applies to site allocations in the Local Plan. There are no sites allocated in the Botesdale and Rickinghall NDP area.
GP4 Energy and resource conservation	This is listed as a "saved policy" but has been superseded by the Core Strategy (2008) CS3
HB7 Protecting gardens and parkland of historic interest	There are no such designations in the BRNP area
HB13 Protecting ancient monuments	There are no such designations in the BRNP area
H2 Housing development in towns	Not appropriate to the BRNP
H6 A regular supply of land	This is listed as a "saved policy" but has been superseded by the Core Strategy Focused Review (2012) FC2
CL23 After use of sites following mineral extraction.	There are no mineral extraction sites in the BRNP area
E2 Industrial uses on allocated sites.	There are no allocated sites in the BRNP area
S4 Avoiding the loss of residential accommodation.	Policy applies to principal shopping areas.
S6 Provision of office accommodation.	Policy applies to principal shopping areas.
T2 Minor highway improvements	The local plan policy notes that regard will be had to the content of schemes in the annual Transport Policies and Programme (TPP). The TPP is no longer published by highway authorities and therefore this policy is not relevant.
T5 Financial contributions to B1115 relief road.	Policy does not apply to BRNP area
T8 Lorry parking facilities in towns	The policy does not apply to Botesdale and Rickinghall.
T14 Rail services	The policy does not apply to Botesdale and Rickinghall.
RT15 Safeguarding arts and entertainments venues.	The policy does not apply to Botesdale and Rickinghall

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