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Foreword

Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council has always regarded the views of the Parish and its Parishioners at the heart of its decision making process. It made the decision to start on the path of producing a Neighbourhood Plan in the very early days of the process and a group of dedicated Parishioners came forward to form a Steering Group. This work produced the Village Plan which was published in December 2014 and forms the basis of this Neighbourhood Plan.

It would be fair to say that the Parish has seen challenging times over the past few years in regard to the number of planning applications received. But throughout this time the views of the Parishioners have been taken into account when the Parish Council passes comment on the applications. There will be more challenges on the way of varying nature and complexity but working together will hopefully produce the overall aim and objective which is to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of life for those living and working in the Parish.

All the policies in this plan work towards that goal in a fair and acceptable basis. The views received during the consultations have been examined and worked into the policies with this goal in mind.

Finally we would like to thank all those who took part in the research and work behind this document. It was hard work but I hope you will all join with us on the Parish Council to say “really well done, good job”

The Parish Council hopes you will support the Plan and commends it to you.

It’s your Parish, your future and your plan.

Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council

(Parish Councillors: Chris Martin, Bob Sheldon, Fran Firth, Steve North, Rod Andrew, Nev Williams)
1 – Introduction

1.1 Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council ¹ ("the Parish Council") has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan for the area designated by the local planning authority, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)², under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The designated area covered by the plan ("the Neighbourhood Area") is shown in Plan 1 below and equates to the whole of the parish of Thorpe on the Hill.

Plan 1: Thorpe on the Hill Parish Map

¹ Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council is the ‘qualifying body’ for the Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of the parish of Thorpe on the Hill

² The Neighbourhood Area was designated by NKDC on September 11th 2014
1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2030 (“the Plan Period”).

About Neighbourhood Plans

1.3 Neighbourhood plans provide local communities with the chance to shape the future development of their areas. Once approved at a referendum, a neighbourhood plan, along with the local plan, becomes a statutory part of the development plan for the area and will carry significant weight in determining how planning applications are decided.

1.4 Although there is considerable scope for the local community to decide on its planning policies, neighbourhood plans must meet some ‘basic conditions’. These are:

- Neighbourhood plans must be consistent with national planning policy.
- They must be consistent with the strategic planning policies of the Local Plan.
- They must promote the principles of sustainable development.
- The plan-making process must satisfy European environmental standards.

1.5 In addition, Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums must be able to show that they have properly consulted local people and other relevant organisations during the process of making neighbourhood plans, and that they have followed the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

1.6 An independent examiner will test these requirements once the Neighbourhood Plan is finalised. If satisfied, the examiner recommends to the local planning authority (NKDC) that the Neighbourhood Plan go to a referendum of the Neighbourhood Area electorate. If a simple majority of those voting approves it, the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted as formal planning policy.

The Pre Submission Plan

1.7 The Parish Council has sought the local community’s opinion on local issues by means of a number of consultative exercises (described further at appendix 1). It has reviewed existing and emerging national and local planning policies and how they may affect this area. Based on this work, a number of proposed Neighbourhood Plan policies have been developed.

1.8 This Pre-Submission Plan provides an opportunity for the local community and other stakeholders to have their say on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Policies. The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will take into account representations received on Pre-Submission Plan.

1.9 As part of the pre-submission consultation process, the Parish Council is requesting a screening opinion from NKDC in respect of the need for the Neighbourhood Plan to
prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the EU Directives 42/2001 and the 2004 Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations.

The Next Steps

1.10 Once this consultation exercise is complete, the Parish Council will review the comments made and prepare a final version of the Neighbourhood Plan, known as the ‘Submission Plan’. This will be submitted to NKDC who will arrange the independent examination and referendum.

Consultation

1.11 If you have any comments to make on this Pre-Submission Plan, please do so during the consultation period, which runs from Saturday 12th November until 5pm Saturday 24th December, in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online form that can be accessed through the Parish Council’s website: http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ThorpeonTheHill
- Complete a paper copy of the response form, which can be collected from the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room and returned to the post box located here.

1.12 Copies of this Plan will be made available at the drop-in event to be held in the Oliver Roper Meeting Room on Saturday 19th November (1pm – 5pm) and will continue to be available from here for the remainder of the consultation period.

1.13 The Parish Council’s website also contains all the necessary background information on the Neighbourhood Plan.

How is this Plan Organised

1.14 This Plan is divided into three sections:

- **Section 1: A Vision for Thorpe on the Hill**, which sets out
  - a brief description of Thorpe today
  - the issues that have influenced the vision
  - the Vision Statement and Core Objectives
- **Section 2: Neighbourhood Plan Policies**, which sets out planning policies to support the overall vision.
- **Section 3: Parish Priorities**, which sets out priorities for the Parish Council to implement and as such they are not intended to be subject to Examination, Referendum or to form part of the Statutory Planning Policy Framework.
Section 1
A vision for Thorpe on the Hill

2 – Background to the Parish

Historic Development

2.1 Thorpe on the Hill is situated almost half way between Lincoln and Newark, and a mile from the A46, the ancient Roman road known as the Fosse Way. The village was called a “thorpe” by Scandinavian settlers of the 9th and 10th centuries, which describes a small clustered settlement dependent on a larger more important neighbour being Doddington and is on a hill, hence the name. Thorpe has developed in a completely different manner from its neighbour Doddington, and now, a thousand years later, they are very different types of village. Doddington has remained what used to be called a ‘close’ or ‘closed’ village with the land very much under the sway of a single landlord. In contrast property in Thorpe on the Hill has long been divided up between many different owners.

2.2 When the Thorpe on the Hill Enclosure Act was passed by Parliament late in 1773, there were at least 6 owners of large holdings in the open fields. These landowners saw the multitude of ownerships and rights in the fields as a barrier to improving the land and farming it efficiently, so they petitioned Parliament for the re-allocation of parish resources to concentrate each owner’s land in one single block. The result was the creation of about a dozen farms, some of which were located out in the fields for example Dankers Farm, Jubilee Farm, Skybarn Farm and Scotland Farm.

2.3 By the start of the 20th century, then, Thorpe on the Hill was very much an agricultural centre with perhaps as many as a dozen workings farms, ranging in size from small-holdings of less than a dozen acres.

2.4 By this time the village had already begun to change. In 1843, the short-lived Ebeneezer Brick Works had been established and in 1846 the village was linked to the remainder of the Empire by the London Midland and Scottish Railway and the station opened that same year. However no trains have stopped since the 1960s. In the 20th century, gravel extraction vied with agriculture as the village’s main industry, but from the 1960s onwards, both were supplanted by commuters, who work in one of the surrounding towns.

2.5 The village first acquired a formal primary school in 1899, though schools were held in the village from a much earlier date, which continues to be a vibrant element in the
community. Visitors are still greeted by the parish church of St Michael as they approach the village from the south, along Fosse Lane. There has been a church on this site since at least the 11\textsuperscript{th} century.

2.6 Along with this major trend, the physical character of the village has changed out of all recognition. Prior to 1945 there were more paddocks and orchards in Thorpe on the Hill than buildings. Between 1960 and 2000, hardly a space has been left unfilled by modern development. Certain views along Thorpe’s lanes are now indistinguishable from any suburb in England.

2.7 In the later 20\textsuperscript{th} century, Thorpe on the Hill started to lose some of its businesses that distinguished it as a self-sustaining community. In particular, the village carpenter, tailor, shop and post office have all disappeared since 1945, leaving only the mechanical engineer trading in Fosse Lane.

**Thorpe on the Hill - Today**

**Population and Housing**

2.8 According to the 2011 ONS census, Thorpe on the Hill has 558 residents, with a mean age of 42 and a median age of 44, slightly older than the East Midlands average. Even though population has grown since 2001, it has aged quite markedly; over 30\% of the 2011 population are over 60, compared to 24.2\% of 2001, the percentage of 45 to 59 dropped from 31\% to 24.4\%.

2.9 Thorpe of the Hill community is formed of 228 households in total, of which approximately 22\% is occupied by just one person; the remaining households average 2.7 people. One household out of 4 is occupied entirely by pensioners, while 27\% has dependent children.

2.10 The vast majority of households (85.5\%) own the house they live in, and more than half of them (47.8\% of total households) own it outright. Only 6.1\% of the parish lives in social rented accommodations, much lower than the regional comparator.

2.11 Houses and bungalows form the vast majority of the dwellings, with 81.6\% of all dwellings being detached and 16.7\% semi-detached. Almost half of dwellings have more than four bedrooms, and 60\% of households dispose of at least 2 more bedrooms than standardly required.

2.12 Thorpe of the Hill Parish hosts 11 grade II listed buildings, of which 6 inside the village curtilage. Even though the village is not part of a Conservation Area, a number of other buildings have been identified as part if the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base as being high local historic value with respect of their design and contribution to village character.

2.13 In the last couple of years, the number planning applications connected with new, housing development has spiked: even though some applications have been refused, a consistent number has been approved, contributing to a consistent enlargement of the
built up part of the village. While some residents have welcomed the developments as re-
qualification of redundant and abandoned facilities, others have not felt it to be
inappropriate and considered it out of character for the village. One of the aims of this
Neighbourhood Plan is rationalise further development and ensure new dwellings are
consistent and respectful of Thorpe on the Hill character and settings.

Employment and Business

2.14 In term of employment, the majority of the population in working age is in
employment (62.4%), with the percentage of self-employed twice the county average;
the unemployment rate is significantly lower than the county rate (2.3%, compared to
3.8%). As mentioned above, the number of over 65s is quite high, with 23% of the
population retired, 5 points higher than whole Lincolnshire average. More than 45% of
Thorpe of the Hill’s economically active population is employed in high paid jobs
(managers and directors, professional and associate professional occupations, or
technical occupations), which is consistent with the high level of qualification attainment
of the population as a whole: 31% of Thorpe of the Hill as a Level 4 Qualification or above,
while as little as 18.2% has no qualifications at all (Lincolnshire percentage are respectively
21.3% and 26.1%). The share of population employed in manual or unskilled jobs is lower
than district and county comparators, even though an the percentage of workers in
farming and agriculture in Thorpe on the Hill is higher than the North Kesteven and
Lincolnshire as a whole.

2.15 Key areas of employment for residents include educations, wholesale and retail,
manufacturing, construction and social work.

2.16 Support for the encouragement of additional business activities in the Parish divides
the community, as highlighted by a questionnaire administered by the Parish Council in
2013, with 46.5% of the respondent in favour and 41.4% against it. Among those in favour,
there is a clear preference for Leisure and Recreation activities and for small business
development.

2.17 Thorpe on the Hill has a wealth of existing potential tourism sites that would be of
interests to visitors to Lincolnshire, and a few hospitality facilities such as an hotel, B&B,
caravan park, camping site. It is recognised that by attracting visitors through tourism
activities and publicity, Thorpe on the Hill can generate significant income that will further
support local businesses and deliver new jobs, creating new employment and additional
income opportunities for residents within the parish. The Parish thus aims to enhance the
local environment and provide learning, cultural and recreational opportunities for all
parishioners and visitors.

Transport and Traffic

2.18 An analysis of the methods of travel to work suggest that 10% of economically
active population works from home and another 10% walk or cycle to work inside the
Parish boundary (data is consistent with the percentage of people working within the
parish, approximately 14.2% according to the Parish questionnaire). Only 11 people use
public transportation to go to work, while 193 people (70%) drive their private car or motorcycle to work (with 13 passenger). This data is consistent with the high car ownership rate, with almost 60% of the households owning more than 2 cars or vans.

2.19 The high rate of car ownership and village location contributes to, and exacerbates, traffic problems. The village is located 0.60 miles north-east of the A46 and is connected to it by Middle Lane and Fosse Lane, running respectively east-west and north-south. The former becomes Lincoln Road and cuts the whole village horizontally, turning north just outside the village curtilage (Station Road) to meet the Moon Lane, another main access to the A46. Notwithstanding the restriction for lorries over a certain weight to use village streets, there is an issue with the volume of traffic now using the road when the Lincoln by-pass is busy or blocked. Traffic does not always keep to the speed limit especially on the approaches to the village, and parking connected with parents dropping pupils off at the school is perceived as a problem. The Parish Council is attempting to address this issue and has a report from an independent traffic consultant, which suggests solutions to these issues.

2.20 The results of the questionnaire administered by the Parish Council in 2013 shows that the majority of the population rates existing footpath as adequate, and highly values the network of bridleway and public footpath that permits good connections between the village and the surrounding countryside. However, there are few dedicated cycle routes, with most cyclists forced to use streets to get around. Similarly, the survey shows that 55.6% of the respondents believe public transports to be inadequate.

Community and Leisure

2.21 The lack of public transportation affects the younger residents too, since activities in the village are limited and they cannot easily travel to reach alternative locations. However the Parish has an active Scout group consisting of beavers, cubs and scouts, THREDS group provide social activities for all ages, but it mainly attracts older residents. Other community groups include a walking group, book club, outdoor bowls, bridge club. There is also a childrens play area at the Oliver Roper Centre (considered excellent or good by the majority of questionnaire respondents). The village offers a number of community facilities, including the Parish Meeting Room, a Community Cafe, ORPMR Tennis court, the Mobile Library, allotments and playing field shared with the school, as well as the Railway Inn pub and the Lincoln Golf Centre.

2.22 The Parish also has a wonderful resource in the form of Whisky Nature Park which provides café, walking, birdwatching etc.

Environmental, Design Quality and Sustainability

2.23 Although very little, if anything, can be considered as truly natural, the residents of Thorpe on the Hill care very much about the significant green (agricultural and semi-natural) and blue (fresh water) surroundings that make up a large part of this picturesque parish.
2.24 The Whisby Nature Park and the land around it fall into a number of natural
designations, being classified as County Wildlife Site, Local Natural Reserve, Green
Wedge, Natural and Semi-Natural Green-space.

2.25 As well as this popular visitor attraction, the Parish hosts a number of other sites of
high biodiversity value, such as the Tunman Wood (a designated a County Wildlife Site
and Ancient Woodland 1 mile west of the village), a traditional orchard, historic grassland
sites at the top of Clay Lane, fresh water lakes and more than 50 Ha of Priority Habitats
(Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership designation), such as Lowland Meadow, Lowland
Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Reed Beds and Wet Woodland. In addition, there is a good
sized church yard where a biodiverse range of species is to be expected. Both Tunman
Wood and Whisby Nature Park are included into the Witham Valley Country Park (A
Wildlife Trust Local Living Landscape). Most of this area has a layer of protection granted
by designations or district level planning policies.

2.26 The countryside surrounding the village lies within Natural England’s National
Character Area (NCA) 48, and has a pivotal importance both in term of agricultural use,
habitat conservation, characterisation, leisure and landscape value.

2.27 The network of public footpaths and a bridleway, is generally well used by villagers,
especially those around the western boundary of the parish. The paths at Whisby Nature
Park are also very well used by visitors, of which there are about 150,000 annually. Many of
these paths are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly and there is the added
advantage of fully accessible toilet facilities. The main cycle route crossing the Parish is the
Sustrans Regional Route 93, which allows people to cycle safely to Whisby Nature Park
from the centre of Lincoln or make a detour to the Nature Park from the National Route at
Eagle. In addition, there are some relatively traffic free roads (except during ‘rush hour’)
which link to others in adjacent parishes, making it possible to cycle safely from the parish
to the surrounding areas. It is one of the aims of this plan to preserve and enhance the
network of footpath and cycle route for both residents and visitors use.

2.28 There are no flooding constraints in the parish, and no portion of the Parish falls into
conservation area.
3 - Our Vision and Objectives

Key Issues

3.1 Broadly, the main issues that have emerged as being of concern to many people within the local community are:

**Housing:** How to ensure that the scale, location and type of new housing enables reasonable additional choice without detracting from Thorpe’s character as a small, rural village and a rural Parish?

**Built Environment:** How to protect the character of the Village and Parish, and their heritage assets, whilst allowing for an appropriate level of new development and change?

**Transport and Traffic:** How to minimise adverse effects of traffic using roads in to, out of and through the village, whilst maintaining and improving accessibility to facilities and services for local people?

**Community Facilities:** How to preserve and enhance Thorpe’s community spirit and protect the local facilities that people value?

**Natural environment:** How best to protect the landscape, support agricultural change, improve access to the countryside and protect and enhance habitats and biodiversity?

**Employment:** How to support increased provision of local employment opportunities, whilst protecting the amenities that people living in Thorpe value?

Vision

3.2 The purpose of a neighbourhood plan is to influence change, steering it in directions that are in the best interests of the community as a whole. This Neighbourhood Plan is based on the following vision for change in Thorpe on the Hill over the next 20 years.

- thrive and grown yet retain the village feel and environment
- continue to respect and reflect the views of its community
- provide a good quality of life for current and future generations of residents
- protect and enhance the environment
Objectives

3.3 The following objectives are based on the Vision and they provide the context for the Neighbourhood Plan’s Policies (in the next section) and Parish Priorities (section 3).

- To ensure that any new development harmonises with the landscape character of the Parish and the “townscape” character of the village.

- To allow for development of a type and scale sufficient to meet local needs and support local facilities, without detracting from Thorpe’s essential character as a small, rural village and community.

- To protect and enhance open spaces that are valued for their contribution to recreation, visual amenity, ecology and bio-diversity, and landscape character and quality.

- To cherish and respect Thorpe’s heritage by ensuring that new buildings complement their built and natural surroundings.

- To support and protect community facilities.

- To ensure Thorpes’s residents and businesses have convenient and safe access to the facilities and places they need to travel to, whilst seeking to minimise harmful emissions and avoid high levels of traffic through the village.
Section 2
Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The following policies will be taken into account, together with those in the Local Plan, when applications for planning permission are being considered. Development proposals will be judged against the whole suite of relevant policies in the Development Plan (ie, all the relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan together).
4. Residential Development

Policy 1: Residential Development

1. To meet the housing need identified in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan for Thorpe on the Hill, the sites identified in Table 1 and defined on Map 2 have been allocated for housing development.

Table 0-1 Housing sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Planning Application Reference</th>
<th>Total No. of dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOU1</td>
<td>22 Lincoln Lane</td>
<td>15/0448/OUT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOU2</td>
<td>Sundown 19 Little Thorpe Lane</td>
<td>15/0528/FUL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOU4</td>
<td>Middle Lane</td>
<td>15/0054/OUT</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOU5</td>
<td>Land At Hill Close Farm, School Lane</td>
<td>15/1372/OUT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOU6</td>
<td>Land At Westfield Lane</td>
<td>15/0701/OUT</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Site HOU3 is allocated for affordable housing in accordance with the planning application granted on the site for 7 affordable homes with enabling development of 3 market homes

Table 0-2 Affordable housing site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Planning Application Reference</th>
<th>No. of Affordable dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOU3</td>
<td>Hill Close Farm, Lincoln Lane</td>
<td>15/0501/FUL</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Residential development proposals on sites not identified in Table 1 or Table 2 will only be supported where there is up to date local survey evidence of a specific housing need and will be considered against the following sequential order:

i. suitable brownfield sites or infill sites within the Thorpe on the Hill village curtilage;

ii. brownfield sites adjacent to the village curtilage; and

iii. greenfield sites adjacent to the village curtilage.

Proposals for development of a site lower in the sequential order will only be supported if it is demonstrated that no sites higher in the order are available or suitable

4. Conversion or redevelopment of non-residential buildings to provide housing must be in conformity with the policies relating to their conversion set out in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the following criteria:

• the development will provide a high standard of amenity (for example, privacy and daylight) for those who will live in the building(s);

• there will be no adverse impacts on the amenities that occupiers of neighbouring premises may reasonably expect to enjoy;

• there will be no loss of local service provision; and,

• local employment opportunities will not be significantly reduced.
4.1 The scale of residential growth expected to be delivered in Thorpe on the Hill is set out in the Central Lincolnshire Proposed Submission Local Plan. It identifies a figure of 15% growth over the plan period (from 2012 - 2036), which means that by 2036 the village is expected to grow by 33 dwellings. The Local Plan acknowledges that 1 dwelling had already been constructed and a further 2 dwellings granted planning permission at the time of the study (the calculations are correct as at 31 March 2015), reducing the growth figure to 30 dwellings. Since than, however, planning permission for a total of 45 dwellings has been granted, and planning permission for an additional 21 more await a decision.

4.2 From responses to consultations carried out during the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan, a clear desire emerged for growth to be of a scale and rate that could be absorbed without altering Thorpe on the Hills’s small-village character and without over-burdening existing facilities, services and infrastructure. In light of this, it is understandable that the flurry of planning applications and overall number of dwellings permitted in the past year have concerned many residents.

4.3 Policy 1 recognises the planning permissions that have been granted by effectively allocating these sites in accordance with the scale and nature of the schemes approved. This is particularly important with respect of the overall site capacity and, for the Hill Farm Close site, the number of affordable housing units to be delivered – this site was granted planning permission on the basis it was a rural exception site.

4.4 The village curtilage has also been updated to take account of the sites and is shown on the following map along with the location of the sites.

4.5 As shown in the tables in Policy 1, the planning permissions recently granted in the village already exceed the growth level for the next 20 years as recommended in the Central Lincolnshire Proposed Submission Local Plan. For this reason, further housing development is restricted and proposals will need to be supported by a local housing need assessment providing evidence that the proposal responds to an identified housing need. Infill and brownfield development will be given priority over adjacent and outward greenfield development, as described in the policy.

4.6 The curtilage reflects the existing built form, the need to maintain its “walkability” and compactness, and the need to preserve the existing landscape and countryside setting surrounding the village. Any land and buildings outside of the boundary line will usually be considered as being within the countryside where residential and other forms of major development will be limited to development that is inherently appropriate in the open countryside (as defined in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and National Planning Guidance). A detailed description of the village curtilage is provided as part of the supporting evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan.
Map 2: Site allocations and village curtilage
5. Local Employment

Policy 2: Local Employment

Proposals for householder development that enables working from home or for development that enables businesses to operate from integrated home/work locations will be supported provided that:

a) it conforms to relevant policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan;
b) the proposal will not result in conflict with neighbouring uses and will not have an unacceptable impact on residential amenity; and,
c) adequate access and parking can be achieved for the proposed use.

Proposals for the proportionate expansion of existing business sites will be supported provided that:

d) it conforms to relevant policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan;
e) the proposal will not result in conflict with neighbouring uses and will not result in an unacceptable impact on the amenities that occupiers of nearby premises or users of the nearby countryside may reasonably expect to enjoy; and,
f) the scale and form of the proposal does not adversely affect the rural setting of the village.

5.1 Policy LP5 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan provides scope and guidance for new commercial development (including new retail provision) within the countryside and rural areas of the district, and it is not the intention of this Neighbourhood Plan to repeat these policy conditions.

5.2 Most of Thorpe on the Hill’s employed residents travel to other places to work. Although it is unlikely that this will change dramatically over the period of this Plan, it is important to recognise that there are local employers and there is scope for further local employment as working patterns change and opportunities arise. Indeed, consultation about the Neighbourhood Plan included the business community within the parish and a questionnaire was issued in 2016, but no significant proposals or intentions were revealed through this process.

5.3 If more people were able to work closer to their homes – or from their homes – and chose to do so, there would probably be a bit less traffic and associated pollution, a bit more support for local services (because more people would be spending more of their time – and, perhaps, money locally), and a gradually increasing synergy between local businesses.

5.4 From the consultation responses, it appears that there is support for the principle of increasing local employment – including self-employment and working from home, as well as the possibility of allowing development to accommodate some slightly larger businesses where this will not detract from the residential and environmental amenities.
that people value in the parish. Policy 2 is intended to enable and allow for that sort of change, without seeking either to predict or to prescribe the forms that change might take.

6. Natural Environment

Biodiversity

Policy 3: Biodiversity

Developments that are consistent with other policies in this Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan will be supported provided that they do not cause harm to local ecology and wildlife and, where practicable, measures are taken to enhance local biodiversity and strengthen local ecology by:

- Protecting designated sites, protected species and ancient or species-rich hedgerows, grasslands and woodlands;
- Protecting open spaces as identified in the Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment
- Preserving ecological networks, and the migration and transit of flora and fauna, particularly between built up areas areas;
- Protecting ancient trees or trees of arboricultural value;
- Promoting the mitigation, preservation, restoration and re-creation of wildlife habitats, and the protection and recovery of priority species;
- Providing a net gain in flora and fauna; and,
- Adopting best practice in the provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage.

6.1 The residents of the parish care very much about the significant green (agricultural and semi-natural) and blue (fresh water) surroundings that make up a large part of the parish. The ecological role of these areas and the need to protect and enhance their local biodiversity and wildlife value is recognized by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and is reflected in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

6.2 The parish hosts a significant portion of Whisby Nature Park, a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which is particularly important for its wetland environment. Tunman Woodland is also a LWS as well as being an area of Ancient Woodland. These two areas are shown on Map 3 below and are given considerable protection through the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

6.3 However, these two areas of the parish form only part of its rich biodiversity: fresh water lakes, historic grassland, a number of TPOs, deciduous woodland and historic hedgerows all contribute to its overall quality. These assets are not identified in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study, but they are identified as Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces in the Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment and their biodiversity importance is highlighted in the Lincolnshire
Biodiversity Plan (2011). In view of this, Policy 3 reflects the community’s desire to ensure that the unique environmental qualities are protected and enhanced where possible.

6.4 Climate change is likely to have a major impact on the biodiversity in and around Thorpe on the Hill over the plan period and beyond. The impacts of development on climate change should be minimised through the use of renewable energy and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS), whilst increasing resilience to such change through having high regard to its ecological networks.

6.5 Policy 3 refines policy LP21 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan by identifying specific biodiversity features warranting special attention within Thorpe on the Hill. The policy conforms to the purposes of paragraph 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework in seeking to ensure that the planning system enhances the natural environment and promotes coherent ecological networks. In drafting this policy, the Parish Council has also observed its duty under Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
Map 3: Areas of biodiversity value
Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure

Policy 4: Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure

Developments that are consistent with other policies in this Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan will be supported provided that they do not cause harm to existing open areas and green infrastructure assets, including public rights of way, bridleways and cycleways. Proposals will only be supported where development:

- Does not have a detrimental impact on the purpose or function of existing green spaces and green infrastructure, as presented in Map 4;
- Contributes to the enhancement and management of existing green spaces and green infrastructure assets, where practicable; and,
- Contributes to the provision of new public green spaces and enhances green infrastructure linkages between the village and other nearby settlements and between the village and its surrounding countryside.

6.6 The network of bridleways, footpaths and cycle routes connecting different green spaces across the parish is valued for its range of beneficial effects, including: physical and mental health, connectivity, leisure, sense of place, mitigation of climate change effects, visitor attractions and landscape character.

6.7 Within the village curtilage, the triangle of land with mature trees on between Main Street and Lincoln Lane is designated as Important Open Space in the Local Plan and is afforded protection from development under policy LP23. The other areas of Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure shown on Map 4 are identified as Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces in the Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment (both publically and non publically accessible). Within this Neighbourhood Plan, they are collectively termed Green Spaces. Policy 4 supports policy LP24 of the Local Plan and emphasis the need to safeguard existing Green Space from inappropriate development.

6.8 Almost all of the Parish falls within the Strategic Green Corridor, as identified in the Local Plan, and it s crossed by Strategic Green Access Links. The network of footpaths, bridleways, cycle paths and quiet lanes is of pivotal importance for both residents and visitors, as it is widely used to access open spaces, and the countryside from the village and to reach other settlements. The network of Green Infrastructure shown on Map 4 is also identified on the Public Rights of Way Improvements Plan and the Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire. It is protected through Policy LP20 of the Local Plan and this is reinforced through Policy 4 of this Neighbourhood Plan.
Map 4: Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure
**Landscape and Views**

**Policy 5 – Landscape and views**

Outside of the defined village curtilage, priority will be given to protecting and enhancing the countryside from inappropriate development. Proposals will only be supported where development:

- is allocated in Policy 1 or would be in accordance with other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan or Central Lincolnshire Local Plan;
- will not have a detrimental impact on the purpose and function of the Green Wedge;
- will not individually or cumulatively reduce the separate identify of the village by reducing the gap between the village and the A46 (South Hykeham);
- will not have an adverse impact on the unique enclosure landscape of Thorpe on the Hill;
- will maintain the distinctive views of the surrounding countryside from public vantage points within, and adjacent to, the built up areas;

6.9 Policy 5 refines Local Plan Policy LP17 (Landscape, Townscape and Views) by identifying at a key landscape attributes that form an essential part of the character of the parish. In doing so, it conforms with the purpose of paragraph 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework to protect and enhance valued landscapes.

6.10 The entire parish of Thorpe on the Hill lies squarely within the area defined in the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (2011) defined as Lincolnshire: Character Zone TVL2. This zone is a small sub-set of the much larger Natural England Character Area defined as No.48: Trent and Belvoir Vales.

6.11 Thorpe on the Hill is a typical parish in this Character Zone. The built environment is almost exactly as described in the adopted description of the Character Zone. It contains a large block of ancient woodland in the eastern part of the parish (much of it formerly in the parish of Aubourn-cum-Haddington). There are also strips of woodland along the minor roads in the northern part of the parish.

6.12 Characteristically, Thorpe’s rural landscape is, however, mostly made up of arable fields, which are indeed arranged in a generally rectilinear pattern, with straight field boundaries, often at right-angles to each other. Field boundaries here are also very often formed by hedges than drainage ditches and the hedges are usually multi-species, though with hawthorn predominating and occasional standards. The modern parish lies north of the Fosse Way and was enclosed in 1774, and several versions of the map recording the subdivision of the landscape and the newly-created field boundaries have survived. Using these maps we can calculate that there has been something like a thirty percent loss of hedged field boundaries (by length) since the late eighteenth century. This relatively small loss-rate means that the structure of the post-enclosure landscape, of the late eighteenth century, and much of its detail, both physically, and in terms of natural environment, has survived into the present day. The hawthorn and the standards are both likely to have been first planted in 1774. Map 5 shows those areas where this enclosure landscape, created in 1774, survives well (Historic Enclosure Landscape). As is also
characteristic, these areas of historic landscape survival in Thorpe lie predominantly within the former medieval open fields (East Field, Middle Field and West Field). The area of former village common, along the northern edge of the parish, which was also enclosed in 1774, has now lost almost all of its enclosure boundaries, and an entirely new landscape has been created by gravel extraction.

6.13 Within the predominantly arable enclosure landscape, Thorpe also retains, in common with other parishes in the zone, a number of small enclosures of permanent pasture adjacent to the nucleated settlement, where the remains of the medieval open-field agriculture can still be seen in the form of rare ridge-and-furrow earthworks. These particular areas are shown as Historic Grassland on Map 5.

6.14 The Parish Council has identified a number of views of importance that need to be reflected in development proposals within the parish.
Map 5: Landscape character and features
INFORMATION BOX 1

The best landscape views within the parish, taken from the parish publication View from the Hill (100th Edition).

**View 1:** At sunset, on a clear evening, between April and September, stand on the corner where Lincoln Lane meets Station Road. The sun setting over the western quadrant of the parish must be one of the best views around.

**View 2:** At any time, particularly at dusk when the cathedral is lit up, follow the footpath through Stocking Wood. At the junction, turn south along the side of Tunman and Housham Woods and continue along the path towards Morton to grid reference SK889640. Turn and look to the north east and you will see Lincoln Cathedral sitting on top of Thorpe on the Hill.

**View 3:** Retrace your steps from View 2 towards Housham Wood. This path is the highest point in the parish. About half way along, stand and turn 360 degrees. These are the most extensive views in the village. The horizons to the left and right are several miles away.

**View 4:** When the trees are in leaf, go through Stocking Wood and then turn to return to the village. Stop just before leaving the wood. Look towards the village, which will be framed by trees.

**View 5:** At any time of year and any time of day in daylight, stand at the first bend at the top of Clay Lane. Look south west over the ancient woodland of Tunman Wood.

**View 6** Follow the footpath from Main Street to the wide track below what was the Scott Farmhouse. Look slightly upwards in a wide sweep from north west to south east and enjoy a classic, Lincolnshire big sky view. This is best on a clear day with the sun in the east.

**View 7** When the trees are in leaf, stand at the crossroads on Station Road. Look in all directions and be amazed at the density of trees that we have in the parish.

The final two are from the part of Whisby Nature Park that falls within the parish boundary. Both of these are best when the trees are in leaf.

**View 8:** From the car park, walk beyond the visitor centre, cross the bridge over the Pike Drain, continue towards the railway line and then look for the three opportunities to view Grebe Lake on your right. The first is after a few metres, with a bench to sit on. The second is a few metres further on, where you can stand in an opening. The third (and the best, perhaps) is from the bird hide a few metres further still.

**View 9:** From View 8 continue towards the railway line but turn left along the northern edge of Coot Lake. Follow the path to the end of the lake where you will find a bench to rest and enjoy the view. The view is perhaps even better when stood to the left of the very large silver birch tree on the edge of the lake.
7. Design

**Policy 6: Design and Character of Development**

Developments that are consistent with other policies in this Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan will be supported provided their design and specification complement the established character of the village as described in the Village Character Assessment and are consistent with the Thorpe on the Hill Design Guidance, taking particular account of:

- the impact of new buildings and structures on important views in and out of the village and on the setting of the village within the wider landscape;
- the visual impact of materials used for external walls and roofs, and the desirability of selecting these from a locally distinctive palette;
- the ways in which the overall form, scale, shape and proportions of new buildings and extensions relate to neighbouring buildings and impact on the character and appearance of the village as a whole;
- the visual importance of defining boundaries - particularly boundaries between public and private realms - in ways that are consistent with the mixture of hedges and brick walls that traditionally contributed to the character and distinctiveness of the village;
- the desirability of echoing and interpreting locally distinctive architecture and building elements of traditional buildings in the design and construction of new buildings and structures.

Applicants should explain how these issues and other advice contained in the Design Guidance have been taken in to account in the design of developments for which planning permission is sought.

7.1 The design quality of new developments is important to local people and it is clear from responses to the consultations that have been carried out that there is a desire for new buildings to be sited, designed and constructed so as to complement and strengthen Thorpe on the Hill’s character and identity.

7.2 Policy 5 does not seek to stifle design innovation, nor resist modern designs where they are appropriate, particularly in respect to sustainable design and construction. This policy merely seeks to ensure that development proposals are carefully considered and designed in a manner, which is complimentary to the existing village context. It aims to see that new development, as well as alterations and extensions to existing buildings, are in keeping with the character. For most development it will be helpful to check that it is compatible and complementary to the key characteristics of the village. Wherever possible, new development should help to strengthen, reinforce or where necessary, restore distinctive landscape character.

7.3 Further detail on the character of Thorpe on the Hill is set out in the ‘Character Assessment’ and should be used as a basis for understanding the character of the village and progressing development proposals, which respond positively to this character. The Design Guidance emerged from the Character Assessment work and sets out a number of core design principles, recommendations for materials and other distinguishing features as well as a series of key village-scape views around the village that should be respected. Both documents form part of the evidence base for this Neighbourhood Plan and are available to view on the Parish Council’s website.
7.4 Design and Access Statements submitted with planning applications should include sufficient information to explain how the guidance and considerations referred to above have been taken into account in the design of the proposed development.

7.5 In line with the NPPF, this policy requires that development should contribute positively and ensure the design responds to the local character and history of.
Section 3
Parish Priorities

Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council will continue to engage actively with Parishioners to encourage their involvement in the following Parish Priorities. It will do so by establishing an effective communication network and through both the Annual Parish Meeting and public time at Parish Meetings.

These priorities take into account matters of importance to the community that cannot be addressed through land use planning polices at the time of the Plan’s preparation. However, should the issues and challenges evolve over time to feature land-use matters then it may be necessary to update the planning policies in this Plan as part of the review process.

8. Community Well-being Leisure and Recreation

8.1 The purpose of the Leisure and Recreation Projects are to

- Encourage the use of existing recreations and leisure parish facilities to their maximum capacity
- Develop new recreations and leisure parish facilities to meet the needs of parishioners
- Maximise the use of the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room thereby increasing the income
- Work with the parish primary school to increase the use of the Shared playing field outside school times
- Encourage the use of footpaths and bridleways
CP1: OLIVER ROPER PARISH MEETING ROOM (ORPMR)
Support the Parish Council in its aim to maximise the income and use of the ORPMR through increased promotion and publicity of its facilities. Investigate the possibility of physically expanding the ORPMR to meet the needs of the wider community.

CP2: SPORTING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
Encourage and support the development of additional sporting and social activities especially those suitable for children and young adults.

CP3: PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
Seek to ensure that the existing children’s playground equipment is well maintained and improved and support the development of equipment for older children within the Parish.

CP4: YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Engage with relevant Community Development organisations to explore the possibility of setting up and organising sports clubs/activities for children and young adults.

CP5: FOOTPATH/CYCLE PATH
Explore the possibility of linking either by footpath or cycle path a route through the countryside that reflects the Lincoln commuter route to produce benefits in health and to reduce pollution.

CP6: PARISH WALKS
1. Promote the existing Stepping Out Leaflet - Thorpe on the Hill and Tunman Wood, Way Marked trails and Whisby Nature Park walks which cover the majority of the walkable footpaths in the parish.
2. Explore producing a Parish Local Walks leaflet combining all walks in the Parish.

CP7: LINKS WITH SCHOOLS
Develop positive links with the Primary School for the use of facilities within the Parish, and also Robert Pattinson and North Kesteven schools with regard to the use of their facilities.

CP8: VILLAGE COMMUNICATION
As new communication methods are introduced, identify and use new communication streams such as different forms of social media to provide information to all ages of the parish.
9. Tourism and Heritage

9.1 The purpose of the Tourism and Heritage Priorities are to:

- Promote economic growth in order to create local jobs and prosperity through tourism business activity
- Preserve and protect Thorpe on the Hills heritage
- Seek to increase access and enhance the facilities and opportunities for non-worked based cultural activities for all Thorpe on the Hill Parishioners and visitors

**CP9: PROMOTE TOURISM**

Promote tourism within the Parish and establish Thorpe on the Hill as a tourist location. The community of Thorpe on the Hill will work with the County and District Councils plus other regional and national organisations to publicise Thorpe on the Hill tourism sites.

**CP10: VILLAGE TRAILS**

The main vehicle for promotion of Thorpe on the Hill tourism will be the launch of a Parish Trail leaflet. This will identify existing sites of interest within the Parish and work in conjunction with North Kesteven District Council as appropriate.

**CP11: MAINTENANCE OF TOURISM AND PUBLIC SITES**

Existing tourism facilities should be improved and better maintained where necessary via dedicated management. This includes the control of litter within the village and along the highways. The Parish Council and volunteers will seek additional external funding from available resources as necessary working with local businesses where there is evidence of litter from their premises.

**CP12: TOURISM SIGNAGE**

Promotion will be through additional signage and the distribution of publicity material, using existing tourism networks, local and regional web sites etc.

**CP13: ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FACILITIES**

The need for additional facilities such as car parks, public toilets, cafeteria etc will be investigated and identified to support these policies and funding sought. Development proposals will be supported when appropriate.

**CP14: TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**

Local residents with suitable facilities will be encouraged to provide tourist accommodation.

**CP15: TOURING CARAVAN PARK**

The use of the existing touring caravan park will be encouraged, publicised and supported.
10. Roads, Traffic Management and Accessibility

10.1 The purpose of these priorities is to
- Reduce village road congestion
- Reduce the speed of traffic through the village
- Improve accessibility and safety of Thorpe on the Hill footpaths for all age groups
- Improve the road safety of entrance and exit junctions to the village
- Ensure all new developments have enough car parking and do not have an unacceptable traffic impact on local residents
- Developments that would give rise to unacceptable highway dangers will not be permitted
- Ensure the 7.5 tonne limit is observed

CP17: SPEED LIMITES
The Parish Council will consult with Lincolnshire County Council Highways to introduce discuss and implement the recently commissioned traffic report

CP18: DROP KERBS
The Parish Council will consult with Lincolnshire County Council Highways to install drop kerbs to improve footpath accessibility for our disabled parishioners

CP19: PARKING
The Parish Council will advertise the use of the existing car parking at the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room and expand the facility by opening up one of the tennis courts on a permanent basis. It will work with the school to encourage school traffic to use this facility rather than parking on the road.

CP20: ROAD MAINTENANCE
The Parish Council will consult with Lincolnshire County Council Highways to provide better road maintenance, including drainage, within the Parish
## 11. Glossary of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access statement</strong></td>
<td>A concise report to explain how a proposed development is a suitable response to the site and its setting and demonstrate that it can be adequately accessed by prospective users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Affordable housing</strong></td>
<td>Affordable housing includes social, rented and shared ownership housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market, but specifically excludes low cost market housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biodiversity</strong></td>
<td>Is the term for the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brownfield land/site</strong></td>
<td>Brownfield land is referred to in the NPPF, paragraph 17, as “previously developed land”. This is defined in the NPPF glossary as “Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Built environment</strong></td>
<td>The manmade surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, ranging in scale from buildings and parks or green space to neighbourhoods and cities including their supporting infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community asset</strong></td>
<td>A building or service which is deemed to be of importance for the community and for the use and benefit of the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community facilities</strong></td>
<td>Land or buildings used to help meet health, educational and social needs in terms of developing and maintaining the health and well-being of all in the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community engagement</strong></td>
<td>The process of firms, town and parish councils working collaboratively with community groups to address issues that impact the well-being of those groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation area</strong></td>
<td>An area designated under Section 69 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as being of ‘special architectural or historical interest’, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curtilage</strong></td>
<td>A boundary traditionally marking the area around a settlement within which permission for development can be applied for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development</strong></td>
<td>Development is defined in planning terms under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. Broadly, it is considered to be ‘the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operation in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land’. Most, but not all, forms of development require planning permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development plan</strong></td>
<td>Adopted documents that are used to determine planning applications. In Thurgarton this is the NSDC Core Strategy, the Allocations and Development Management DPD and, when adopted, the Thurgarton Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ecology</strong></td>
<td>The relationships between groups of living things and their environments. The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates and survives; including the natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU obligations</strong></td>
<td>Compliance with all the EU’s standards and rules.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geodiversity  The variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils in an area, together with natural processes, such as erosion and landslips that may still be active.

Greenfield sites  Greenfield sites are considered as land which does not fall within the above “Brownfield” definition.

Green infrastructure  A network of fields, parks, allotments, open spaces and street vegetation which collectively forms a network of green (living) within a settlement and landscape. Good green infrastructure networks have a mixture of different types of habitat and are well linked by corridors of trees, hedgerows and other linear landscape features.

Housing Needs Survey  Housing needs surveys are undertaken to establish the need for affordable housing and market housing in a given area (usually a parish or town) and the type and mix of homes required to meet this need.

Heritage asset  A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Infill sites  A small gap within an otherwise built-up frontage or group of houses

Infrastructure  Infrastructure is a collection of basic services necessary for development to take place, for example: roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities.

Landscape  The Landform, Vertical Structures, Horizontal Structures, Vegetation, Water, and Climate.

Listed buildings  A listed building is any building or structure which is included in the list of ‘buildings of special architectural or historic interest’.

Localism Act 2011  The devolution of decision making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

Local facilities  Buildings available to local people for community purposes providing education, healthcare or leisure services.

Local plan  The Local Plan expresses the vision, objectives, overall planning strategy, and policies for their implementation across the whole District. In the case of NSDC this refers to the 2011 Core Strategy and the 2013 Allocations and Development Management DPD (A&DM DPD)

Local planning Authority  A local planning authority is the local authority of council that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area.

Local referendum  A direct vote in which communities will be asked to either accept or reject the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mitigated action (Developments)  Mitigation action may include measures taken to reduce adverse effects of a development. For example: changing the way the development is carried out to minimise adverse effects through appropriate methods or timing.

National Planning Policy Framework  National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Neighbourhood Area  An area has to be formally designated for a neighbourhood plan or order to be produced.

Neighbourhood plan  A Plan developed under the authority of the Localism Act detailing detailed planning policies for a town/parish.

Policies  A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Character</td>
<td>Rural Character includes a predominant visual landscape of open spaces, woodlands, and farms and the activities which preserve such features. It balances environmental, forest, and farm protection with rural development and recreational opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement hierarchy</td>
<td>The grading of settlements for town planners by size of the settlement population and the range of services available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial strategy</td>
<td>A plan or strategy used by the public sector (local national Planning authorities) to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces of various scales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory requirement</td>
<td>Activity which is required by Law. The official approval, a license, or a permit that is required by law for engaging in a certain activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable growth / Sustainable development</td>
<td>Development that allows growth without damaging the environment or natural resources and that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations2012</td>
<td>Act of Parliament which governs how the whole process of establishing an area to be designated to have a Neighbourhood plan; and the process in which such a plan is brought about before becoming enshrined in Planning Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual amenity</td>
<td>A desirable or useful features or facilities of a building or place as perceived by sight.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 1: How the Thorpe on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan was prepared

There have been 2 stages to the development of this plan the first being the production of a Village Plan as outlined below. The Parish Council’s objective was to ensure that the residents and businesses of Thorpe on the Hill had a say in all aspects of the future of the parish.

Stage 1, Our Village Plan 2014

In 2012 the Thorpe Parish Council decided that the next step in preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan would be to hold a public meeting to seek the community’s views on the ground that the Plan should cover. This meeting took place in the Oliver Roper Hall on 29 October 2012, and was attended by more than 140 villagers. It not only encouraged the Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, but there was also support for a stronger community voice in many issues of local concern.

It was agreed at that meeting that the Parish Council would organise a questionnaire within the village to establish the issues of greatest concern to the community, and then take the results of that questionnaire as the basis for the first draft of a Neighbourhood Plan. The questionnaire was issued to all of the identified individuals in the Civil Parish and the results were collected together in the summer of 2013.

99 forms were returned, out of a possible 230 issued, giving a very good response rate of about 43% - a much higher percentage return than is achieved in most public elections, for example. That winter the Parish Council tasked an independent group of villagers, all of whom had expressed an interest in helping with the job at the meeting of 29 October, with the analysis of the results from the questionnaire. In March 2014 the group began the process of analysing the questionnaire results and writing them up in form that would be useful in the subsequent stages of Plan production.

By October 2014 they had produced a ‘Proposals Document’ entitled Our Village Plan, which sets out the community’s ambitions in a format that formed the basis for conversations with NKDC about the production of a formal Neighbourhood Plan. Our Village Plan can be found on Thorpe on the Hill Parish website.

Stage 2 Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan

Early 2015 he Parish Council asked the Steering Group to continue with their work to produce the Neighbourhood Plan in full. The Steering Group had new members join along with a new Parish Clerk and 2 new Parish Councillors. They organised themselves into Teams to begin the process of gathering any further evidence needed to support the Plan, under the headings of:
• Land allocation
• Build environment to include housing
• Natural Environment
• Services
• Employment and local economy
• Recreation, Travel, Leisure and Tourism
• Community Wellbeing
• Funding and Publicity

This included reviewing evidence reports prepared by various bodies and preparing a neighbourhood profile using key national and local statistics to help to identify issues for the Parish. This information is provided in separate supporting documents.

All of the information gathering and consultation activity undertaken at that point fed into an emerging set of planning policies and community priorities that were presented at a Neighbourhood Plan open day in May 2016. The feedback received during this event informed the draft Neighbourhood Plan presented in this document.