

Hough on the Hill

with Gelston and Brandon

Neighbourhood Plan



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Get Involved

This is a community-led process, so the more people who get involved the better.

There are spare places on the Planning Team, so if you would like to join the group, or if you are able to help in any way, please [contact the Parish Council](#).

What Next?

As more ideas start to develop there will be public meetings.

Consultation will continue as the plan is written and a local referendum will be held before the plan can be adopted. The process will take some time because we need to get it right.

Keep Up to Date

Check village notice boards and this website for the latest information.

If you provide an email address we'll send any updates as they occur.

*Spotted any problems with this website?
If so, please [email the webfumbler](#)*

LATEST NEWS

Next Event:

We're now working on completing a draft Neighbourhood Plan. When complete, and authorised by the Parish Council, we will be consulting the community again over a 6 week period. You'll be notified by website, email, leaflets etc when this is happening.

Landscape Character Assessment

The main theme from your initial feedback was appreciation of the beauty and tranquility of our landscape. So the Parish Council decided to produce a Landscape Character Assessment to describe the landscape and document your thoughts and ideas. So we distributed a [more detailed questionnaire](#), ran a workshop at Hough Church and took further comments on the draft.

The [Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment](#) is now complete and has been approved by the Parish Council.

There's still time to send in comments

If you live, work or have connections with Hough on the Hill Parish you can send us ideas and comments by [email](#), or fill in our [online form](#).

Neighborhood Plan Document - Current Draft

The '[Issues and Approach](#)' section of the Neighbourhood Plan was updated in Feb 2014.

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HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR VILLAGE TO LOOK IN 20 YEARS TIME?

Hough on the Hill Parish Council (which also covers Brandon & Gelston) is compiling a 'Neighbourhood Plan' to help shape development over the coming years.

The council needs your help and ideas. For example:

- What are the good features of the area — things you value and want to keep?
- What are the negative features — things you'd like to change, or get rid of?
- Is there anything we don't have, but you would like?
- Is there anything we don't have, which we should definitely not have?

Building. The plan is mainly about development (building). Because our villages have no shops or schools etc, they are termed 'unsustainable', which prevents most new building. But what do you think? Do we need new homes for young families or older people here (rather than somewhere like Caythorpe, which is 'sustainable')? Is this more important than keeping open spaces and reducing traffic?

Employment. Is there enough employment locally? Where could development provide jobs without impacting the landscape, environment or traffic?

Open Spaces. We have open spaces within villages and wide open views across the countryside. How important are these to you? What could be done to protect, enhance and make better use of these spaces?

Design. Much of Hough on the Hill is a conservation area (see map on [next page](#)), where the design of building modifications (extensions etc) is strictly controlled. Are there any design features (e.g. materials, maximum height, colour etc) that we should insist on throughout the parish?

Sustainability. How can we reduce our contribution our CO2 emissions, whilst maintaining our quality of life and protecting the local environment?

The Wider View. What about views beyond the parish; and how could we improve links with other villages?

Our plan must work within district council and national regulations. We cannot prevent development laid down by these authorities. But we can influence where and how any development is carried out.

Once finished and adopted, our Neighbourhood Plan will become an official planning document.

The Initial Questionnaire

In June 2013 we dropped a leaflet with a short questionnaire at every house in the parish. We've used these to compile some initial feedback, but you can still contribute ideas by filling this in, or by filling in the [online form](#).

If more than one person in your house wants to contribute (including children) please print another form [[download a copy of the flyer](#)], or just make notes on a piece of paper.

If you run a community organisation or business in the parish, please feel free to submit a separate sheet with your thoughts from that perspective. If you know of anyone in the parish who may not have had this leaflet, please let us know.

Completed forms can be dropped off at either: Jubilee Cottage, Thompson's Lane, Hough on the Hill, or 6 Gelston or Brandon Hall, Hall Lane, Brandon

Confused yet?

We'll try to explain things as we go along. For more information try the FAQ page, or [email us](#) and we'll get back to you.

If you have specific requests or concerns, please email us; but all major decisions will be taken democratically and the Plan can only be adopted after a referendum.

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Local Documents

[Hough NP Area Designation Approval Letter](#)

[Project Team Minutes: 31 May 2013](#)

[26 Jun 2013](#)

[26 Jul 2013](#)

[15 Oct 2013](#)

[29 Oct 2013](#)

[9 Dec 2013](#)

Initial Public Feedback - coming soon

Send us your Photographs!

We're looking for photos of the area - scenes that you think are interesting, or important to you. Or just to illustrate how the area looks at different times of day, or in different seasons.

Please send them to the Project Team, ideally [by email](#).

Other Important Documents

[South Kesteven Local Plan](#)

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Information about the Neighbourhood Planning process

[Action for Market Towns](#) – Neighbourhood Planning Briefing

Campaign to Protect Rural England - [How to shape where you live:](#)

Dept for Communities and Local Government - [Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning](#)

DEFRA: [Neighbourhood Plans - The Rural Frontrunners: Case Studies and Tips](#)

Levett-Therival - [Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal](#)

Planning Advisory Service, [Neighbourhood Planning Event presentation](#)

Planning Aid England – [Forum For Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Planning Portal web pages on [Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Rural Community Council of Essex – [Neighbourhood Planning Guidance](#)

SKDC - [Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Statutory Consultees - [Planning for the environment at the neighbourhood level](#)

Town and County Planning Association – [Your Place, Your Plan](#)

Urbanvision – [Quick Guide to Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Links to Some Other Neighbourhood Plans

- [Ascot and the Sunnings](#)
- [Bookham](#)
- Dawlish Neighbourhood Plan including examiners report (first NP to go to examination)
- [East Leake](#)
- [Hackbridge](#)
- Keyworth - [Neighbourhood Plan Website](#) and [Village Design Statement](#)
- [Much Wenlock](#)
- [Thame](#)
- [Upper Eden](#) (first NP to pass examination and referendum)



Hough on the Hill Parish (click to expand)



Hough on the Hill Conservation Area

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Neighbourhood Plan : Some Questions and Answers



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Q - Why do a Neighbourhood Plan?

A: The Government are giving more powers to local councils; some of it to parish councils. So we need to know what residents want.

Q – What is Neighbourhood Planning?

A – Passed by Parliament within the Localism Act, Neighbourhood Planning enables local communities to help decide:

- *What type of development is needed and what it should look like.*
- *The most appropriate places for new development to be located.*
- *Which green spaces, other important areas, and buildings should be protected.*
- *What improvements or additions to local facilities, services and infrastructure are required alongside future development*

Q - Will it have any effect?

A: There are limits on what we can include. But once adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan is part of local planning policy.

Q - Who is running the plan?

A: It's run by the Parish Council, with a Planning Team formed to move things forward, consisting of councillors and other residents (there are a couple of vacancies if anyone's interested). But ultimately, it's down to all the residents to come up with ideas and make decisions.

Q – What will be in the plan?

A: We don't know. Themes will emerge from the feedback we get and we'll discuss these at public meetings. We've decided to start things off by commissioning a Landscape Character Assessment from a professional firm. This is something we'd need to do anyway, and we're getting a good deal by sharing the work with Stubton Parish Council. We've applied for a Government grant to cover the cost.

Q – What sorts of things can we comment on?

A: The Neighbourhood Plan is about planning policy; so we can't insist on a bus route or a shop, for example. But even if you have ideas that can't be incorporated in the plan, it's still worth telling the Parish Council about them.

Q – What if I don't want any development at all?

A: Tell us. If that's what people want, that's what the Parish Council will support. It may turn out that a full Neighbourhood Plan is not necessary, but the research and consultation we're doing will still provide ideas and direction for the future of our area.

Q – What's Next?

A: We're collating responses to the initial question form. The next step will be to focus on the local landscape character. More details soon, but we expect to distribute another questionnaire (sorry!). There will then be a public meeting to discuss landscape issues. In the meantime, any issues that you're raised but which can't be dealt with in a Neighbourhood Plan will be fed to the full Parish Council for further consideration.

More Questions? [Email the Planning Team](#)

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Initial Survey

The online form below is an alternative to the paper version distributed to homes in the parish in June 2013. Clicking on SUBMIT will open your email programme, allowing you to send the form to the parish council.

If you'd rather complete a paper copy, download the [June flyer](#).

Things you like about the area

Things you don't like about the area

Things you'd like to see in the area

Things you don't want in the area

Your Name

Your address
(Must be in the parish)

Telephone (optional)

Email address

I'm willing to help