

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2041

Basic Conditions Statement

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet a set of basic conditions before it can be put to a referendum and be made. The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 1.2 This Statement has been prepared for Crowle Parish Council to demonstrate that the Crowle Neighbourhood Development Plan ('Neighbourhood Plan') meets legal requirements and the prescribed basic conditions.
- 1.3 The Statement confirms that:
 - The legal requirements and certain basic conditions have been met (section 2).
 - Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan (section 3).
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development (section 4).
 - The Neighbourhood Plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with assimilated EU obligations, and that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (section 6).

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND BASIC CONDITIONS

Legal requirements

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the area that was designated by Wychavon District Council as a Neighbourhood Area on 29 November 2022. It relates only to this Area. No other Neighbourhood Plan has or is being made for the Area.
- 2.2 Crowle Parish Council is a qualifying body.
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan specifies the period for which it is to have effect, 2024-2041.
- 2.4 The Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies in relation to the use or development of land in the Neighbourhood Area, and which have been prepared in accordance with the statutory provisions. In particular it includes:
 - Policies designed to achieve objectives that relate to the particular characteristics or circumstances of the Neighbourhood Area and to specific sites.
 - Requirements with respect to design that relate to development throughout the Neighbourhood Area which the qualifying body considers should be met for planning permission for the development to be granted.
- 2.5 So far as the qualifying body considers appropriate having regard to the subject matter of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan is designed to secure that the development and use of land in the Neighbourhood Area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The Neighbourhood Plan's policies on design, housing development and renewable and low carbon energy will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaption. Policy CRW1 on design seeks the retention of natural site features such as trees, hedgerows and ponds, and the provision of new tree planting and other landscaping. Policy CRW8 on housing development promotes energy and water conservation, the generation of renewable energy and other sustainability measures. Policy CRW13 on renewable and low carbon energy supports relevant proposals.
- 2.6 So far as the qualifying body considers appropriate having regard to the subject matter of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan takes account of the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (WLNRS). The subject matter of the Neighbourhood Plan does not include policies directly relating to biodiversity or nature recovery. However, the WLNRS is referenced within Chapter 2 and Plan policies include many relevant provisions which will have the effect of contributing to the Strategy's priorities and supporting the delivery of its Potential Measures for recovering or enhancing biodiversity. Policy CRW1 on design seeks the provision of new tree planting and other landscaping which provides for wildlife, which will contribute to priorities on native trees and to Potential Measure 38 (increase the extent and connectedness and quality of wildlife habitats within the built environment). Policy CRW3 on landscape character aims to retain and conserve existing natural landscape features such as woodland and traditional orchards, many of which are Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity identified in the WLNRS.

The policy aligns with Strategy priorities within the Trees, Scrub and Woodland theme, and to several WLNRS Potential Measures, such as 13 (enhance condition of existing woodlands for wildlife), 17 (enhance condition of hedgerows), 26 (enhance wildlife value of older traditional orchards), and 27 (create new traditional orchards). Woodland Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity such as Thrift Wood, Bow Wood and at Climer's Hill are represented in the key views identified by policy CRW5, supporting their protection. Policy CRW6 on Local Green Spaces includes two ponds; that at Green Pool (LGS5) is an Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity in the WLNRS. Designation as LGS will support its recovery and enhancement in line with priorities in the Water and Wetlands Theme. The pond at Pear Tree Way (Pear Tree pool) included in LGS3 is not an Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, although designation as LGS will support the implementation of Potential Measure 7 (enhancement of wildlife ponds and surrounding habitat).

- 2.7 The Neighbourhood Plan does not include provision about development that is excluded development, such as mineral and waste matters, nationally significant infrastructure projects or other prescribed development under section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It is not inconsistent with or (in substance) repeat any national development management policy.

Basic conditions

- 2.8 The making of the Neighbourhood Plan will not have the effect of preventing development from taking place which is proposed in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of the area) and if it took place would provide housing. The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) allocates one site for development for housing in the Neighbourhood Area. This site, land off Church Road, has full planning permission. None of the Neighbourhood Plan's policies will prevent the development of this allocation.
- 2.9 No requirements have been imposed in relation to the making of the Neighbourhood Plan by or under Part 6 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (environmental outcomes reports).
- 2.10 The making of the Neighbourhood Plan will not result in the development plan for the area of the authority proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the neighbourhood plan were not to be made. The SWDPR does not identify any housing requirement for the Neighbourhood Area, on the basis that the overall housing target for South Worcestershire is to be met through the SWDPR itself. As explained above the SWDPR housing allocations includes one site in the Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any policies which could prevent or unduly restrict the delivery of housing.
- 2.11 Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with
- 2.12 The remaining basic conditions are addressed in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this Statement.

3. REGARD TO NATIONAL POLICIES AND ADVICE

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with appropriate regard to the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).² The Neighbourhood Plan will help achieve national planning policies at the parish level. The regard had to national policies is set out in detail on a policy-by-policy basis in Table 1.
- 3.2 NPPF paragraph 13 sets out requirements for how communities should engage in neighbourhood planning. In accordance with this national policy, the Neighbourhood Plan supports the delivery of strategic policies set out in the SWDPR, including its policies for housing and economic development, and seeks to shape and direct development that is outside these strategic policies.
- 3.3 In accord with NPPF paragraph 16, the Neighbourhood Plan:
- Has been prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, as explained in section 4 of this Statement.
 - Has been prepared positively through community engagement as explained in the Consultation Statement.
 - Has been shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement with the community, local organisations, businesses, development interests, infrastructure providers and operators, and statutory consultees, as explained in the Consultation Statement.
 - Contains policies that are clearly written and unambiguous.
 - Is accessible via the Parish Council website.
 - Serves a clear purpose in the context of the Crowle Neighbourhood Area, complementing rather than duplicating existing national and SWDPR policies as explained in this section.
- 3.4 The NPPF sets out more specific guidance on neighbourhood plans as follows:
- NPPF paragraph 30: the Parish Council have used neighbourhood planning powers to develop a local vision for the Neighbourhood Area and to influence local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan.
 - NPPF paragraph 30: the Neighbourhood Plan does not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies of the SWDPR or undermine those policies. Footnote 17 states that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area. This requirement is no longer a basic condition³ but remains in national policy

¹ December 2024.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

³ Following commencement of section 99 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.

and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, and on that basis is addressed here. The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the SWDPR. In their response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan, Wychavon District Council indicated that they were content that its policies were in general conformity with those in both the adopted SWDP and the submitted SWDPR. Table 2 sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan's policies align with relevant policies in the SWDPR.

- NPPF paragraph 32: the preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focussed tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned. The Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by a wide range of existing evidence sources, supplemented by a residents' questionnaire survey. The resultant 'evidence base' is referred to throughout the Neighbourhood Plan as required and is listed at Appendix A of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.5 PPG indicates that a policy should be clear and unambiguous to enable a decision maker to apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. The guidance further advises that policies should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence, reflecting and responding to both the planning context and the unique characteristics of the area for which it has been prepared.⁴ There is no 'tick box' list of evidence required, but proportionate, robust evidence should support the choices made and the approach taken. The evidence should be drawn upon to explain succinctly the intention and rationale of the policies.⁵ In accordance with this guidance, the Neighbourhood Plan's policies have been carefully crafted to be clear and unambiguous and are based on appropriate and proportionate evidence.

⁴ PPG Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.

⁵ PPG Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 41-040-20160211.

Table 1: National policies by Neighbourhood Plan policy

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>Policy CRW1: Design Development proposals should maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the Crowle Neighbourhood Area and achieve a high quality of design by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. having regard to the design guidelines set out in the Crowle Design Guidance and Codes. A Design and Access Statement or similar should be provided to show how the Design Guidance and Codes have been addressed and positively influenced the proposed design solution; and 2. respecting the character of the locality and street scene as to layout, density, height, massing, architectural detailing, building to building distances, boundary treatment, landscaping, and materials; and 3. retaining natural site features of amenity and biodiversity value, such as trees, ponds, and hedgerows, as far as possible, and providing new tree planting and other landscaping and open space which is in keeping with landscape character and provides for wildlife, with a preference for native deciduous species; and 4. being capable of being safely accessed from the local road network without undue impacts on the character of the locality and on biodiversity which cannot be mitigated; and 5. avoiding creating unacceptable impacts on neighbourhood amenity and the tranquillity of the countryside from noise, volume and nature of traffic generated, dust or odour. External lighting should avoid undue adverse impacts on amenity, wildlife, and dark skies. <p>Modern design approaches which take an innovative approach, including to energy efficiency and sustainability, will be welcomed where they make a positive contribution to the character of the area and contribute to local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>Policy CRW1 has regard to NPPF chapter 12 which sees good design as a key aspect of sustainable development (para. 131), and to the components of good design as set out in para. 135. These include good architecture, layout, and appropriate and effective landscaping. In accord with NPPF paras. 133 and 134, the Crowle Design Guidance and Codes have been prepared to provide maximum clarity about design expectations at an early stage. The policy aims to prevent development from contributing to unacceptable levels of pollution including from noise or artificial light (NPPF para. 198 c)).</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>Policy CRW2: Crowle Conservation Area Development proposals within Crowle Conservation Area or its setting should preserve or enhance its character or appearance, having regard to the significance and special interest of the Conservation Area as set out in the Appraisal and Management Plan. Proposals will be supported provided that they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. serve to preserve or positively enhance the Conservation Area by virtue of their use, character, and design; and 2. avoid any demolition of a building or structure if its loss would be harmful to the character of the Conservation Area; and 3. respect the prevailing density of buildings and their plan form, recognising the variations that occur in these factors within the Conservation Area; and 4. reflect the size, height, scale, form, proportions and detailing of the existing and surrounding built form; and 5. use local materials and vernacular techniques wherever possible; and 6. ensure that any extensions and service buildings are subsidiary to the main property, are not unduly prominent in the street scene, and use sympathetic materials to the main property; and 7. retain the important boundary features, significant views, gardens and open spaces, trees and tree groups, and water features identified in the Appraisal and Management Plan; and 8. specify local materials or native species for any new boundary treatments such as walls, railings, fencing or hedging; and 9. preserve the open countryside setting of the Conservation Area. 	<p>Policy CRW2 has regard to national policy in NPPF chapter 16 which deals with conserving and enhancing the historic environment.</p>
<p>Policy CRW3: Landscape character Development proposals must demonstrate that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the characteristics and guidelines for the Landscape Type of the proposed site, as defined in the latest Landscape Character Assessment, have positively influenced the siting, design, scale, layout, landscaping, and boundary treatment of the proposal; and 	<p>Policy CRW3 has regard to national policy in NPPF chapter 15 which deals with conserving and enhancing the natural environment. It is in line with NPPF para. 187 which requires planning policies to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting valued landscapes in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality, and to recognise the intrinsic</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>2. every available opportunity has been taken to strengthen the landscape character of the relevant Landscape Type, by retaining and conserving existing features such as trees, woodland, hedgerows, and traditional orchards, and by restoring, enhancing, and making new provision where this is appropriate; and</p> <p>3. they respect the open countryside setting of the settlements of Crowle, Crowle Green, and Sale Green. Development which would have an adverse effect upon the landscape setting of these villages, considered in terms of the assessed landscape character, will not be supported.</p>	<p>character and beauty of the countryside.</p>
<p>Policy CRW4: Crowle/Crowle Green Local Gap Development proposals within the Crowle/Crowle Green Local Gap as shown on Plan 3 will only be supported provided that they would not diminish or reduce the physical and/or visual separation between the settlements or compromise its open character and integrity.</p> <p>In applying this policy, regard will be had as appropriate to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. building scale, footprint, massing, height, and design; and 2. the suitability of the proposed use to the rural character of the Local Gap; and 3. any intensification likely to arise when compared to the current use; and 4. the individual effects of proposals and the cumulative effects when considered with other existing and proposed development. 	<p>Policy CRW4 recognises the role of the Local Gap in contributing to local character and history, which includes the built environment and its landscape setting (NPPF para. 135 c)), thereby contributing to the conservation of the natural environment (NPPF para. 29).</p>
<p>Policy CRW5: Key views Where a development proposal within the Neighbourhood Area would have a significant visual impact on the key views (KV) listed below and shown on Plan 4 and the accompanying photographs, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or similar study should be provided to demonstrate that the levels of effects are acceptable, and that the scheme has been sited and designed sensitively and</p>	<p>Policy CRW5 seeks to protect key views of the countryside from viewpoints in the Neighbourhood Area. In doing so it contributes to an appreciation of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (NPPF para. 187 b)) and helps to ensure that development is sympathetic to local character and history, which includes the built environment and its landscape setting (NPPF para. 135 c)).</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>appropriately reflecting, respecting, and where possible, enhancing its landscape context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KV1: view from Sale Green towards Lower Crowle and Bredon Hill. • KV2: view from Froxmere Road towards Crowle. • KV3: view from Rectory Farm towards Huddington. • KV4: view from Froxmere Road towards Bow Wood, Upton Snodsbury, and Bredon Hill. • KV5 and KV6: views from Geneva Crescent towards Froxmere Court, Bow Wood, Upton Snodsbury, and Bredon Hill. • KV7: view from open space at rear of Pear Tree Way towards Bredon Hill. • KV8: view from Jonagold Farm towards Bredon Hill. • KV9: view from rear of Jubilee playing field towards Pear Tree Way, Geneva Crescent, Froxmere Road, and Huddington. • KV10: view from Bredicot Lane towards Thrift Wood. • KV11: view from Bredicot lane towards Climer’s Hill and Netherwood Lane. • KV12: view from footpath by Glebe Orchard towards Crowle church. • KV13 and KV14: views from Crowle towards Climer’s Hill and Netherwood Lane. • KV15: view from Crowle towards Tibberton, the M5, and Sixways. • KV16: view from Crowle towards Crowle Green and Sale Green. • KV17: view from Crowle Brook towards Crowle Bank. • KV16: view from Oddingley Lane/Climer’s Hill towards Bow Wood. 	
<p>Policy CRW6: Local Green Spaces The following areas of land as shown on Plan 5 are designated as Local Green Space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGS1: Jubilee Playing Field • LGS2: Crowle allotments • LGS3: Pear Tree Way • LGS4: Parish Garden 	<p>Policy CRW6 provides for the designation of Local Green Spaces in accord with the provisions of NPPF paras. 106-108. Table 3 in the Neighbourhood Plan explains how each Local Green Space meets the criteria set by NPPF para. 107 for such designation. All the Local Green Spaces are capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGS5: Green Pool <p>Development will be managed in a manner consistent with that applicable to designated Green Belt.</p>	
<p>Policy CRW7: Neighbourhood Area housing requirement</p> <p>In determining planning applications involving the provision of housing and the extent to which any housing requirement that may be identified by the strategic policy-making authorities for the Crowle Neighbourhood Area has been met, regard will be had to the contribution made by Local Plan allocation and the grant of planning permissions for new housing.</p>	<p>Policy CRW7 provides confirmation that regard will be had to Local Plan allocation and planning permissions in determining the extent to which any future housing requirement has been met including the application of NPPF para. 14 b).</p>
<p>Policy CRW8: Housing development</p> <p>To be supported, proposals for new housing must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be proportionate in size to the village concerned and to the Neighbourhood Area as a whole, and respect the existing settlement form, rural character, and countryside setting. Proposals for new market housing outside the development boundaries will only be supported in the exceptional circumstances set out in national planning policy; and 2. demonstrate that acceptable arrangements for wastewater treatment are or will be in place to serve the whole proposal before development commences. Development that may result in the capacity of the Crowle wastewater treatment works and/or the public sewerage network becoming overloaded will not be supported; and 3. have regard to the capacity of other infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the additional demands likely to arise from the proposal, providing if necessary for additional capacity to at least maintain existing service levels; and 4. provide for energy and water conservation and the generation of renewable energy. All new housing should aim to achieve the highest standards of energy conservation, being ideally carbon 	<p>Policy CRW8 in setting criteria for new housing proposals has regard to national policy on homes in the countryside (NPPF para. 84) and the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level (NPPF para. 29). The policy requires development to respect local character and history, including the built environment and its landscape setting (NPPF para. 135 c)). The policy encourages designs which achieve a high level of sustainability (NPPF para. 139 b)), the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (NPPF para. 164 b)), and sustainable transport modes (NPPF para. 109). The policy also protects amenity (NPPF para. 135 f)) and the integration of new development with existing uses (NPPF para. 200).</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>neutral whilst as a minimum complying with Building Regulations; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. incorporate other sustainability measures to include building orientation and design, sustainable construction methods and materials, and provision for waste recycling, cycle storage, communications and broadband technologies, and electric vehicle charging points; and 6. avoid unacceptable impacts on residential amenity including from loss of privacy, overlooking, and reduction of outlook or daylight; and 7. show how the proposal can be safely accessed by all, providing sufficient off-road parking (a minimum of one car parking space per bedroom) and safe, direct, and attractive connections by foot and cycle to community facilities and public transport as far as practicable. Proposals should also demonstrate that the likely traffic impacts on the rural and largely single-lane local road network are acceptable in terms of capacity, congestion, and highway safety; and 8. be located and designed to avoid adverse impacts on the amenity of the future occupants from the operation of existing uses, including agricultural, business and community uses, where such impacts could lead to unreasonable restrictions being placed on them. 	
<p>Policy CRW9: Housing mix Proposals for new housing of five or more units must demonstrate, subject to viability considerations, that they provide market dwellings of a type and size that positively contribute to meeting the latest assessment of housing needs. There is a particular requirement in the Neighbourhood Area for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starter/retirement homes (2 bedrooms). • Smaller family housing (3 bedrooms). • Housing designed to meet the needs of older people including 	<p>Policy CRW9 requires new housing to be of a type and size to help meet local needs. The policy has regard to NPPF paras. 61 and 63, which emphasise the importance of addressing the needs of groups with specific housing requirements, including families with children and older people, in planning policy.</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>bungalows. Proposals for self-build housing will also be supported.</p>	
<p>Policy CRW10: Householder development Proposals for alterations and extensions to existing dwellings or for ancillary development within residential curtilages will be supported where they are in accord with policy CRW8 and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the existing dwelling remains as the dominant element of built form on the curtilage, to which the proposed development is subordinate; and 2. the proposal respects and complements the existing dwelling in massing, height, materials, and detailing; and 3. the proposal does not lead to an unacceptable loss of useable private amenity space or of on-curtilage parking. <p>Proposals for the laying of an impermeable driveway should have regard to the loss of permeable area, any resultant increase in flood risk, and the impact on the street scene.</p>	<p>Policy CRW10 seeks to ensure that householder development contributes to well-designed places (NPPF para. 131), including that it functions well, adds to the overall quality of the area, and is sympathetic to local character including the surrounding built environment (NPPF para. 135).</p>
<p>Policy CRW11: Small-scale employment Proposals for small-scale employment development which are in accord with relevant Local Plan policies will be supported provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. they are of a scale, type, and nature appropriate to their location and setting, and to the rural character of the Neighbourhood Area; and 2. the traffic generated can be accommodated on local roads without undue operational, safety or environmental consequences, including which may arise from road widening or loss of hedgerows; and 3. all available practicable opportunities are taken to enable access by walking, cycling, and public transport for staff and visitors; and 4. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of residents, including through increases in traffic, noise or air 	<p>Policy CRW11 supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses in the Neighbourhood Area, having regard to NPPF para. 88. It recognises that opportunities to meet business needs may arise outside existing settlements (NPPF para. 89).</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>pollution, light levels, and working hours.</p>	
<p>Policy CRW12: Community facilities Development proposals that would result in the loss of community facilities will only be supported when the criteria in relevant Local Plan policies can be shown to be met. This includes the following community facilities at Crowle and Crowle Green as shown on Plan 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shop and Café at Crowle • Crowle Post Office • Crowle CE First School • Crowle Church (St John the Baptist) • The Chequers at Crowle • Crowle Parish Hall – Millennium and Platinum Halls • Jubilee playing field. <p>Proposals for new community facilities or the enhancement of existing facilities will be required to demonstrate that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the local road network can accommodate any additional traffic without compromising highway safety; and 2. the facilities are accessible by a choice of transport modes including walking and cycling and include adequate off-road vehicle and cycle parking on the site; and 3. there will be no significant harmful impacts on residential amenity; and 4. their siting, scale, and design respects the character of the surrounding area, including any historic and natural assets. 	<p>Policy CRW12 seeks the retention and development of accessible community facilities in line with NPPF para. 88 d) to help support a prosperous rural economy. It also takes account of NPPF para. 98, which requires planning policies to plan positively for the provision and use of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.</p>
<p>Policy CRW13: Renewable and low carbon energy Renewable and low carbon energy proposals that will benefit the community will be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the scale and form of development is appropriate to its surroundings and to the rural character of the Neighbourhood Area; and 	<p>Policy CRW13 supports suitable renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily in accord with NPPF para. 165 a).</p>

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	Regard to national policies
<p>2. there is no substantial increase in traffic volumes including HGV traffic; and</p> <p>3. there is no undue detrimental impact (including cumulative impacts) on visual and residential amenity, landscape character including the countryside setting of Crowle, Crowle Green and Sale Green, key views, heritage assets, biodiversity, and the utility and enjoyment of public rights of way.</p> <p>Proposals for community-led renewable and low carbon energy development where benefits can be demonstrated are particularly encouraged.</p>	

Table 2: General conformity of Neighbourhood Plan policies with strategic policies.

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	General conformity with SWDPR policy
Policy CRW1: Design	Policy CRW1 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 05 <i>Design and Sustainable Construction</i> and SWDPR 28 <i>Design</i> . It adds local detail as set out in the Crowle Design Guidance and Codes and by reflecting issues of concern as expressed in replies to the residents’ survey.
Policy CRW2: Crowle Conservation Area	Policy CRW2 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 09 <i>Historic Environment</i> and aligns with non-strategic policy SWDPR 33 <i>Management of the Historic Environment</i> , adding local detail by setting criteria for the consideration of development proposals affecting the Conservation Area.
Policy CRW3: Landscape character	Policy CRW3 aligns with non-strategic policy SWDPR 34 <i>Landscape Character</i> . It adds local detail by setting out relevant criteria for the consideration of development proposals.
Policy CRW4: Crowle/Crowle Green Local Gap	Policy CRW4 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 08 <i>Significant Gaps</i> . It adds local detail by providing additional protection to open land to maintain settlement identity, prevent coalescence, and protecting the landscape setting of Crowle and Crowle Green.
Policy CRW5: Key views	Policy CRW5 aligns with non-strategic policy SWDPR 34 <i>Landscape Character</i> , to which it adds local detail by identifying key views of the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy CRW6: Local Green Spaces	Policy CRW6 aligns with non-strategic policy SWDPR 48 <i>Open Space</i> . It adds detail by identifying areas for designation as Local Green Space which are of particular importance to the community.
Policy CRW7: Neighbourhood Area housing requirement	No relevant SWDPR policies identified.
Policy CRW8: Housing development	Policy CRW8 is in general conformity with strategic policies SWDPR 05 <i>Design and Sustainable Construction</i> , SWDPR 10 <i>Infrastructure</i> and SWDPR 28 <i>Design</i> , and aligns with non-strategic policy SWDPR 40 <i>Water Resources, Efficiency and Wastewater Treatment</i> . It adds local detail by reflecting issues of concern as expressed in replies to the residents’ survey.

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan policy	General conformity with SWDPR policy
Policy CRW9: Housing mix	Policy CRW9 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 17 <i>Housing Mix and Standards</i> . It adds local detail on the size and type of housing that is required to meet needs in the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy CRW10: Householder development	Policy CRW10 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 28 <i>Design</i> . It adds local detail by setting criteria specific to householder development, informed by replies to the residents' survey.
Policy CRW11: Small-scale employment	Policy CRW11 is in general conformity with strategic policies SWDPR 14 <i>Non-allocated Employment Development</i> and SWDPR 15 <i>Employment in Rural Areas</i> , adding local detail by setting criteria for employment proposals in the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy CRW12: Community facilities	Policy CRW12 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 13 <i>Promotion of Town, District and Local Centres</i> , and aligns with non-strategic policies SWDPR 47 <i>Built Community Facilities</i> and SWDPR 48 <i>Open Space</i> . It adds local detail by identifying the community facilities in the Neighbourhood Area covered by the policy.
Policy CRW13: Renewable and low carbon energy	Policy CRW13 is in general conformity with strategic policy SWDPR 37 <i>Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</i> . It adds local detail by setting criteria for renewable and low carbon energy proposals in the Neighbourhood Area.

4. ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 This section explains how the making of the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The NPPF explains (para. 8) that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways, so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the objectives:

- **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental objective** – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

4.2 The objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in the Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.

4.3 Table 3 sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan will help achieve sustainable development, in terms of contributing to each of the three national objectives.

4.4 The Neighbourhood Plan will also contribute to the achievement of sustainable development by virtue of its general conformity with the strategic policies of the SWDPR, as set out in section 3. The SWDPR sets out a development strategy and settlement hierarchy to achieve the sustainable development of South Worcestershire based on economic, social and environmental roles. These echo the three objectives defined in the NPPF. The Neighbourhood Plan will deliver sustainable development by virtue of setting out a balanced set of policies which address each of the strategic roles.

Table 3: Sustainable development

Sustainable development objective	How the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan contributes
Economic	<p>The Vision includes that by 2041 the Parish of Crowle will be a place where appropriate economic development is supported, helping to provide local employment in small businesses, farming, and other rural enterprises, and where accessible community facilities support social and cultural well-being.</p> <p>Relevant objectives are to support small-scale employment developments which are in scale and keeping with the character of the Neighbourhood Area and appropriate to their location; to protect existing community facilities and enable new provision; and to support appropriate proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan policies directly address the economic objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing planning criteria for the design of new development, giving guidance to those bringing proposals forward and for decision makers (policy CRW1). • Supporting proposals for small-scale employment development when planning requirements are met (policy CRW11). • Identifying existing community facilities for protection and providing planning criteria for new provision (policy CRW12). • Supporting proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development when planning requirements are met (policy CRW13). <p>Other Neighbourhood Plan policies support the economic objective indirectly. Policies addressing the social objective help to maintain and promote a thriving rural community and thus demand for goods and services. Policies addressing the environmental objective serve to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and historic environments, providing a stable basis for economic activity.</p> <p>As well as its planning policies, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out community actions which the Parish Council will undertake to contribute to the economic objective, including working with Worcestershire County Council and others on aspects of local highways and transport provision, and by promoting and supporting improvements to communications and broadband infrastructure.</p>
Social	<p>The Vision includes that by 2041 the Parish of Crowle will be a thriving local community with a distinctive Parish identity, where well-designed development provides the size and type of new homes that are needed, and</p>

Sustainable development objective	How the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan contributes
	<p>where accessible community facilities support social and cultural well-being.</p> <p>Relevant objectives are to provide a mix of size and type of dwellings to meet the community’s needs; to ensure that new housing is well-designed, sustainable, and respects the existing and historic settlement form of the villages; to ensure housing development is proportionate to the size of the existing villages and the availability of community facilities and services; and to protect existing community facilities and enable new provision.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan policies directly address the social objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming that the Neighbourhood Area’s housing requirement has been met (policy CRW7). • Maintaining local distinctiveness and fostering community identity by setting criteria for new housing development (policy CRW8) and specific consideration of householder development (policy CRW10). • Requiring new housing to contribute to meeting housing needs (policy CRW9). • Identifying existing community facilities for protection and providing planning criteria for new provision (policy CRW12). <p>Other Neighbourhood Plan policies support the social objective indirectly. Policies addressing the economic objective enable local employment opportunities by supporting proposals for small-scale employment development. Policies addressing the environmental objective serve to protect the Neighbourhood Area’s natural and historic environments which contribute to the sense of place and community identity.</p> <p>As well as its planning policies, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out community actions which the Parish Council will undertake to contribute to the social objective, including on highway and transport matters, communications and broadband, community information, and community facilities.</p>
Environmental	The Vision includes that by 2041 the Parish of Crowle will be a sustainable rural environment where the distinctive landscape character, key views, green spaces and the setting of the villages are protected and

Sustainable development objective	How the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan contributes
	<p>enhanced, providing an attractive and peaceful countryside for all to enjoy, with well-designed new development contributing to the distinctive Parish identity.</p> <p>Relevant objectives are to ensure new development is designed to respect and enhance its context and settlement character, including the linear pattern of growth of Crowle and Crowle Green, and to maintain local distinctiveness; to ensure that development serves to preserve or enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the Crowle Conservation Area; to protect, enhance and strengthen the distinctive landscape character of the Neighbourhood Area including trees, woodland, hedgerows, and traditional orchards; to protect the landscape setting of the villages and maintain the separate identity of Crowle and Crowle Green; to identify and protect important views of the countryside from the villages and elsewhere; and to identify green areas of particular importance to the community and designate them as Local Green Space.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan policies directly address the environmental objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring a high quality of design in new development (policy CRW1). • Providing criteria for development within the Crowle Conservation Area and its setting (policy CRW2). • Protecting landscape character and key views (policies CRW3 and CRW5). • Protecting the open countryside which separates Crowle and Crowle Green (policy CRW4). • Designating and protecting Local Green Spaces which are demonstrably special to the community and hold a particular local significance (policy CRW6). <p>Other Neighbourhood Plan policies support the environmental objective indirectly. Policies addressing the social objective help to promote the health, social and cultural well-being of the community by making use of the local environment in varying ways. Policies addressing the economic objective support the continued availability of goods and services locally, reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>As well as its planning policies, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out community actions which the Parish Council will undertake to contribute to the environmental objective. These include actions on street lighting, walking and cycling, the community-led generation of renewable and low carbon energy, electric vehicle charging points, and non-designated heritage assets.</p>

5. ASSIMILATED OBLIGATIONS

5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with assimilated European Union obligations as detailed in Table 4 and as transposed into UK law.

Table 4: Assimilated obligations

Assimilated Obligation	Compatibility of the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive</p> <p>Habitats Directive</p>	<p>In July 2024 the Parish Council requested Wychavon District Council as the responsible authority to determine whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) were required for the Neighbourhood Plan. The draft Neighbourhood Plan was provided to the District Council for the purposes of the assessment. A draft Screening Opinion report was prepared by the District Council in August 2024, on which Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted in accordance with the regulations. The final Screening Opinion Report was issued in September 2024.</p> <p>The SEA screening exercise found that <i>“the assessments shown above identify no potential significant negative effects arising from the draft Crowle Neighbourhood Plan and as such, will not require a full SEA to be undertaken. This determination is pending the findings of consultation and the formal views of the statutory environmental bodies. This view is taken as the policies in the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan seek to reinforce and do not deviate from the remit of the adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan (2016) and the submitted review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (2023).”</i>.</p> <p>The HRA screening exercise found that <i>“it can be considered that the draft Crowle Neighbourhood Plan will have no negative impact on internationally designated wildlife sites ... the policies of the draft Crowle Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with those contained in the SWDP. It is therefore concluded that the draft Crowle Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a negative impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites and as such, the recommendation is made that a full AA is not required.”</i>.</p> <p>The Report concludes that these recommendations <i>“were subject to consultation with the statutory environmental bodies (i.e., the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England); the five-week consultation period ran from day 20 August until midnight on day 23 September 2024. All three consultation responses are attached to this report, however in short, all three statutory environmental bodies agreed that neither a full SEA nor HRA AA are required.”</i>.</p>

Assimilated Obligation	Compatibility of the Crowle Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Following this opinion, regulation 14 consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan was held between 4 November 2024 and 17 December 2024. Wychavon District Council responded <i>“that the Neighbourhood Plan’s policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted SWDP and submitted SWDPR local plan policies”</i>. No material changes have arisen since that date including through the adoption of the SWDPR. The requirements of the SEA and Habitats Directives are considered to have been met.</p>
Water Framework Directive	<p>The SWDPR addresses the achievement of the Water Framework Directive in South Worcestershire, including by SWDPR 39 <i>Sustainable Drainage Systems</i> and SWDPR 40 <i>Water Resources, Efficiency and Wastewater Treatment</i>. The Neighbourhood Plan reflects these policies. For example, policy CRW8 Housing development supports the delivery of SWDPR 40 at the Neighbourhood Area level.</p>
Human Rights	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is fully compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, transposed into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. It has been prepared within the existing framework of statute, national planning policy and guidance, and South Worcestershire strategic and other planning policies. In accordance with established process, its preparation has included consultation with the local community, and it is subject to independent examination. The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to comply with the requirements of EU obligations in relation to Human Rights.</p>