

Hazlemere Parish Council – Draft Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Policy Areas in preparation for pre-submission public consultation as part of Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

The Hazlemere Parish Council Draft Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Policy Areas were adopted by Full Council at its Extraordinary Council Meeting on 23rd February 2022

Introduction and Background

A working party of Parish, Buckinghamshire (and former Wycombe District Councillors) and members of the public was formed on 21 October 2020

The Parish Council resolved to develop a plan for the neighbourhood area at a Full Council Meeting on 3 November 2020

The Parish Council approved the appointment of external consultants at a Full Council Meeting on 4 May 2021

Buckinghamshire Council declared that the whole of Hazlemere Parish Council area has been designated as a Neighbourhood Area in accordance with Regulation 5A of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended on 28th September 2021

Community consultation in the form of walkabouts, drop ins and meetings both online and in person took place between September and November 2021 culminating in a vision workshop in December 2021

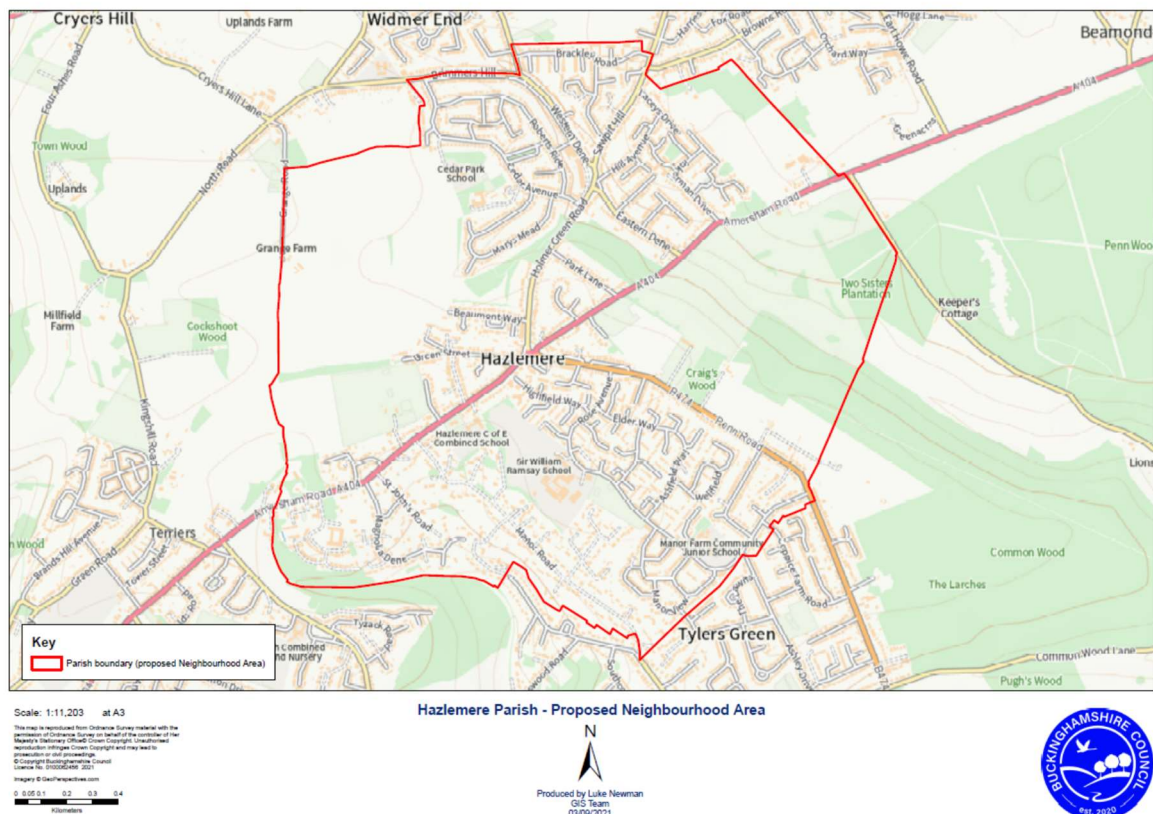
Various requests of Buckinghamshire Council between July 2021 and February 2022 in relation to the Development Brief for HW8 and its potential impact on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Hazlemere have not been answered and no Development Brief has been presented. The working party therefore resolved to publish the Draft Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Policy Areas without this valuable information.

Aims and Objectives of Hazlemere Parish Council

1. To provide effective and accountable local government for the Parish, achieving best value for our community
 - 1.1. To increase public involvement in the community by ensuring the parish council and its activities are open, transparent, and accountable to residents
 - 1.2. To ensure that Councillors and Staff have access to high quality training and development opportunities and that they meet all required standards
2. To be a strong voice for residents and local businesses ensuring that development of our built and natural environment is driven by the needs and ambitions of the community it represents
 - 2.1. To understand and communicate the views, needs and aspirations of residents and businesses by engaging the community to create a neighbourhood plan
 - 2.2. To respond to planning applications and other statutory consultations on time, ensuring that recommendations made to Buckinghamshire Council adhere to the neighbourhood plan, any statutory regulations, and the interests of the community

3. To be a cleaner, greener (net zero), more attractive Parish that is a safe and healthy place to learn, live and work
 - 3.1. To promote, within our community, activities which support the net zero 2030 target
 - 3.2. To work with Buckinghamshire Council to provide safe, healthy and timely opportunities for recreation, leisure and education
 - 3.3. To provide, improve and maintain play equipment, allotments and public recreation spaces
 - 3.4. To support the work of village voluntary organisations through grants and practical support (council working parties / Community boards)

Hazlemere Parish Designated Area



Draft Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Policy Areas

Vision

Our vision is to create an interconnected community that supports the wellbeing of its residents by

- Homes that better meet the needs of local residents
- Requiring movement towards a net zero whole life carbon approach for all developments
- Protecting existing green spaces and achieving biodiversity net gain across the Parish
- Creating better liveability and sense of wellbeing across the Parish

Policy areas

There are six policy areas the neighbourhood plan will cover: homes, greenspace and biodiversity, carbon, sustainable travel, community facilities and HW8

HAZNP1: Homes

Issue

Young adults who have grown up in the Parish often need to move away because of unaffordable house prices and the size of available homes in the Parish. Similarly, older people who are ready to downsize find there is little housing to meet their needs in the Parish. Families that want to accommodate multigenerational living extend their homes – which only leads to a stock of larger houses in the Parish

Policy Area

To provide an alternative to an extension, by making it easier to provide separate, infill, inclusive homes, if they provide smaller homes at a lower price.

HAZNP2: Greenspace and biodiversity

Issue

In Hazlemere we are all aware of the value of green space – both seeing it and being able to access it for recreation. The biodiversity crisis means there is an imperative to help wildlife thrive across the Parish, not only in the designated green spaces, but in many other places such as gardens and verges.

Policy Area

To review the greenspace designations in the Local Plan to ensure all designations are up to date, and to implement a Biodiversity Net Gain policy, which would collect money from development for the Parish to spend on improving the biodiversity within the parish.

HAZNP3: Carbon

Issue

The climate crisis needs an urgent response and Hazlemere has declared a Climate Emergency.

Policy Area

To move towards zero carbon standards across the lifecycle of buildings and reduced reliance on carbon emitting transport and technologies.

HAZNP4: Sustainable transport

Issue

Life in Hazlemere is highly dependent on the private car. There is a relatively good bus service, but most people are unaware of it – and walking to bus stops, and waiting at them, is often quite a hostile experience, because our streets and roads are dominated by traffic. Walking further, or travelling by bike, are both unpleasant and often unsafe.

Policy Area

Developments will be asked to contribute to measures to reduce the reliance on car ownership and allow improvements to improve walking and cycling. A priority is making it easier to cross the A404.

HAZNP5: Community facilities

Issue

As Hazlemere grows in population, community facilities will need to keep pace and meet the needs of the Parish now and in the future. Currently the unmet need within the Parish is provided elsewhere, causing greater car dependence. A community needs assessment is needed.

Policy Area

To work in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council on data to allow policies to be based on reliable evidence. Explore funding options from developments for the provision of community facilities, contributing to a healthy local economy and local wellbeing.

HAZNP6: Policy HW8 of the Local Plan

Issue

Land to the east of allocated site HW8 within former Chiltern District has not been allocated for development. This means that parts of Policy HW8 are out of date. The southern area of development identified in pink on the diagram accompanying the policy is isolated from the surrounding built up area. Buckinghamshire Council has not prepared a development brief to address how this issue might be overcome.

Policy Area

To bring HW8 up to date to ensure the development achieves an interconnected community which will support the wellbeing of its residents and fully incorporate the whole site into the Parish of Hazlemere

Figure 14 Land off Amersham Road including Tralee Farm

