



# Neighbourhood Planning for Alconbury Weston

A short presentation on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 by

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Supported by Alconbury Weston Parish Councillors

# What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:
  - A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications. It should:
    - have regard to national policy;
    - contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
    - be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area;
    - be compatible with EU obligations
  - Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority
  - A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place
  - It is a legal document, so is subject to reviews and checks when being produced, and audited amendments during its life

**The whole point of a neighbourhood plan is that it is community-led**

# 3 Steps to Producing a Neighbourhood Plan

- 1. Identifying the area – Straightforward if a parish, and we have completed this step, with agreement from HDC – see next slide.
- 2. Community consultation and evidence
  - The neighbourhood planning group will need to talk to lots of people locally – residents, businesses and community groups – to find out what’s important to them about where they live, what they’d like to improve and what their vision is for the local area.
  - We need to gather evidence to back up the ideas that the community want to see – survey and analysis
  - Using feedback and evidence, we have to write the planning policies that will make our community’s vision a reality.
- 3. Submitting the Plan
  - The Regulation 14 consultation Neighbourhood planning regulations require the draft neighbourhood plan proposal to be the subject of a pre-submission consultation before it is submitted to the local authority for independent examination. The consultation should last at least 6 weeks
  - The local authority will publicise the plan (Regulation 16) and arrange for the independent examination. This will consider whether the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. If successful at the examination stage, with modifications if necessary, then the local authority will arrange for a neighbourhood plan referendum. If there is a majority yes vote, then the neighbourhood plan is made and becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.

# Alconbury Weston Parish Designated Area for Neighbourhood Plan



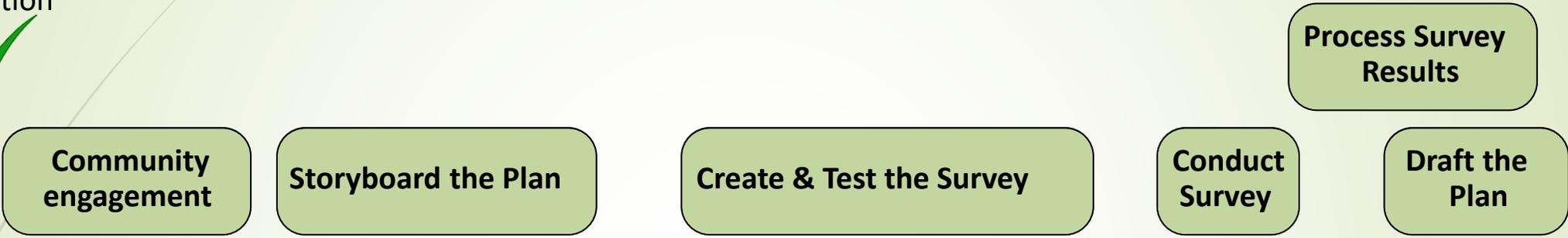


# Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?

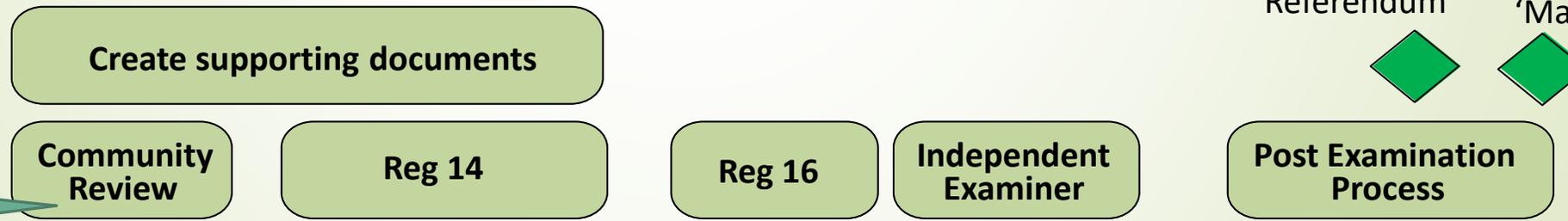
- ▶ Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area
  - ▶ provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop
  - ▶ A neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as a local plan
- ▶ To define Local Green Spaces
- ▶ If HDC fall short of their build trajectory flowed down from government, their Local Plan protection for Small Settlements could get overridden by developers
  - ▶ A Neighbourhood Plan should prevent this
- ▶ The Neighbourhood Plan is aligned with the HDC Local Plan which is due to be reviewed and re-issued in 2035. Our Plan would have to be reviewed at the same time.
  - ▶ This is why we can influence what happens in our Parish for the next 13 years

# How long will it take to produce a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Area Designation



Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022				2023											



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2024												2025	

And HDC informal review

# You will ask yourself – ‘How am I involved?’

- All members of the community will be involved
  - public meeting – you are here now!
  - Workshop – the team may decide to hold workshops to get ideas for the Residents Survey
  - leaflets, etc.
  - Residents survey, along with one for local businesses
- Informal review of the Plan, once produced, by residents (and HDC)
- Referendum – Do you want the plan, or not?
  - Simple majority of those residents who vote
- We need volunteers to form the neighbourhood plan team
  - Without a dedicated team we may not get a neighbourhood plan, or it will take too long to produce. Skills required by the Team are:
    - Project Management, Data input, Survey Analysis, Plan Author, HDC engagement, Footwork – delivering leaflets, surveys, etc.



# Questions and Answers

- Presentation will be placed on the Alconbury Weston Parish Council Website
- Q&As will also be placed on the website – will take a few days to edit!
- <https://alconburyweston-pc.gov.uk>