

## **Houghton Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Regulation 16 Consultation Response Form**

Please return your completed response form to Test Valley Borough Council via either:

- E-mail: [Neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:Neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk) **or**
- Post: Planning Policy, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ.

**The consultation starts on Monday 27 September and ends at Noon on Tuesday 9 November 2021**

**Please review the Data Protection section, and sign and date at the end of this response form.**

#### **Guidance Note:**

This response form has two parts:

#### **Part A – Contact Details and Future Notification**

Please provide your personal contact details. If an agent is appointed to represent you, then they would need to provide their full contact details in addition to your Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable). This information is required to enable the Independent Examiner to contact you for further information if required during the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Consultees can request to be notified once Test Valley Borough Council has decided to ‘make’ the Houghton Neighbourhood Plan, following the Independent Examination and referendum. This decision is the final statutory stage in adopting a Neighbourhood Plan. Please indicate whether or not you wish to be notified.

#### **Part B – Your representation(s)**

If you are responding using this form, please use a separate Part B form for each different part of the Plan that you respond to (for example, one form per document or per policy).

Please use the table to set out which document and which part of that document your comments relate to. If your comment is on a specific element please set this out in the table. Your comments should then be written in the box – please state if you have included any attachments as part of your comments.

## **Part A – Contact Details and Future Notification**

### **Contact Details**

	<b>1. Personal Details</b> (or Client Details if applicable)**	<b>2. Agent's Details</b> (if applicable)
Title*	Mrs	
First name*	Sheryl	
Last name*	Williams	
Job title (where relevant)		
Organisation (where relevant)		
Address*	Houghton	
Postcode*	SO20 6LW	
Telephone Number		
Email Address		

\*Please note: these sections must be completed.

\*\*If an agent is appointed, please provide the client's Title, Name and Organisation.

### **Future Notification**

Do you wish to be notified of Test Valley Borough Council's decision to 'make' the Houghton Neighbourhood Plan? (Please tick):

**Yes:**

**No:**

## **Part B – Representation**

Please use a separate Part B form for each document/paragraph/policy that you are making representations about.

<b>To which document does this representation relate?</b>		
(please <b><u>tick only one document per Response Form</u></b> and indicate the section / policy number / paragraph number to which your comments relate to)		
<b>Consultation Document</b>	<b>Tick</b>	<b>Section/ Policy/ Paragraph</b>
Houghton Neighbourhood Plan	x	See in text
Basic Conditions Statement		
Consultation Statement		
Designated Area Map		

<b>Please write your comments in this box: (Continue on next page and attach an additional page at the back of your response if required)</b>
<p>As a resident and homeowner in the village of Houghton, I write in support of the Neighbourhood Development Plan submitted for adoption by Houghton Parish Council.</p> <p>My support for the plan is based on the vision it proposes of a future wherein the community of Houghton will see its distinctive and strong rural character protected for future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>The importance of protecting our local green spaces seems to me to be essential if this is to be achieved. As the NDP states:</p> <p><i>7.14 Views of the rural landscape around Houghton and environs are a significant way of appreciating the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</i></p> <p><i>7.17 National planning policy allows NDPs to designate land as Local Green Space in order to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.</i></p> <p>In my opinion, the natural environment, hedgerows and green spaces, are as important a feature of Houghton’s distinct ‘ribbon’ character as are the forty five listed buildings and several non-designated heritage assets that comprise Houghton’s built environment: each is complementary to the other. Both need to be taken into careful account when planning and development are being debated. The open spaces within the village settlement form its dispersed character as farmland, fields, the allotments and small areas of woodland border the village road. The NDP focuses on conserving these natural spaces and I agree with their view.</p> <p><i>3.3 Objectives for the natural environment • To protect, conserve and enhance landscape character. • To protect important views of the landscape and the settlement within it. • To protect Local Green Spaces of particular importance to the local community.</i></p> <p>There has been significant new building development within the village in recent years, and much energy has been spent in arguing a need to respect and reflect traditional building forms in terms of design, materials and scale; a key issue addressed in the NDP, and one I fully endorse. Unfortunately, as a consequence, a number of green spaces have already been irretrievably</p>

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lost. Most shocking was the ripping out of an ancient copse, adjacent to the water meadows at the south end of the village, regardless of the loss of wildlife and biodiverse woodland, in order to accommodate an application to build a large contemporary home. This simply must not be allowed to happen. The village is encouraged by the recent refusal of a planning application to build four off plan houses on the village allotments as hopefully this signifies a significant step forward in understanding that there is not only an urgent need to protect a much-valued and enjoyed local resource open to all residents, but also, as I've previously stated, a responsibility to protect and preserve Houghton's distinctive and strong rural character before it's too late. I believe that the implementation of the NDP will help to achieve this.

Policy HTN2 in the plan guards against the unnecessary loss of valued services, facilities, and open spaces in the village which enable many different forms of social interaction, support healthy lifestyles and which are well-used. I am most encouraged that the NDP sets these issues at the heart of its arguments, reminding us all how easily the built character of the village can be irrevocably altered or erased.

*3.1 Objectives for the community • To protect, retain and improve community services and facilities including open space and land and buildings used for sport and recreation and access to the countryside, to support health, social and cultural well-being. • To help meet housing requirements by encouraging a mix of type and size of properties in line with community needs.* Houghton lies within a conservation area and has a range of heritage assets, sites of Special Scientific Interest and sites of importance for Nature Conservation, as shown on plans 3 and 4. It is surely imperative that the village acts to maintain and protect its natural environment as an invaluable part of its heritage by giving most careful consideration to the design, scope and location of any new development, as well as whether a local need is being met. Again, I agree with the proposals set out clearly in the NDP.

*Policy HTN4 /HTN5 to maintain the overall dispersed and linear form of the village ...be in keeping with the character of properties in the locality, including as to scale, height, materials and detailing....existing boundary hedgerows should be maintained ...retain existing roadside grass verges... avoid undue adverse impacts on amenity, wildlife and dark skies from external lighting and signage.*

Sustainability and protecting the environment are key considerations of the NDP as shown in Policy HTN1 which addresses economic, social and environmental issues and how they should be pursued in mutually supportive ways. I fully support this.

My final but equally important point would be to emphasise that community services in the village are limited yet much valued where they exist. There is a very limited bus service. There are no longer shops, no school, no surgery, no mains drainage, no gas. There are lovely walks in pastoral landscapes but to access the essential services I have just listed, villagers use their cars or arrange home deliveries of goods and services. With increased development and growing numbers of residents comes a marked increase in traffic passing through the village. Traffic on the village road is already notably much busier now; heavy, over-large vehicles seeking to access building sites, or turn around are a particular problem and definitely unsuited to our narrow roads as not only are they a hazard to lighter vehicles, cyclists or pedestrians, but damaging to grass verges and hedgerows.

**Please write your comments in this box:** (Continue on next page and attach an additional page at the back of your response if required)

Houghton is a village known for its quiet charm, rural character and natural, unspoilt beauty. I support the adoption of the NDP as I strongly believe that we must protect these distinctive features for future generations to enjoy.

### **Data Protection**

**Data Protection:** The comments you submit will be used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan process and will be held for the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan. Please note that your comments will **not** be treated as confidential and will be made available for public inspection. However, contact details will not be made public and will not be passed to external parties, apart from the Examiner, without permission. For further information on how we use your personal data please visit <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/gdpr>

**Please tick the box to confirm you are happy for your comments to be used in this way (x I confirm as stated)**

Signed .....Sheryl Williams..... Date 7/11/21.....

**Please return the completed forms by:**

**Email:**

[Neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:Neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk)

**Post:** Neighbourhood Planning, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ.

**For more information:**

**Telephone:** 01264 368000

**Website:** [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk).

If you require any assistance in completing this form or require further information, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team.