



The Neighbourhood Plan-Making Summary

The Forum and the South Newnham Neighbourhood Area were formally 'designated' by the local planning authority, Cambridge City Council, in March 2017 under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. The designation lasted five years and in July 2022 the Forum was re-designated.

The purpose of the Forum is to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and we have now reached the stage where a draft Plan is ready to be published and the Forum will be undertaking a local consultation, from 12th to 30th July, when residents can view the Plan and have their say.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a series of planning policies that can be used by applicants and planners to guide and determine planning applications in the neighbourhood area up until 2041. It gives the background detail to the character of our natural and built neighbourhood and will help to assess the harm or benefit of planning applications put forward in our neighbourhood.

The process started in 2017-18 with residents meeting in workshops to discuss and agree what they valued about the community and what they would like to see protected and what improved. The workshop output was circulated to residents for comment and feedback, and with their mandate, 35 residents have contributed to writing the Plan.

The Plan is a long document but the most important parts are the Policies which the Forum has developed with the help of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services, as well as independent planning consultants.

The Plan proposes 15 Policies for the protection and enhancement of our neighbourhood, which conform to the strategic development policies of Cambridge City Council Local Plan 2018 and the National Planning Framework, but are specific to our neighbourhood

They aim to support sustainable development, protect and enhance our biodiversity, protect community and heritage assets, maintain our connectivity network, respond to climate change and the risk of flooding, protect local character through design-led development and conserve and enhance existing views and street scenes. The Policies are summarised in this document.

The local consultation (Regulation 14) gives residents and stakeholders the opportunity to comment and give feedback before the plan is formally submitted to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services (who will publish the document for a further six-week consultation period) and to an independent examiner (Regulation 15/16). There will then be a referendum (Regulation 17/18) and if successful the plan will be adopted.

Neighbourhood Plan Making Process

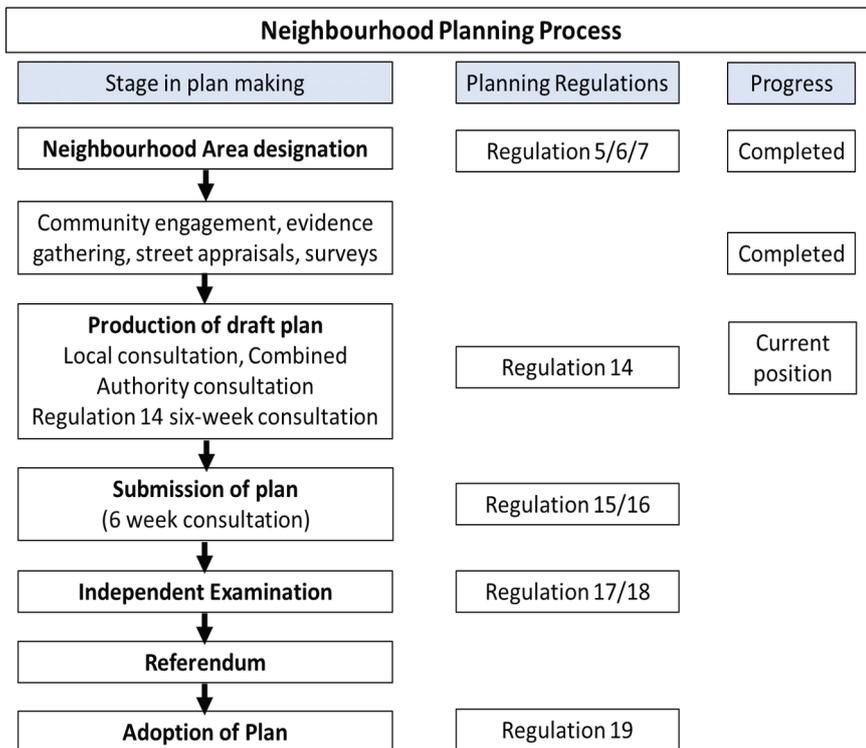
Designation of the Forum

South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum was started by a group of local residents who attended the Prince’s Foundation briefing on BIMBY “Beauty in my back yard” in 2016, and were encouraged to form an organisation ‘designated’ by the Local Authority to develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

Meetings were held with Cambridge City Planning Department and the Forum was formally ‘designated’ in March 2017 under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, and the designated Neighbourhood Area was established,.

In its plan-making the Forum has followed the Neighbourhood Planning Process as required by the Localism Act and we have now reached the stage of completing a draft plan that is ready to be published and the Forum will undertake a 6-week local consultation.

The diagram below shows the stages in the Plan Making and Planning Regulations.

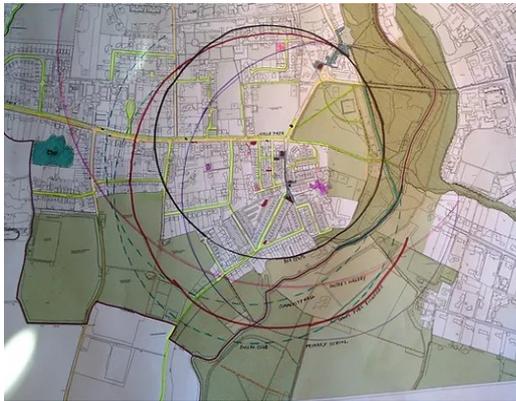


Community Engagement

Workshops 2016/2017. Three community workshops were held in 2016/2017 and people clearly expressed what they valued about their community and what they would like to see retained and what improved. Topics covered in the workshops were:

Workshop 1 : Getting to Know your Community including sustainability appraisal. Two workshops held.

Workshop 2 : Plotting walkable catchment area and principles of good placemaking.



Workshop 3: Popular Building Types. At the end of the workshop 3 “five essential qualities of place” were agreed. These were:

- Mix of Housing Styles,
- Attractive architectural details
- Connectivity,
- Town /Country Interface,
- Sense of Community.



Vision

From these workshops 7 Vision headings were proposed and in January and February 2018 the Forum leafleted the neighbourhood community with a form setting out the headings and inviting comment and feedback. The responses were analysed and these formed the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statement. 100 forms were returned from a total of 872 distributed and

97 of these said yes to the question “do the headings describe the aims you would support from your neighbourhood”?

The Vision headings informed and provided the founding basis for the Vision in the 2023 NP:

“The Vision for South Newnham neighbourhood is one in which a balance exists between our natural environment, our economic and social infrastructure, and our mix and style of housing stock, supporting the transition to a low, and ultimately zero carbon society and making South Newnham a great place to live both now and for future generations.

- The natural environment of our neighbourhood is protected and enhanced to increase its biodiversity and be sustainable.
- A network of safe, car-free routes exists for walking and cycling that are in harmony with our environment.
- The economic and social infrastructure is characterised by retail activities and community facilities that are local enterprises of energy and dynamism meeting the needs of residents for day-to-day shopping and social needs.
- The mix of types and styles of housing stock with its distinct local character and heritage protected and enhanced provides a balanced supply which meets the needs of the neighbourhood’s residents at all stages of life.”

Regulation 14 Production of Draft Plan

Evidence Gathering 2018-2019. A group of up to 35 local volunteers have helped with the collection of evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan. 7 Working Parties were formed and areas covered included balanced supply of housing, character and heritage, built environment, green open spaces, community facilities and network of safe routes, based on the policy headings in the Cambridge City Council Local Plan 2018. Street Appraisals were also undertaken, involving a large number of residents, working with templates to record features of the streets of South Newnham.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan 2018/2019. The preparation of a draft NP and planning policies, began. On the advice of Consultant Neil Homer who was appointed Aug 2018, the designated area was split into four distinct character Areas: The Croft, Barton Road, Grantchester Road, and Gough Way. The revised approach was supported by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Department.

The first Draft Plan was presented at an open meeting in South Newnham Social Club in 2019 which was followed by Area presentations. Comments and feedback from these meetings were adopted into the Neighbourhood Plan. In September 2019 the Forum met with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services but with the restriction of Covid 19, further work on the plan was delayed.

Re-designation of Forum July, 2022. When the five-year period lapsed, the Forum applied to Cambridge City Council to re-designate the Forum. The Decision to re-designate the Forum was made on 21st July, by the Executive Councillor for Planning and Infrastructure for Cambridge Town Council ref:

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/neighbourhood-area-designations>

Draft Neighbourhood Plan 2022/2023. Cambridge City Council and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Department have provided comments and feedback throughout the five years of the Plan’s preparation and we have also had the advice of another independent consultant Rachel Hogger of Modicum Planning Ltd. In addition, the draft NP has been subject to a practice examination known as a health check and undertaken by an accredited Neighbourhood Plan examiner.

We have now reached the stage of publishing the draft NP for a six-week consultation period, as required under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Act, between 12th June and 30th July, 2023.

During this period copies of the NP and supporting documents will be available for viewing at events to be held at the South Newnham Social Club, a copy of the NP will be held in the Cambridge Public Library and the documents can also be found on the South Newnham Forum website <https://www.newnhamforum.co.uk>

The Neighbourhood Plan, which is the core of the Plan is supported by four separate documents, the Evidence Base, a draft Basic Condition Statement, a draft Consultation Statement and Character Area Street Appraisals. Detailed descriptions of the green infrastructure network and environment, local green spaces, connectivity network, local community and local heritage assets and built environment will be found in the Evidence Base, and descriptions of individual street appraisals are in the fifth document, the Character Area Street Appraisals.

The Regulation 14 gives residents and stakeholders the opportunity to comment and give feedback before the plan is formally submitted to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services (who will publish the document for a further six-week consultation period) and to an independent examiner (Regulation 15/16). There will then be a referendum (Regulation 17/18) and if successful the plan will be adopted.

Neighbourhood Plan policies

The NP is a long document that has to assume that the reader has never been to South Newnham and knows nothing about the neighbourhood. The most important part of the NP are the development policies and the fifteen policies proposed in the NP are summarised below:

SNNP1: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

The Green Infrastructure Network of South Newnham comprises rich assets of biodiversity including parkland, children's play areas, nature reserves, water meadows, allotments, playing fields, private gardens, water bodies, trees, hedgerows, footpaths and alleyways. These are connected to form a network that allows wildlife to move freely throughout the neighbourhood. This policy seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity in our Green Infrastructure Network and prevent further adverse impact on the natural environment of our neighbourhood, and where possible enhance its ecological status for current and future generations to achieve an overall measurable net gain in biodiversity for the neighbourhood area.

SNNP2: Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain

This policy seeks to provide guidance on how development schemes can deliver biodiversity net gain in the neighbourhood area.

SNNP3: Reduce and maintain low levels of light pollution.

This policy seeks to ensure impact of light pollution on wildlife is fully considered when development proposals come forward and mitigate the impact of light pollution on wildlife, especially bats, which are an endangered and protected species present in the neighbourhood area.

SNNP4: Creating Local Green Spaces

This policy designates four local green spaces that meet the national test as set out in paragraph 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 as being special to the local community and holding a particular local significance. These are: Gough Way Children's Play Area, Skaters' Meadow Footpath, Secondary Woodland at Pembroke Allotments and Newnham Croft School wilderness area.

SNNP5: Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network

This policy seeks to maintain the level of connectivity for the pedestrian and cyclist which is highly valued by residents in the plan area.

SNNP6: Improving and Enhancing Neighbourhood Community Assets

This policy seeks to improve and enhance South Newnham's neighbourhood assets, all of which are within walking or cycling distance. All are highly valued by residents and bring a sense of vibrancy and village lifestyle, creating a mixed, balanced and effectively functioning neighbourhood.

SNNP7: Protecting and supporting Homes and Facilities for Older People

This policy seeks to protect and support the continued provision in South Newnham of rented accommodation for older people.

SNNP8: Conserving Additionally Identified Local Heritage Assets

Local Heritage assets are an important element of the architectural and historical make up of South Newnham and include a Grade 11 Listed building at 2/21 Grantchester Road, and 37 buildings listed by Cambridge City Council as Buildings of Local Interest. This policy seeks to add 8 additional buildings to the existing list of Local Heritage Assets, which include a Victorian Vicarage, Edwardian shops, the Social Club, a cricket pavilion, stink pipes and gas lamps.

SNNP9: Improving the Energy Efficiency of Existing and New Buildings

This policy seeks to ensure opportunities are taken at the development stage to improve the environmental performance of South Newnham's building stock.

SNNP10: Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding

This policy aims to reduce the risk of flooding in the plan area by taking full account of existing flood risk from all sources when planning applications are being considered.

SNNP11: Protecting and Enhancing Local Character through Design-led Development.

The design principles laid out in this policy result from the Forum's cumulative learning between 2016 and 2023 from community workshops, preparation of the Evidence Base and Street Appraisals and responding to Cambridge City Council Planning Applications as a Statutory Consultee. Based on this input, the objective of the design principle is to facilitate balanced and sustainable development that meet the evolving needs for housing in the neighbourhood area whilst protecting and enhancing the character of South Newnham and its setting. The policy aims to provide clarity to applicants about design expectations in South Newnham.

SNNP12: Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham

As a small high density residential area with many Victorian and Edwardian terraced houses on small plots, South Newnham is vulnerable to pressure on residential amenity. This policy seeks to protect the residential amenity of residents from all aspects of excessive development.

SNNP13: Converting Existing Houses into more than one Separate Housing Unit.

The housing needs of individual South Newnham residents and homeowners can change as a family's size and its requirements for space and facilities changes. Some, though not all, houses in

South Newnham are large enough and appropriately configured to be split into more than one separate housing unit and this policy seeks to facilitate the conversion of existing houses into more than one separate housing unit, to better meet the evolving housing needs of residents at different stages of life.

SNNP14: Protecting the Character of Neighbourhood Garden Boundaries

Garden boundaries are an important part of the neighbourhood's design pattern contributing to the character of the area. This policy seeks to protect the character of garden boundaries, and thereby maintain the character and setting of the neighbourhood, and the privacy and amenity of neighbouring properties.

SNNP15: Conserving and Enhancing Existing Views and Street Scenes

This policy seeks to protect the views out of the neighbourhood area and the street scenes within the area for current and future generations.