



Basic Conditions Statement
August 2020

Laxfield

Neighbourhood Plan
2018 -2036

Basic Conditions Statement

Prepared for Laxfield Parish Council by



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1 Introduction

As part of the formal submission of the Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) for Examination, there is a requirement for the Parish Council, as the 'qualifying body' to illustrate that it has complied with a series of 'basic conditions' as set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as Amended). This Statement accompanies the submission to the local planning authority, Mid Suffolk District Council, of the LNP under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations"). Regulation 15 requires a submission neighbourhood development plan to be accompanied by *"a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act"*.

This statement has been prepared in order to confirm compliance with these "basic conditions" by assessing the Neighbourhood Plan against:

- 1 - The Legal Requirements
- 2 - The Basic Conditions
- 3 - Conformity with National Planning Policy
- 4 - Achieving sustainable development
- 5 - The strategic policies contained in the development plan
- 6 - Compatibility with European Union Obligations and Human Rights

Based on the above assessments, it is considered that the Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan complies with the requirements of the basic conditions as set out in Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

2. Legal Requirements

2.1 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) identifies the "Basic Conditions" that the neighbourhood plan must comply with.

2.2 Paragraph 8 (1) states that the examiner must consider:

- (a) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions (see subparagraph (2)),
- (b) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 38A and 38B of this Act,
- (d) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood development plan relates, and
- (e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

2.3 Paragraph 8 (2) states that a draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:

- (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan,
- (d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
- (e) the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
- (f) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and
- (g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood development plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood development plan.

The requirements of Paragraph 8(2)(b), (2)(c) (3), (4) and (5) are not of relevance to the compliance with the basic conditions' tests.

2.4 Paragraph 8 (6) stipulates that the examiner is not to consider any matter that does not fall within subparagraph (1) apart from considering whether the draft neighbourhood plan is compatible with the Convention rights.

2.5 On 28 December 2018 the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 came into force. Amongst other things, these Regulations amend the basic condition prescribed in Regulation 32 and Schedule 2 (Habitats) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) which stated:

- The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

The Regulations substitute a new basic condition which states:

- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Meeting the Legal Requirements

Compliance with the individual elements of the legal requirements is set out below.

Requirement	Interpretation	LNP response
4B 8 (1)(a) Whether the Draft NP meets the Basic Conditions	This requires the LNP to demonstrate compliance with paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the T&CP Act.	This is considered in detail in later sections of this Statement.
4B 8 (1)(b) Whether the Draft Order Complies with Sections 38A & 38B of the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	This requires the draft order to comply with Sections 38A & 38B of the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Section 38A sets out the "Meaning of Neighbourhood Development Plan".	Compliance with Sections 38A and 38B is demonstrated in the following rows.
	Section 38A(1) "any qualifying body is entitled to initiate a process for the purpose of requiring a Local Planning Authority in England to make a Neighbourhood Development Plan."	The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Laxfield Parish Council, a qualifying body (as defined in the Localism Act 2011).
	Section 38A(2) A "Neighbourhood Development Plan is a plan which sets out policies (however expressed) in relation to the development and use of land in the whole or any part of a particular neighbourhood area specified in the plan."	The LNP sets out Policies that relate to the development and use of land for the Neighbourhood Area covering the Parish of Laxfield, as designated by Mid Suffolk District Council on 9 February 2018. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area is shown in Map 1 in the LNP.
	Section 38A, Paragraphs (3) - (12)	These paragraphs are not of relevance to the submission phase of the NP.
	Section 38B1(a) The Neighbourhood Development Plan "Must specify the period for which it is to have effect."	The plan period of the LNP is from 2018 to 2036.
	Section 38B1(b) A Neighbourhood Development Plan "may not include provision about development that is excluded development."	The LNP does not contain policies relating to excluded development as defined in Section 61K of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
	Section 38B1(c) A Neighbourhood Development Plan may not relate to more than one neighbourhood area	The LNP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It solely relates to the Neighbourhood Plan Area as designated by Mid Suffolk District Council on 9 February 2019.
	Section 38B(2) Only one Neighbourhood Development Plan may be made for each neighbourhood area.	There are currently no other NP's in place in this neighbourhood area.
	Section 38B(3) If to any extent a policy set out in a Neighbourhood Development Plan	There are no conflicts within the LNP

Requirement	Interpretation	LNP response
	conflicts with any other statement or information in the plan, the conflict must be resolved in favour of the policy.	
	<p>Section 38B(4)(a)</p> <p>Regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provisions for “restricting the provision that may be included in Neighbourhood Development Plans about the use of land.”</p> <p>These Regulations are set out in Statutory Instrument 2012 No 637, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.</p>	The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have been used to inform the preparation of the LNP.
	<p>Section 38B(4)(b)</p> <p>Regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provisions “requiring Neighbourhood Development Plans to include such matters as are prescribed in the Regulations.”</p>	A screening process was carried out by the local planning authority to determine whether a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required in support of the LNP. In both cases it was considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects and that no European sites would be affected by the policies described in the LNP.
	Section 38B, which include paragraphs 38B(4)(c), 5 & 6,	The remaining requirements are not of relevance to this Basic Conditions Statement
4B 8 (1)(d) Whether the Referendum Should Extend Beyond the NP Area	This requires the examiner to consider whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the NP Area to which it relates.	The LNP relates solely to land that falls within the Parish of Laxfield.
4B 8 (1)(e) Other Matters 3.28.	This requires the examiner to consider such other matters as may be prescribed	There are no other prescribed matters.
Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018	These Regulations require an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan to be carried out should the SEA and HRA Screening Opinion deem it necessary.	The SEA and HRA Screening Opinion has concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is not required.

3. Compliance with Basic Conditions

3.1 Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act sets out the basic conditions that must be met by a draft Neighbourhood Plan. Subsections (a), (d), (e), (f), and (g) are of relevance to this statement. The Regulations state that the neighbourhood plan will have met the basic conditions if it:

1. Has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
2. Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. Is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area; and
4. Is compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Right (ECHR) obligations.

National Policy

3.2 The Laxfield Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policy. The following section describes how the LNP relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was originally published in 2012, amended in July 2018 and further amended in February 2019. It is the latter version of the NPPF that has been used as the basis to assess the LNP. The NPPF is framed around a basic premise of achieving sustainable development, comprising three main dimensions: economic, social and environmental. It requires the planning system to have regard to three overarching objectives:

- a) *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;*
- b) *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 a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- c) *an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

3.3 The NPPF contains thirteen topic-based chapters in which more detailed policy guidance is set out for plan making and decision taking. Table 1, below, identifies how the LNP meets the basic condition of having regard to the NPPF by assessing the Plan against the principles for each of the topic-based chapters.

Table 1 - Compatibility of the plan's vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles

NPPF Topic	Laxfield NP Objectives	Laxfield NP Policies
Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	<p>SPO-1: To provide capacity for sufficient housing to meet local demand and minimum requirement set out in emerging Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>HDO-1: Ensure that the amount of new housing is of a scale the local infrastructure can support and is appropriate to both the aspirations and expectations of the community and incomers attracted by the values Laxfield reflects.</p> <p>HDO-2: Support high-quality design of homes that are eco-friendly, affordable and responsive to change.</p> <p>HDO-3: Create a diversity of buildings and locations to accommodate a variety of lifestyles.</p>	<p>Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area</p> <p>Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development</p> <p>Policy LAX 3 - Land at Mill Road</p> <p>Policy LAX 4 - Land off Cullingford Close</p> <p>Policy LAX 5 - Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites</p> <p>Policy LAX 6 - Housing Mix</p>
Building a strong, competitive economy	<p>SPO-2: To provide capacity for improved employment opportunities.</p> <p>BEMO-1: Examine opportunities to support the availability of local employment.</p> <p>BEMO-2: Encourage opportunities for people to work from home.</p>	<p>Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area</p> <p>Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment</p> <p>Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification</p>
Ensuring the vitality of town centres	Not appropriate to Laxfield	None
Promoting healthy and safe communities	<p>SPO-4: To encourage walking and cycling access to facilities and more sustainable ways of living, and reduce vehicle use in order to lower emissions.</p> <p>NEO-4: Increase the amount of community green space.</p> <p>TIDO-4: Encourage a reduction in motorised traffic within the village. Good local infrastructure that encourages walking and cycling would give environmental and health benefits.</p> <p>ASO-1: Provide preventative health and well-being facilities</p>	<p>Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations</p> <p>Policy LAX 17 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities</p> <p>Policy LAX 20 - Public Rights of Way</p>
Promoting sustainable	SPO-4: To encourage walking and cycling access to facilities and more sustainable ways of living, and reduce vehicle use in order to	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area

NPPF Topic	Laxfield NP Objectives	Laxfield NP Policies
transport	<p>lower emissions.</p> <p>TIDO-2: New development must be designed to support the integration of development into the village through provision of alternative transport routes.</p> <p>TIDO-4: Encourage a reduction in motorised traffic within the village. Good local infrastructure that encourages walking and cycling would give environmental and health benefits.</p> <p>TIDO-5: Electric car charging must be considered in all new development.</p>	<p>Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations</p> <p>Policy LAX 20 - Public Rights of Way</p>
Supporting high quality communications	BEMO-2: Encourage opportunities for people to work from home.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations
Making effective use of land	SPO-3: To focus development on the centre of the Parish, with only limited development outside the village core.	<p>Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area</p> <p>Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development</p> <p>Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield</p>
Achieving well-designed places	<p>HDO-2: Support high-quality design of homes that are eco-friendly, affordable and responsive to change.</p> <p>BEO-2: New development should integrate energy efficient technologies and use sustainable design and construction methods.</p> <p>BEO-3: Any business development should not damage village identity.</p> <p>BEO-4: All aspects of new development; buildings, landscapes, access and circulation, parking, open space; should be well related to each other and to existing development.</p> <p>BEO-5: Development proposals and designs should utilise locally appropriate materials and design details.</p> <p>TIDO-2: New development must be designed to support the integration of development into the village through provision of alternative transport routes.</p> <p>TIDO-3: Sufficient off-street parking should be included in new build plans.</p>	<p>Policy LAX 6 - Housing Mix</p> <p>Policy LAX 7 - Measures for New Housing Development</p> <p>Policy LAX 10 - Dark Skies</p> <p>Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations</p> <p>Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices</p>

NPPF Topic	Laxfield NP Objectives	Laxfield NP Policies
Protecting Green Belt land	Not appropriate to Laxfield	None
Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	BEO-2: New development should integrate energy efficient technologies and use sustainable design and construction methods.	Policy LAX 7 - Measures for New Housing Development Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices
Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	<p>NEO-1: Protect and enhance the biodiversity and the natural environment around the Parish. This encompasses the importance of hedgerows and green spaces and of wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>NEO-2: Protect the open views around the Parish.</p> <p>NEO-3: The existing footpath network should be maintained and developed to enable everyone to walk or exercise in a green environment. This is an objective which could benefit from Laxfield's co-operation with neighbouring parishes.</p> <p>NEO-4: Increase the amount of community green space.</p> <p>NEO-5: Make Laxfield a Green Village.</p>	Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity Policy LAX 15 - Local Green Spaces Policy LAX 20 - Public Rights of Way
Conserving the historic environment	BEO-1: Development within the historic core of the village needs to be sympathetic to the scale, height, form and massing of the existing Built Environment.	Policy LAX 8 - Buildings of Local Significance Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets
Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not appropriate to Laxfield	None

How the purpose of LNP policies achieve sustainable development

3.4 The table below identifies the purpose of each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan and its intended outcome in relation to achieving sustainable development as defined by the NPPF.

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
LAX 1	To set out the strategy for the location of growth in Laxfield during the plan period.	Ensures that new development is located close to existing village facilities and minimises the development of agricultural land in remote locations.
LAX 2	Identifies the amount of new housing growth that will take place in the neighbourhood area and how this growth will be delivered.	Provides certainty in terms of the amount and location of new housing in the village to ensure that the identified housing needs are met.
LAX 3	Allocates a site for housing development.	Contributes to meeting the identified housing need.
LAX 4	Allocates a site for housing development.	Contributes to meeting the identified housing need.
LAX 5	Provides a mechanism for the delivery of affordable housing to meet local needs.	Will help people with a local connection remain in the village rather than move away to find affordable homes.
LAX 6	Seeks to ensure that new housing is of a size to meet identified local needs.	Contributes to meeting the identified housing need.
LAX 7	Sets minimum space standards for new dwellings.	Ensures that new homes are of a size to meet modern requirements
LAX 8	Identifies built assets that are of local significance.	Contributes to maintaining the locally distinct character of the village.
LAX 9	Enables the preservation and enhancement of the village's heritage assets.	Provides a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.
LAX 10	Reduces the potential for development to increase light pollution.	Limits the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.
LAX 11	Provides a range of criteria against which all development proposals will be assessed.	Contributes to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, and minimising waste and pollution.
LAX 12	Promotes the incorporation within development proposals of measures that reduce energy consumption.	Supports an increase in the use of renewable and low carbon energy.
LAX 13	Seeks to minimise the impact of the development on the landscape and natural environment.	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
LAX 14	Provides criteria for the assessment of the potential impact of development on habitats and natural features.	Contributes to protecting and enhancing the natural environment, including helping to improve biodiversity.
LAX 15	Designates green spaces that meet the NPPF criteria.	Identifies and protects green areas of particular importance to the local community.
LAX 16	Protects existing facilities from being lost	Contributes to maintaining a sustainable

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
	and enables the provision of additional facilities.	community.
LAX 17	Protects recreational facilities from being lost and sets requirements for new open space and recreation facilities.	Contributes to promoting healthy and safe communities.
LAX 18	Provides guidelines for the consideration of proposals for business development	Supports developing a strong, competitive economy.
LAX 19	Facilitates the re-use of redundant farm buildings, preferably for economic uses.	Supports developing a strong, competitive economy.
LAX 20	Provides for protecting and enhancing the public rights of way network.	Contributes to promoting healthy and safe communities.

General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan

- 3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan must demonstrate that it is in general conformity with the development plan for the local authority area concerned. The development plan currently in force is the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (adopted September 2008), the Core Strategy Focused Review (adopted 2012) and the saved policies of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (adopted September 1998).
- 3.6 Mid Suffolk District Council has commenced the preparation of a new joint local plan with Babergh District Council to cover the two local planning authority areas. Consultation on Issues and Options to be considered in the Joint Local Plan took place between January and March 2015 and a further options consultation occurred in August 2017. In July 2019 the District Council consulted on the "Preferred Options" for the Joint Local Plan, but the Submission Version of the Joint Local Plan is unlikely to be consulted on until later in 2020 and it will not be examined or adopted before the Neighbourhood Plan is examined. The Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to the emerging Joint Local Plan but given the early stages of preparation, there is no requirement for the LNP to be in conformity with anything published to date in relation to the Joint Local Plan.

Vision of LNP and the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008

- 3.7 The Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008 Vision states, in relation to the LNP, that:
- By 2025 the district will become a more prosperous, healthy, safer, attractive and greener place to live with fewer inequalities, improved access to and provision of housing, employment and services for all;
 - The Council will maintain the rural character of the individual villages.;
 - The Vision will be achieved in ways that reduce the impact of society on the environment, improve the quality of design of the built environment and protect and enhance settlement character, environmental assets such as its biodiversity, geodiversity and historic environment;
 - Development will need to address the issues of energy and resource conservation; good design in new development; incorporate sustainable drainage systems; and the enhancement of the natural and built environment and heritage
- 3.8 The Neighbourhood Plan Vision, reproduced below, conforms with the Core Strategy Vision.

The vision for Laxfield is that it should be a vibrant, inclusive place to live for all residents, that it values and cares for all generations and takes particular care of its young and old people. We want to live in a greener and more sustainable way, reducing our reliance on cars and facilitating conditions for a range of employment types in the locality. We value our natural environment and our built heritage and will work actively to maintain and enhance them for future generations as well as developing village amenities and outdoor leisure facilities to encourage everyone to live active and healthy lives.

Fit of the Objectives of Laxfield Neighbourhood Development Plan with the Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008 as amended by the Focused Review 2012

3.9 The table below identifies how the objectives of the Core Strategy and the LNP complement each other.

Core Strategy Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
SO1: To protect, manage, enhance and restore the landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity of the district.	<p>SPO-3: To focus development on the centre of the Parish, with only limited development outside the village core.</p> <p>NEO-1: Protect and enhance the biodiversity and the natural environment around the Parish. This encompasses the importance of hedgerows and green spaces and of wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>NEO-2: Protect the open views around the Parish.</p> <p>NEO-5: Make Laxfield a Green Village.</p>
SO2: To seek to improve water quality and reduce pollution to the wider environment	NEO-1: Protect and enhance the biodiversity and the natural environment around the Parish. This encompasses the importance of hedgerows and green spaces and of wildlife and biodiversity.
SO3 (2012): To respond to the possible harm caused by climate change Mid Suffolk will seek to minimise its carbon footprint, by encouraging a shift to more sustainable travel patterns. In particular the Council will address congestion and pollution and ensure that all new development minimises its carbon emissions, and carbon consumption and is adapted to future climate change.	<p>HDO-2: Support high-quality design of homes that are eco-friendly, affordable and responsive to change.</p> <p>BEO-2: New development should integrate energy efficient technologies and use sustainable design and construction methods.</p>
SO4: To protect, manage, enhance and restore the historic heritage / environment and the unique character and identity of the towns and village by ensuring that new developments are appropriate in terms of scale and location in the context of settlement form and character.	BEO-1: Development within the historic core of the village needs to be sympathetic to the scale, height, form and massing of the existing Built Environment.
SO5: Reinforce the vitality and viability of local shops, schools, services, recreation and community facilities in towns and key service centres and primary village.	<p>ASO-1: Provide preventative health and well-being facilities</p> <p>ASO-2: Increase access to the material used and curated by the Museum</p>
SO6 (2012): Provision of housing, employment, retail infrastructure and access to services will be coordinated to ensure that delivery of necessary infrastructure takes place to accommodate new development and to enable communities to be balanced, inclusive and prosperous.	<p>SPO-1: To provide capacity for sufficient housing to meet local demand and minimum requirement set out in emerging Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>SPO-2: To provide capacity for improved employment opportunities.</p> <p>HDO-1: Ensure that the amount of new housing is of a scale the local infrastructure can support and is appropriate to both the aspirations and expectations of the community and incomers attracted by the values Laxfield reflects.</p>

Core Strategy Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
SO7: To support sustainable communities by locating development where it will enable people to access jobs and key services, such as education, health, recreation and other facilities recognising and respecting the diversity in the function and character of Mid Suffolk's towns, key service centres and primary and secondary village and countryside.	SPO-3: To focus development on the centre of the Parish, with only limited development outside the village core.
SO8: To meet the requirement set by the Regional Spatial Strategy for new housing while maintaining the special character of Mid Suffolk's towns, village and countryside. New development will be of a high standard of design and layout and will address the need for energy and resource conservation.	
SO9: Planning and housing policies will maximise the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.	
SO10: To prepare for an ageing population, including the provision and retention of community facilities and suitable housing, including sheltered and assisted accommodation.	
SO11: To support the growth of the local economy and rural regeneration in ways which are compatible with environmental objectives, and which deliver increased prosperity for the whole community.	SPO-2: To provide capacity for improved employment opportunities. BEMO-1: Examine opportunities to support the availability of local employment. BEMO-2: Encourage opportunities for people to work from home.
SO12: Promote high quality, sustainable tourism.	No specific objectives apply
SO13: Support and enable public and community transport services and encourage walking and cycling initiatives to provide access to jobs, shops and services and consider new methods of delivering and protecting existing services for smaller communities.	SPO-4: To encourage walking and cycling access to facilities and more sustainable ways of living, and reduce vehicle use in order to lower emissions. TIDO-2: New development must be designed to support the integration of development into the village through provision of alternative transport routes. TIDO-3: Sufficient off-street parking should be included in new build plans. TIDO-4: Encourage a reduction in motorised traffic within the village. Good local infrastructure that encourages walking and cycling would give environmental and health benefits. TIDO-5: Electric car charging must be considered in all new development.
SO14: To provide accessible and varied opportunities for leisure, cultural and recreational activities in order to promote healthy lifestyles.	NEO-3: The existing footpath network should be maintained and developed to enable everyone to walk or exercise in a green environment. This is an objective which could benefit from Laxfield's co-operation with neighbouring parishes. NEO-4: Increase the amount of community green space. ASO-1: Provide preventative health and well-being facilities ASO-2: Increase access to the material used and

Core Strategy Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
	curated by the Museum
SO15: To develop vibrant and prosperous towns and service centres by encouraging development that supports their function with a range of good quality jobs, businesses, shops and services that meet the needs of local people.	BEMO-1: Examine opportunities to support the availability of local employment. BEMO-2: Encourage opportunities for people to work from home.

Compatibility of the LNP with the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan

3.10 The Government’s Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Strategic policies will be different in each local planning authority area. When reaching a view on whether a policy is a strategic policy the following are useful considerations:

- whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
- whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
- the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
- whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
- whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan
- in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan
- whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic”

3.11 A significant number of policies in the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) are officially “saved” by direction of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. In total these amount to over 150 policies. Mid Suffolk District Council has not identified which of the saved local plan policies are of a strategic nature. In the absence of this, we have assessed compatibility of the LNP policies against all policies that are considered relevant to Laxfield. Those that are not considered relevant are listed in Appendix A of this Statement.

3.12 The Core Strategy (2008) and Focused Review (2012) remain the relevant development plan documents in relation to the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan whereas the emerging Joint Babergh / Mid Suffolk Local Plan is at an early stage of preparation and is not capable of assessment at this time.

3.13 The table on the following pages provides details of the policies in the development plan, a link to the LNP policy (where relevant) and a narrative of conformity of the LNP with the development plan.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008		
CS1: Settlement Hierarchy	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area	Policy CS1 identifies Laxfield as a Primary Village where small scale housing growth to meet local needs, particularly affordable housing will be appropriate. The LNP provides opportunities for growth in accordance with the village's designation as a Primary Village in the Core Strategy.
CS2: Development in the Countryside and Countryside Village	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification	Policy CS2 restricts development in the countryside to defined categories. The LNP confirms this approach while having regard to the need to provide opportunities for housing that meets local needs of the village.
CS3: Reduce contributions to Climate Change	Policy LAX 7 - Measures for New Housing Development Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices	Policy CS3 relates to standalone renewable energy proposals and sustainable construction techniques. The LNP complements this approach.
CS4: Adapting to Climate Change	Policy LAX 7 - Measures for New Housing Development Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity	The policy covers flood risk, pollution and protection of biodiversity. The LNP does not propose development in the Flood Zones around the village, seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity, and promotes the inclusion of measures to promote environmental sustainability and reduce climate change
CS5: Mid Suffolk's Environment	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development Policy LAX 8 - Buildings of Local Significance Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets Policy LAX 10 - Dark Skies Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity	The policy seeks to maintain and enhance the environment, including the historic environment. The policies referred to in the LNP complement these policies.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
CS6: Services and Infrastructure	Policy LAX 16 - Protecting existing services and facilities	The policy requires development to provide or support the delivery of appropriate infrastructure. Policy LAX 16 complements this approach.
CS7: Brownfield Target	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development	The Core Strategy sets a target of 50% of new homes on brownfield sites. The policies in the LNP supports the redevelopment of previously developed land and buildings.
CS8: Provision and Distribution of Housing	Not applicable	The Core Strategy policy was superseded by the Core Strategy Focused Review 2012
CS9: Density and Mix	Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development Policy LAX 6 – Housing Mix	The policy requires a mix of house types, sizes and affordability, reflecting that lower densities may be justified in villages to take account of the character and appearance of the area. LNP does not contradict the Core Strategy policy.
CS10: Gypsy and Travellers	No specific policies apply	The policy seeks to provide appropriately located pitches to meet the identified need between 2006 and 2016. The LNP does not compromise the ability to use the criteria in Policy CS10 to consider the location of suitable sites.

Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Focused Review 2012		
Policy FC1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy confirms that the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development will be applied. The LNP meets the NPPF sustainable development criteria.
Policy FC1.1: Mid Suffolk approach to delivering Sustainable Development	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices	The local plan policy requires development proposals to demonstrate the principles of sustainable development. The policies of the LNP support the local plan approach.
Policy FC2: Provision and Distribution of Housing	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development	The policy identifies the minimum amount of housing to be provided in the district to 2027 and locational strategy for where it will be provided. LNP does not contradict the Core Strategy policy.
Policy FC3: Employment	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification	The policy identifies the number of new jobs that are likely to be required in the district by 2031 and provides a locational strategy for these jobs. LNP does not conflict with this policy given the village's designation as a Primary Village in the Core Strategy.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
Mid Suffolk Local Plan First Alteration 2006 Saved Policies		
H4 Proportion of Affordable Housing in new housing developments	Policy LAX 4 - Land off Cullingford Close	The Local Plan policy seeks to negotiate up to 35% of housing to be affordable on sites of 5 or more or 0.17ha and above in village. The NPPF has potentially superseded the threshold and replaced it with 10 dwellings. Policy LAX 4 allocates a site for development where Policy H4 applies.
H5 Affordable Housing on rural exception sites	Policy LAX 5 - Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites	The Local Plan policy identifies a process for delivering local needs affordable housing on sites abutting the settlement boundary of a small rural settlement. Policy LAX 5 updates the local plan policy in line with the broad approach of the NPPF.
Mid Suffolk Local Plan 1998 Saved Policies		
SB2 Development appropriate to its setting	Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets Policy LAX 10 - Dark Skies Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield	The local plan policy sets out design criteria by which new development will be considered. The policies in the LNP complement the saved policies by providing a local context.
SB3 Retaining visually important open spaces	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 15 - Local Green Spaces Policy LAX 17 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy seeks to protect visually important open spaces. This is updated by locally developed LNP policies that identify important local characteristics in the Plan Area including important views and local green spaces.
GP1 Design and layout of development	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices	The local plan policy sets out criteria for the design and layout of new development. Policy LAX 11 provides criteria by which the design of development and its setting will be considered.
HB1 Protection of historic buildings	Policy LAX 8 - Buildings of Local Significance Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets	The local plan provides a strategic policy for protecting the character and appearance of buildings of architectural or historic interest and setting of listed buildings. Policy LAX 8 identifies important locally identified heritage assets. Policy LAX 9 brings the local plan policy up to date and in accordance with the NPPF in that it relates to all heritage assets in the Plan Area rather than just listed buildings.
HB2 Demolition of listed buildings	Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets	The local plan policy resists the demolition of listed buildings. However, it does not reflect the content of the NPPF. The LNP policy brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB3 Conversions and alterations to historic buildings	Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets	The local plan policy resists the conversion or alteration of listed buildings. However, it does not reflect the content of para 132 of the NPPF. The LNP policy brings the local plan

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
		policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB4 Extensions to listed buildings	Policy LAX 9 - Heritage Assets	The local plan policy enables the sympathetic extension of listed buildings. The LNP policy brings the local plan policy up-to-date by applying reference to local evidence.
HB5 Preserving historic buildings through alternative uses	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the change of use of listed buildings subject to certain criteria.
HB6 Securing the repair of listed buildings	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy relates to the use of statutory powers to secure the repair of listed buildings.
HB14 Ensuring archaeological remains are not destroyed	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy protects archaeological remains according to their significance.
H3 Housing development in village	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development Policy LAX 3 - Land at Mill Road Policy LAX 4 - Land off Cullingford Close	The local plan policy provides a presumption in favour of development within housing settlement boundaries, subject to the consideration of certain criteria. The identified policies of the LNP are in conformity with Policy H3.
H7 Restricting housing development unrelated to needs of countryside	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development	The local plan policy controls proposals for new housing in the countryside. The LNP does not conflict with the Local Plan approach and accords with the more up-to-date NPPF.
H8 Replacement dwellings in the countryside	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of replacement dwellings in the countryside. The LNP does not conflict with the Local Plan approach and accords with the more up-to-date NPPF.
H9 Conversion of rural buildings in the countryside	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification	The local plan provides criteria for the consideration of buildings in the countryside. The LNP does not conflict with the Local Plan approach and accords with the more up-to-date NPPF.
H10 Dwellings for key agricultural workers	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 2 - Housing Development	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for agricultural workers' dwellings. The LNP does not conflict with the Local Plan approach and accords with the more up-to-date NPPF.
H11 Residential caravans and other mobile homes	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of residential caravans or mobile homes. The LNP does not contradict the local plan policy
H13 Design and layout of housing development	Policy LAX 6 - Housing Mix Policy LAX 7 - Measures for New Housing Development	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for new homes. The LNP policies support the criteria by referring to up-to-date and locally specific evidence.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 12 - Sustainable Construction Practices	
H14 A range of house types to meet different accommodation needs	Policy LAX 6 - Housing Mix Policy LAX 7 - Measures for New Housing Development	The local plan policy seeks a variety of house types and design in development of 10 or more. The LNP supports this policy by providing locally relevant requirements.
H15 Development to reflect local characteristics	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy requires that the development of new homes should be consistent with the pattern and form of development in the surrounding area. The LNP policies support the criteria.
H16 Protecting existing residential amenity	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy seeks to protect existing amenity and character of residential areas. Policy LAX 11 supports the criteria.
H17 Keeping residential development away from pollution	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy does not allow residential development which will be impacted by existing noise, smell or other forms of pollution or hazardous installations. Policy LAX 11 supports the criteria.
H18 Extensions to existing dwellings.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The policy regulates the potential impact of extensions to homes. Policy LAX 11 supports this approach.
H19 Accommodation for special family needs.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy addresses how proposals for residential annexes in the countryside will be considered. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL3 Major utility installations and power lines in the countryside.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks the careful siting of major installations for utilities and power lines. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL5 Protecting existing woodland.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity	The local plan policy seeks to protect woodland, particularly ancient woodland. LNP supports this approach.
CL6 Tree preservation orders.	Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity	The local plan policy states that TPOs will be used to prevent the loss of important trees and woodland. LNP supports this approach.
CL8 Protecting wildlife habitats.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity	The local plan policy protects important habitats and species. The LNP policies support this approach.
CL9 Recognised wildlife areas.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 14 - Biodiversity	The local plan policy will not allow development that would harm sites with a nature conservation interest. The LNP policies support the criteria.
CL11 Retaining high quality agricultural land.	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area	The local plan policy encourages the conservation of the best agricultural land. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL12 The effects of severance upon existing farms.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides for consideration of the impact of a development proposal on farm severance and fragmentation. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
CL13 Siting and design of agricultural buildings.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy requires proposals for farm buildings to have regard to visual amenity. Policy LAX 11 supports this approach.
CL14 Use of materials for agricultural buildings and structures	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy requires materials chosen for such buildings to be sympathetic to their setting. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL15 Livestock buildings and related development.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy restricts the siting of such buildings where they significantly intrude into the countryside. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL16 Central grain stores, feed mills and other bulk storage buildings.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy restricts the siting of such buildings where they significantly intrude into the countryside. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL17 Principles for farm diversification.	Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification	The local plan policy enables changes of use for farm diversification subject to a number of criteria. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL18 Changes of use for agricultural and other rural buildings to non-residential uses.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for converting agricultural buildings to non-agricultural uses. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL19 Farm shops.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of farm shop proposals. The LNP does not preclude the use of this policy.
CL20 Garden centres.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides criteria restricting the location of garden centres. The policies of the LNP are compatible with this approach.
CL21 Facilities for horse riding.	No specific policies apply	The local plan provides criteria for considering proposals for the use of land for horse riding and the need to protect landscape, habitats and residential amenity. The policies of the LNP are compatible with this approach.
CL22 Advertisements in a countryside setting.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy provides criteria for the siting of advertisement in the countryside. The policies of the LNP are compatible with the local plan policy.
CL24 Wind turbines in the countryside.	Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification	The local plan policy requires careful consideration of the siting of wind turbines to minimise visual impact. The policies of the LNP are compatible with the local plan policy.
E3 Warehousing, storage, distribution, and haulage depots.	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The policy identifies how proposals for such uses will be considered, including in the countryside. The policies of the LNP do not conflict with the local plan approach.
E4 Protecting existing industrial/business areas for employment- generating uses.	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan prevents development within or adjacent to existing business areas that would prejudice their continued use. The LNP policies do not conflict with this approach.
E5 Change of use within existing industrial/commercial areas.	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan policy provides for considering proposals for the change of use or new buildings for employment uses in existing employment areas. The LNP does not conflict with this approach.
E6 Retention of individual industrial and commercial sites.	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan policy sets out how proposals for the change of use of existing employment sites will be considered. The LNP does not conflict with this approach.
E7 Non-conforming industrial uses.	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan policy restricts the intensification of businesses that are inappropriate to the surroundings and encourages their relocation. The LNP does not conflict with this approach.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
E8 Extensions to industrial and commercial premises.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan policy provides consideration as to how proposals for extensions to existing premises will be considered. The LNP policies do not conflict with this approach.
E9 Location of new businesses.	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan provides criteria for the consideration of the siting of new business premises. The LNP does not conflict with this approach.
E10 New industrial and commercial development in the countryside.	Policy LAX 1 - Spatial Strategy for Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Area Policy LAX 13 - Protection of Landscape Setting of Laxfield Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan restricts the development of new industrial development in the countryside unless a need to locate it away from towns and village can be justified. The LNP does not conflict with this approach.
E11 Re-use and adaption of agricultural and other rural buildings for industrial or commercial use	Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment Policy LAX 19 - Farm Diversification	The local plan supports such proposals subject to certain criteria. The LNP does not conflict with this approach.
E12 General principles for location, design and layout of industrial and commercial development.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 18 - New Businesses and Employment	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location and design of new industrial and commercial development. The policies in the LNP do not conflict with this approach.
S3 Amusement centres.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location of amusement centres and does not permit them in conservation areas. The policies in the LNP do not conflict with this approach.
S5 Living accommodation above shops and other commercial premises.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides for the creation of homes above shops. Although more appropriate to town centres, the LNP policies do not conflict with this approach.
S7 Provision of local shops.	Policy LAX 16 - Protecting Existing Services and Facilities	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of additional shopping floorspace within settlement boundaries. The policies in the LNP do not conflict with this approach.
S8 Shop front design.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides for how proposals for new shop fronts will be considered. The policies in the LNP do not conflict with this approach.
S9 Retaining traditional shop fronts.	No specific policies apply	The local plan seeks the retention of traditional shop fronts within conservation areas. The policies in the LNP do not conflict with this approach.
S10 Convenience goods stores.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for supermarkets will be considered. It is unlikely that such a proposal will be forthcoming in Laxfield but policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
S11 Retail warehousing.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for retail warehouses will be considered. It is unlikely that such a proposal will be forthcoming in Laxfield but policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
S12 Retail on industrial estates and	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for retail on industrial estates will

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
commercial sites.		be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
S13 Ancillary retail uses.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria by which proposals for ancillary uses will be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T1 Environmental impact of major road schemes.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for assessing the benefits and impacts of major road schemes. No such schemes are currently proposed in the LNP area but policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T4 Planning obligations and highways infrastructure.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy refers to the ability for developers to enter into Section 106 agreements to secure necessary highway improvements. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T6 Petrol filling station and other roadside services.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location of petrol filling station and roadside services. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T7 Provision of public car parking.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to provide adequate public car parks to meet identified needs. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T9 Parking standards.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan states that development should accord with the adopted parking standards. Policy LAX 11 supports this approach.
T10 Highway considerations in development.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy sets out criteria for the consideration of highway matters. Policy LAX 11 supports this approach.
T11 Facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations Policy LAX 20 - Public Rights of Way	The local plan policy seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Policy LAX 11 supports this approach.
T12 Designing for people with disabilities.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to ensure that highways proposals have regard to the needs of people with disabilities. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
T13 Bus services.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to locate new development in ways which support the network of bus services. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan support this approach.
RT1 Sports and recreation facilities for local communities.	Policy LAX 17 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for new sport and recreation facilities. Policy B&R21 does not conflict with this approach.
RT2 Loss of existing sports and recreation facilities.	Policy LAX 17 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy seeks to protect existing facilities or ensure suitable replacement facilities are provided. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
RT3 Protecting recreational open space.	Policy LAX 17 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	The local plan policy safeguards recreational open space from development. Where development is allowed, suitable and equivalent provision should be made. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with the approach in the local plan.
RT4 Amenity open space and play areas within residential development.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy sets a standard for the provision of open space and play areas in large sites. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan support this approach.
RT5 Recreational facilities as part of other development.	Policy LAX 11 - Design Considerations	The local plan policy seeks, where appropriate to secure recreation facilities as part of an office, retail, commercial or mixed-use development. Policies in the LNP would not conflict

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
		with this approach.
RT6 Sport and recreational facilities in the countryside.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of new or extensions of such facilities in the countryside. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT7 Noisy sports.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of the location of noisy sports. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT8 Motor sports.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of the location of motor sports. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT9 Facilities for air sports.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for air sports. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT10 Golf courses.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for golf courses. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT11 Facilities for informal countryside recreation	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the consideration of proposals such as picnic areas and country parks. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT12 Footpaths and bridleways.	Policy LAX 20 - Public Rights of Way	The local plan policy seeks to maintain and improve the public rights of way network. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT13 Water-based recreation.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the development of water-based recreation facilities subject to impact on the character and appearance of the countryside. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT14 Art in public places.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy encourages the provision of public art. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT16 Tourism facilities and visitor attractions.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the location, design and scale of facilities and attractions. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT17 Serviced tourist accommodation.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for tourist accommodation will be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT18 Touring caravan and camping sites.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for touring caravans and camping sites will be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
RT19 Static caravans and holiday chalets.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for such accommodation will be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC2 Septic tanks.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies when the use of septic tanks in development will be acceptable. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC3 Small sewage treatment plants.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals involving small scale sewage treatment plants will be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC4 Protection of groundwater supplies.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to protect damage to and contamination of groundwater resources. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC6 Recycling centres.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to provide recycling centres within major development schemes. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach, although it is likely that such a

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
		major development would be contrary to the development plan.
SC7 Siting of telecommunications equipment	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy seeks to minimise the visual impact of telecommunications equipment including masts. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC8 Siting of new school buildings.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy identifies how proposals for new school buildings will be considered. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC9 Conversion of premises to residential homes	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy provides criteria for the conversion of premises to residential homes. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC10 Siting of local community health services.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the provision of local community health facilities in towns and village. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.
SC11 Accommodation for voluntary organisations.	No specific policies apply	The local plan policy supports the conversion of redundant public buildings for use by voluntary organisations for community facilities. Policies in the LNP would not conflict with this approach.

4. Compatibility with European Union Obligations and Human Rights

Environmental Impact and Habitat Regulations

- 4.1 Section 4B 8 (2)(f) states that a draft Neighbourhood Plan will meet the basic conditions if, the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations and the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 4.2 European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken for certain types of plan or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) that this is to be determined by a screening process which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in a SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available
- 4.3 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Regulations, Laxfield Parish Council requested Mid Suffolk District Council, as the responsible body, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan is required. The District Council subsequently made this determination following consultation with the statutory consultees. The determination is set out in reports "Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination" and the "Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Screening Determination" both dated May 2020.
- 4.4 In line with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) these documents are also submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council alongside the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Human rights and equality impact assessment

- 4.5 The overall purpose of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to improve the quality of life for people living and working now and in the future in the parish from an environmental, social and economic point of view. The aims and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have been formulated in response to local people's views and in the light of evidence gathered for the parish, in order to meet the needs expressed and address the issues identified. In order to confirm that the LNP does not have any unintended consequences for particular groups the strategic aims and the policies in the Plan have been systematically scrutinised to ensure that they do not disadvantage any potentially vulnerable groups. The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not. "Protected characteristics" are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 4.6 This section assesses the Submission Draft of the LNP to ensure that Laxfield Parish Council, as "qualifying body", is satisfying its statutory duties in this regard. An assessment has been made on whether the objectives and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. The purpose of each of the objective and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are provided, and their likely impact on persons with protected characteristics is assessed.

Impact of Objectives of Laxfield Neighbourhood Development Plan on Persons with Protected Characteristics

LNP Objectives	Outcome for persons with certain protected characteristics
SPO-1: To provide capacity for sufficient housing to meet local demand and minimum requirement set out in emerging Joint Local Plan.	Broadly positive impact
SPO-2: To provide capacity for improved employment opportunities.	Broadly positive impact
SPO-3: To focus development on the centre of the Parish, with only limited development outside the village core.	Broadly positive impact
SPO-4: To encourage walking and cycling access to facilities and more sustainable ways of living, and reduce vehicle use in order to lower emissions.	Broadly positive impact
HDO-1: Ensure that the amount of new housing is of a scale the local infrastructure can support and is appropriate to both the aspirations and expectations of the community and incomers attracted by the values Laxfield reflects.	Neutral impact
HDO-2: Support high-quality design of homes that are eco-friendly, affordable and responsive to change.	Broadly positive impact
HDO-3: Create a diversity of buildings and locations to accommodate a variety of lifestyles.	Broadly positive impact
BEO-1: Development within the historic core of the village needs to be sympathetic to the scale, height, form and massing of the existing Built Environment.	Neutral impact
BEO-2: New development should integrate energy efficient technologies and use sustainable design and construction methods	Neutral impact
BEO-3: Any business development should not damage village identity.	Neutral impact
BEO-4: All aspects of new development; buildings, landscapes, access and circulation, parking, open space; should be well related to each other and to existing development.	Neutral impact
BEO-5: Development proposals and designs should utilise locally appropriate materials and design details.	Neutral impact
NEO-1: Protect and enhance the biodiversity and the natural environment around the Parish. This encompasses the importance of hedgerows and green spaces and of wildlife and biodiversity.	Neutral impact
NEO-2: Protect the open views around the Parish.	Neutral impact
NEO-3: The existing footpath network should be maintained and developed to enable everyone to walk or exercise in a green environment. This is an objective which could benefit from Laxfield's co-operation with neighbouring parishes.	Broadly positive impact
NEO-4: Increase the amount of community green space.	Broadly positive impact
NEO-5: Make Laxfield a Green Village.	Neutral impact

LNP Objectives	Outcome for persons with certain protected characteristics
ASO-1: Provide preventative health and well-being facilities	Broadly positive impact
ASO-2: Increase access to the material used and curated by the Museum	Neutral impact
BEMO-1: Examine opportunities to support the availability of local employment.	Broadly positive impact
BEMO-2: Encourage opportunities for people to work from home.	Broadly positive impact
TIDO-1: Changes to road layout and new developments need to be sensitive and thoughtful to preserve the character of the village.	Neutral impact
TIDO-2: New development must be designed to support the integration of development into the village through provision of alternative transport routes.	Neutral impact
TIDO-3: Sufficient off-street parking should be included in new build plans.	Neutral impact
TIDO-4: Encourage a reduction in motorised traffic within the village. Good local infrastructure that encourages walking and cycling would give environmental and health benefits.	Broadly positive impact
TIDO-5: Electric car charging must be considered in all new development.	Neutral impact

Impact of Laxfield Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies on Persons with Protected Characteristics

Policy	Purpose	Outcome for persons with certain protected characteristics
LAX 1	To set out the strategy for the location of growth in Laxfield during the plan period.	Broadly positive impact
LAX 2	Identifies the amount of new housing growth that will take place in the neighbourhood area and how this growth will be delivered.	Broadly positive impact
LAX 3	Allocates a site for housing development.	Neutral impact
LAX 4	Allocates a site for housing development.	Neutral impact
LAX 5	Provides a mechanism for the delivery of affordable housing to meet local needs.	Broadly positive impact
LAX 6	Seeks to ensure that new housing is of a size to meet identified local needs	Broadly positive impact
LAX 7	Requires all new dwellings to meet minimum space standards	Broadly positive impact
LAX 8	Identifies built assets that are of local significance.	Neutral impact
LAX 9	Enables the preservation and enhancement of the village's heritage assets.	Neutral impact
LAX 10	Reduces the potential for development to increase light pollution.	Neutral impact
LAX 11	Provides a range of criteria against which all development proposals will be assessed	Broadly positive impact
LAX 12	Promotes the incorporation within development proposals of measures that reduce energy consumption.	Neutral impact
LAX 13	Provides measures for protecting the local landscape	Neutral impact
LAX 14	Provides criteria for the assessment of the potential impact of development on habitats and natural features.	Neutral impact
LAX 15	Designates green spaces that meet the NPPF criteria.	Broadly positive impact
LAX 16	Protects existing facilities from being lost and enables the provision of additional facilities	Broadly positive impact
LAX 17	Protects existing sport and recreational open space	Broadly positive impact
LAX 18	Provides criteria for the consideration of proposals for new businesses and employment	Neutral impact
LAX 19	Provides for the consideration of farm diversification proposals	Neutral impact
LAX 20	Protects existing public rights of way and encourages their improvement	Broadly positive impact

4.7 Certain protected characteristics are not affected by the LNP, namely gender reassignment, race, religion, or sexual orientation. For persons with these characteristics, the Plan has a neutral effect. Where policies in the Plan would adversely affect persons with these protected characteristics, they would not be differently affected than persons without these characteristics. For example, if a person with these protected characteristics were disadvantaged by a policy, it would have the same consequence for a person without the protected characteristic who wished to do the same thing. Similarly, if a person with one of these protected characteristics were to benefit from a policy, it would have the same benefit for a person without the protected characteristic in the same circumstances.

APPENDIX A Adopted development plan policies that do not apply to Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan

Mid Suffolk Core Strategy 2008	
CS8: Provision and Distribution of Housing	This policy was replaced by the Core Strategy Focused Review adopted in 2012
CS11: Supply of Employment Land	This policy was replaced by the Core Strategy Focused Review adopted in 2012
CS12: Retail Provision	The policy covers the identified town centres in Mid Suffolk. It does not apply to Laxfield.
Mid Suffolk Local Plan 1998 Saved Policies	
SB1 Directing new development to existing settlements	This is listed as a "saved policy" but has been superseded by the Core Strategy (2008) CS1 and CS2
GP2 Development Briefs	The policy applies to site allocations in the Local Plan. There are no sites allocated in the LNP area.
GP4 Energy and resource conservation	This is listed as a "saved policy" but has been superseded by the Core Strategy (2008) CS3
HB7 Protecting gardens and parkland of historic interest	There are no such designations in the LNP area
HB8 Safeguarding the character of conservation areas	There is no conservation area in the LNP area
HB9 Controlling demolition in conservation areas	There is no conservation area in the LNP area
HB10 Advertisements in conservation areas	There is no conservation area in the LNP area
HB13 Protecting ancient monuments	There are no such designations in the LNP area
H2 Housing development in towns	Not appropriate to the LNP
H6 A regular supply of land	This is listed as a "saved policy" but has been superseded by the Core Strategy Focused Review (2012) FC2
CL2 Development within special landscape areas.	There is no Special Landscape Area in the Neighbourhood Area
CL23 After use of sites following mineral extraction.	There are no mineral extraction sites in the LNP area
E2 Industrial uses on allocated sites.	There are no allocated sites in the LNP area
S4 Avoiding the loss of residential accommodation.	Policy applies to principal shopping areas.
S6 Provision of office accommodation.	Policy applies to principal shopping areas.
T2 Minor highway improvements	The local plan policy notes that regard will be had to the content of schemes in the annual Transport Policies and Programme (TPP). The TPP is no longer published by highway authorities and therefore this policy is not relevant.
T5 Financial contributions to B1115 relief road.	Policy does not apply to LNP area
T8 Lorry parking facilities in towns	The policy does not apply to Laxfield.
T14 Rail services	The policy does not apply to Laxfield.
RT15 Safeguarding arts and entertainments venues.	The policy does not apply to Laxfield



Laxfield

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