

Batchworth: Neighbourhood Plan



Consultation Statement

Volume 4 (of 4): Regulation 14 consultation

November 2023

Batchworth Community Council



BATCHWORTH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation Statement

Volume 4 (of 4): Regulation 14 consultation

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Batchworth: Neighbourhood Plan



Consultation Report

Summary of Regulation 14 Consultation

August 2023 (updated October 2023)

Batchworth Community Council



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1. Introduction

The Regulation 14 consultation of the pre-submission draft Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan took place for a period of seven-and-a-half weeks between Tuesday 30th May and Friday 21st July 2023. This report presents a summary of the process followed and feedback received.

Material was prepared to advertise the consultation period, including:

- A poster displayed in the Plan Area and used across social media networks (Figure 1).
- A double-sided tri-fold leaflet delivered to all households in the Plan area (Figure 2).
- Regular updates to the Community Council website (see Figure 3 and Figure 4).

A news item was also published by Three Rivers District Council on their website (see Appendix A) and Moor Park (1958) Limited notified residents of the consultation period via the May edition of the 'Bitesize' newsletter (see Appendix B).

The above material encouraged people to view the draft Plan online and in person, with summary display material (see Appendix C) made available to view at four drop-in events during the course of the Regulation 14 consultation period. Members of the Steering Group were in attendance at these events (Figure 5) to answer any questions and walk people through the material as required. Two events were held at the Sandy Lodge Golf Club and two at St Mary's School in Rickmansworth, covering the northern and southern parts of the Plan area. In addition to the drop-in events the Plan, supporting material and summary display posters were available to view in the lobby of the Three Rivers District Council office in Rickmansworth from 19th June to 21st July.

Furthermore, the drop-in events were reproduced online, allowing people to access documentation and view materials in an interactive, virtual 'village hall' style arrangement (Figure 6).

People were encouraged to provide feedback via an online survey which was also available in print format for those wishing to complete by hand (see Appendix D). The survey could be accessed via the Neighbourhood Plan website, the virtual 'Village Hall' website, or via a QR code included on leaflets and posters.

Notification of the consultation was sent directly (see Appendix E) to:

- Statutory consultees, as advised by Three Rivers District Council.
- Three Rivers District Council, both in their role as a statutory consultee but also as landowner of proposed Local Green Space designations in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities.
- Neighbouring Parishes.
- Residents and other organisations who had responded to earlier consultation activities and said they would like to be kept notified of future events.
- Leaflets were also handed directly to businesses on the High Street (approximately 50 in total)

A list of organisations notified of the consultation is presented below.

Statutory Consultees notified of the consultation:

- Affinity Water
- Age UK Hertfordshire
- Arqiva
- British Gas
- British Telecom
- Cadent Gas
- Canal and River Trust
- Coal Authority
- East of England Ambulance Services
- EDS Energy
- EE (Everything Everywhere)
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Hertfordshire Constabulary
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
- Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Highways England
- Historic England
- Homes England
- Hutchison 3G UK Ltd
- Marine Management Organisation
- Mid Hertfordshire Network
- Mobile Operators Association
- National Gas Transmission
- National Grid
- Natural England

- Network Rail
- O2 (UK) Ltd
- Regulator of Social Housing
- Sport England
- Thames Water Utilities Ltd
- Three Rivers Chamber of Trade & Commerce
- Three Rivers District Council
- Thrive Homes
- Watford and Three Rivers Trust

Local authorities (other than Three Rivers District Council) notified of the consultation:

- London Borough of Hillingdon
- Watford Borough Council

Parish Councils notified of the consultation:

- Chorleywood Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council



Neighbourhood plan

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY!**



THE DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN IS HERE - AND WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

**Please complete the survey by visiting
www.batchworthplan.org.uk or by scanning the
QR code below**



**GET
INVOLVED!**

**You can visit the exhibition at Three Rivers House,
view a virtual exhibition, or visit the website &
download the documents... see below**



STATIC EXHIBITION

Three Rivers House, Northway,
Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL

Material will be displayed in the lobby
of the Three Rivers District Council Offices
from 19 June to 21 July.

THE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HALL

Visit our virtual display by scanning this
QR Code! You will find everything that you
can see at the exhibitions, with links to the
feedback forms and download of the plan.



www.batchworthplan.org.uk | Please respond to the consultation by 24 July 2023

Figure 1: Poster prepared to advertise consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan



Figure 2: Tri-fold A4 leaflet delivered to all households in the Plan area

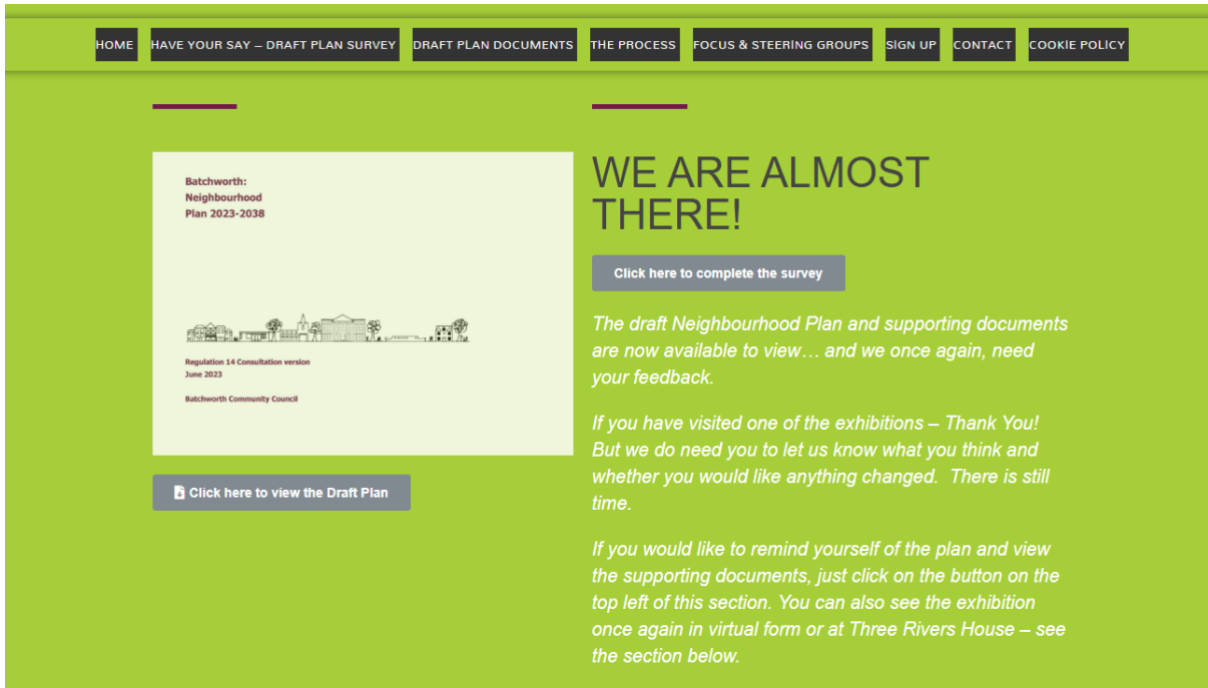


Figure 3: The homepage of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan website during the Regulation 14 consultation period (continued overleaf)

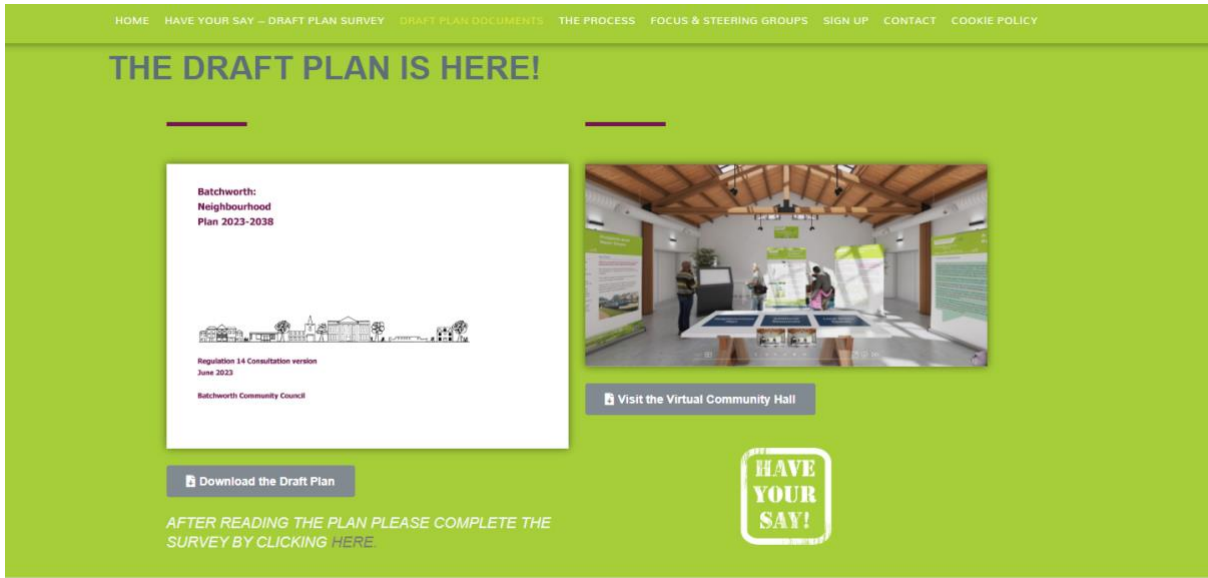


Figure 4: The homepage of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan website during the Regulation 14 consultation period (continued from previous page)



Figure 5: Selection of photos taken during the drop-in events. Faces obscured for privacy reasons.

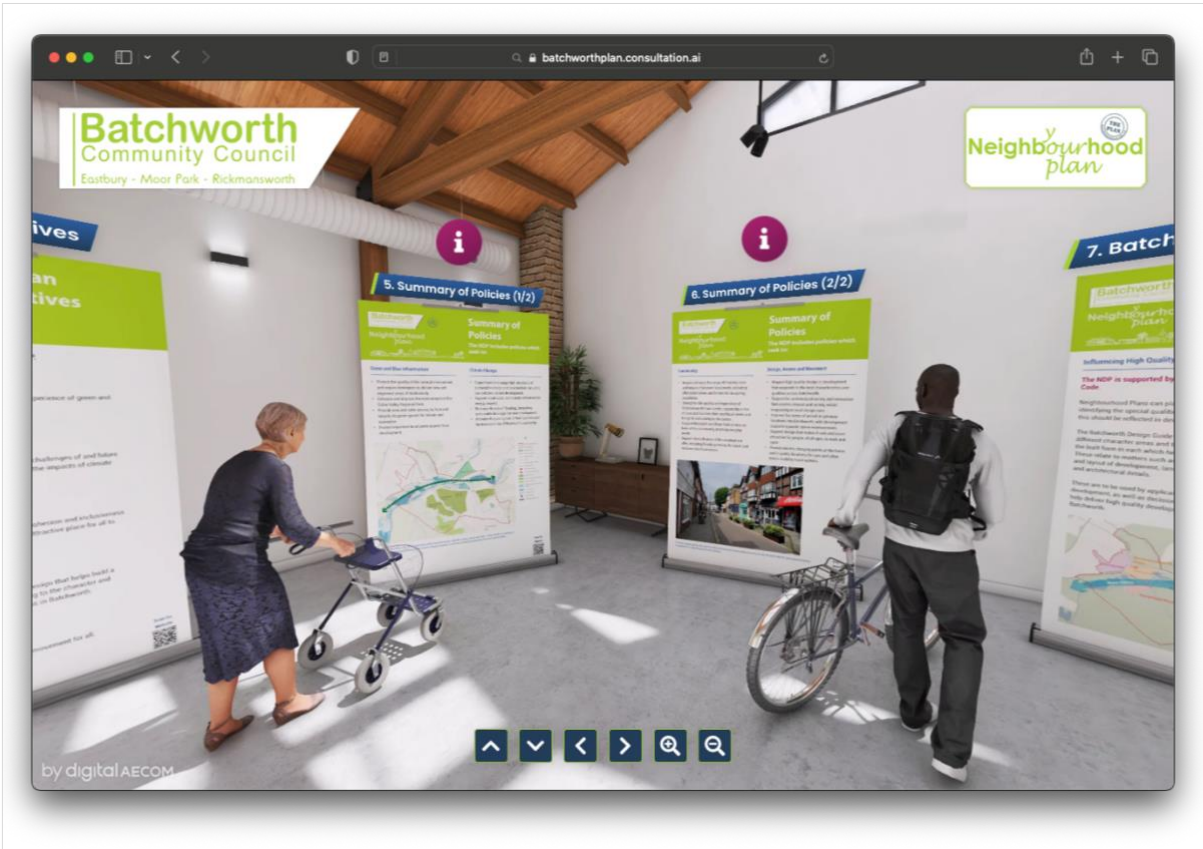
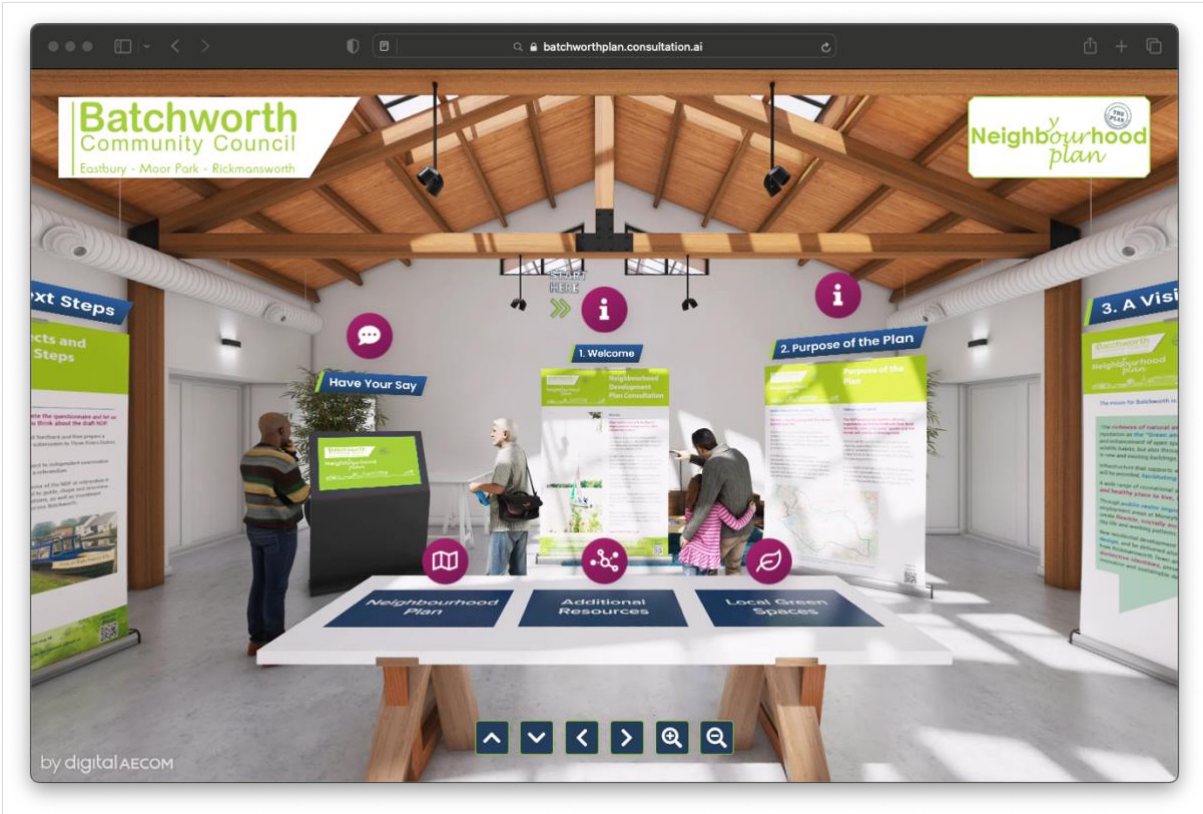


Figure 6: Screenshots of virtual 'Village Hall' style consultation, allowing people to view and interact with the Plan and supporting material.

2. Response rate and headline messages

A total of 55 responses were received to the survey with a further twelve responses received in letter and email format.

Responses were received from a mix of residents, including people who live and work in the area, as well as from the statutory consultees and other interested organisations.

In terms of responses to the survey:

- Not all expressed an opinion about all policies but, overall, the majority of all who responded expressed support for the policies - either agree or strongly agree (see Figure 7).
- On average, and having removed those who neither agreed nor disagreed, all policies received a 95% response in agreement or strong agreement (See Figure 8).

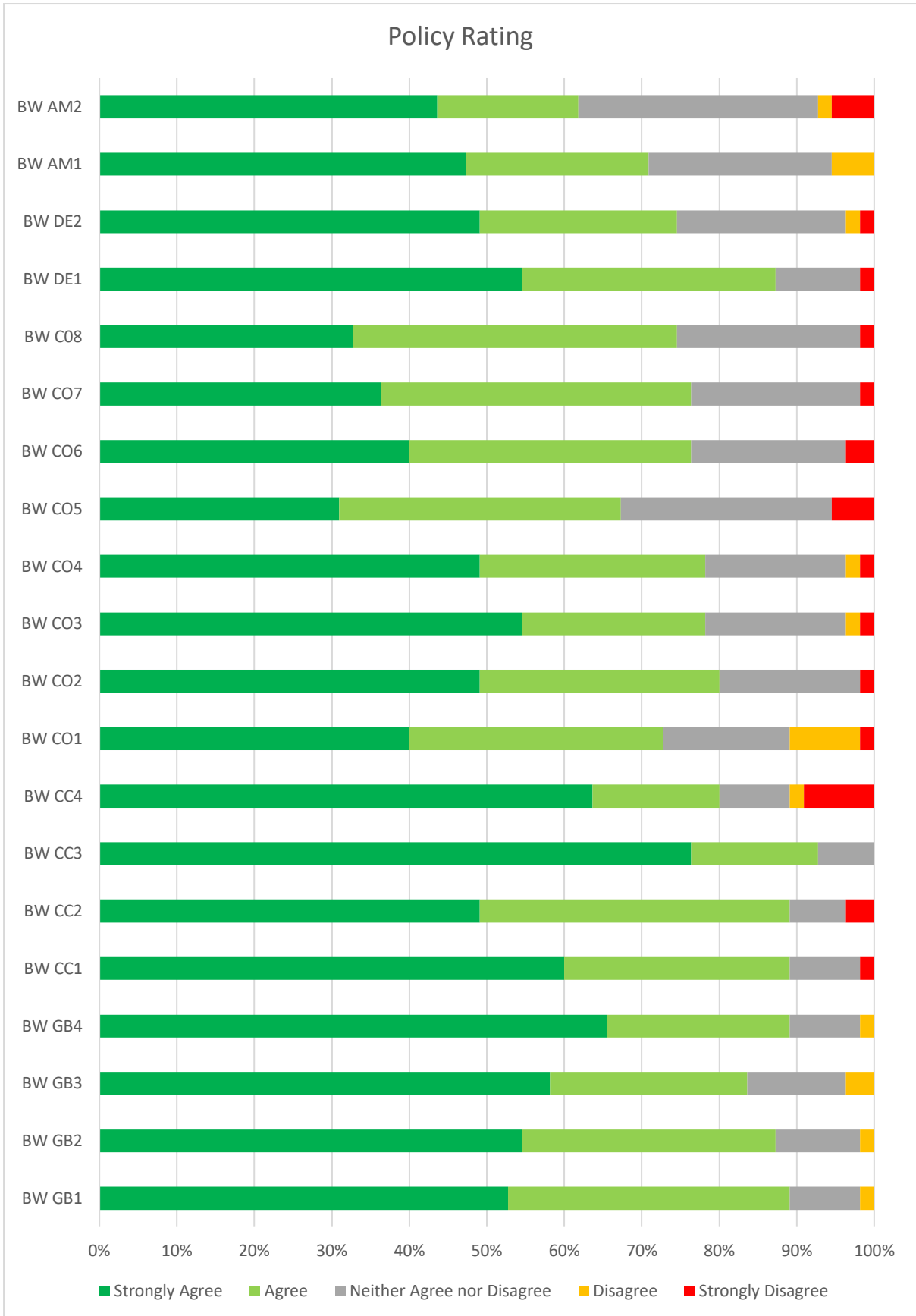


Figure 7: Chart displaying overall responses to each of the policies in the draft Plan



Figure 8: Chart displaying summary response to policies with those neither agreeing or disagreeing having been removed.

3. Comments on the policies

Comments made in response to policies are summarised below and presented according to the section of the Plan in which they appear. This includes comments made through the survey as well as those received by letter and email. Responses made by the Steering Group to the comments received are presented in italics.

Green and Blue Infrastructure (section 4 of the Plan)

Policy BW GB1: Biodiversity

Of those who responded to the survey, 53% strongly agreed with the policy and 36% agreed. Of the remainder, 2% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 9% said they disagreed.

General comments were made in the online survey about this and other policies in this section of the Plan and are summarised at the end of the section.

Policy BW GB2: Colne Valley Regional Park

Of those who responded to the survey, 54% strongly agreed with the policy and 33% agreed. Of the remainder, 11% neither agreed nor disagreed, and just 2% said they disagreed.

General comments were made in the online survey about this and other policies in this section of the Plan and are summarised at the end of the section. In terms of other comments:

- The Colne Valley Regional Park Trust welcome inclusion of this policy but would like to see this extended to cover additional aspects and clauses.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and minor amendments made to include suggestions.*

Policy BW GB3: Access to Green and Blue Infrastructure

Of those who responded to the survey, 58% strongly agreed with the policy and 25% agreed. Of the remainder, 13% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 4% said they disagreed.

General comments were made in the online survey about this and other policies in this section of the Plan and are summarised at the end of the section.

Policy BW GB4: Local Green Space Designations

Of those who responded to the survey, 65% strongly agreed with the policy and 24% agreed. Of the remainder, 9% neither agreed nor disagreed, and just 2% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Support was expressed for the proposed designations, but it was suggested that the Withey Beds should be designated as a Local Green Space.
 - *The Steering Group notes that the Withey Beds is already designated as a Local Nature Reserve and already benefits from protection from development.*
- Support for the proposed designations was also expressed by the Colne Valley Regional Park Trust.
 - *The comments are noted and welcomed by the Steering Group.*

Further commentary on the Local Green Space designations and comments received are presented in Section 4 of this report.

General Comments

Where comments were made not all specified which policy they applied to. These are summarised below:

- The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust wrote to say that “the Plan looks excellent from a wildlife perspective”.
 - *This expression of support is noted by the Steering Group.*
- Several respondents said that all policies look sensible, that they support the maintenance and enhancement of all green and blue assets, and that the policies will have a positive impact on wildlife. It was also noted that a firmer stance should be taken on the protection of green space and that these spaces should not be lost to new development. Similarly, it was noted that the aquadrome, rivers, canals and lakes are all important for health and wellbeing and should be protected from development.
 - *These points are all noted by the Steering Group and are reflected through a combination of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan as well as higher level policy and designations.*
- The importance of street greening was stressed.
 - *The Steering Group agrees and notes that this is set out in Projects in the Neighbourhood Plan.*
- It was suggested that references to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists should be extended to horse riders, and that references to retaining and incorporating routes in development should be extended to enhancing these too.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes are to be made to refer to other forms of non-motorised modes of travel.*

Climate Change (section 5 of the Plan)

Policy BW CC1: Sustainable Design and Construction

Of those who responded to the survey, 60% strongly agreed with the policy and 29% agreed. Of the remainder, 9% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2% said they disagreed or strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- One respondent expressed concern about the building of solar farms and that land should instead be used for housing. It was also suggested that new buildings should incorporate biodiversity features such as swift and bat bricks, and insect hotels.
 - *Comments about solar farms and sites for housing are noted, and which are to be addressed through the emerging Local Plan. In terms of swift and bat boxes, amends are to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan to express support for these.*

Policy BW CC2: Renewables

Of those who responded to the survey, 49% strongly agreed with the policy and 40% agreed. Of the remainder, 7% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 4% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- It was suggested that high energy efficiency standards should be met, but that this should not come at the expense of good quality design.
 - *This is noted. The design policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will apply to all proposals for development.*
- The Colne Valley Regional Park Trust wrote to express support for the policy but recommended a minor wording change to the policy.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes will be made accordingly.*

Policy BW CC3: Sustainable Drainage

Of those who responded to the survey, 76% strongly agreed with the policy and 17% agreed. Of the remainder, 7% neither agreed nor disagreed. None of the respondents said they disagreed with the policy.

In terms of comments received:

- Provision of sustainable drainage is critical and will help reduce the risk of flash flooding as well as benefit plant life.

- *Comments are noted by the Steering Group, with projects and policies in the Plan supporting multi-functional SuDs to mitigate surface water flooding and provide areas of biodiversity..*
- Herts CC provided some suggested changes to policy wording. Support was expressed for the Design Code and references in this to the use of sustainable drainage.
 - *The suggestions to the policy wording are noted. Although in part helpful, they do not address wider issues about the quality and design of sustainable drainage, as set out in the Design Code, and which the response says it supports. Changes will be made as appropriate, but reference to design retained.*

Policy BW CC4: Paving of Front Gardens

Of those who responded to the survey, 64% strongly agreed with the policy and 16% agreed. Of the remainder, 9% neither agreed nor disagreed, 2% disagreed and 9% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Some respondents said that there should be no paving of front gardens, or a requirement to include permeable surfaces and retain a minimum amount of green space, and that this is needed to help mitigate flood risk and retain the green nature of the area.
 - *This is noted and reflected as far as possible in the policy and wider design guidance in the Neighbourhood Plan.*

General Comments

Where comments were made not all specified which policy they applied to. These are summarised below:

- Enforcement of the policies is critical.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. Enforcement is the responsibility of the local authority.*
- More information is required on the extent of the flood plain and policies need putting in place in the Neighbourhood Plan to address this.
 - *Th Steering Group notes that national guidance establishes the approach to flooding and whilst recognised as important to the area it is not necessary to duplicate this in the Neighbourhood Plan.*

Community (section 6 of the Plan)

Policy BW CO1: Housing Type, Tenure and Mix

Of those who responded to the survey, 40% strongly agreed with the policy and 33% agreed. Of the remainder, 16% neither agreed nor disagreed, 9% disagreed and 2% said they strongly disagreed

In terms of comments received:

- It was noted that is new housing is to come forward then it should reflect local needs, i.e.: affordable homes and three-bed family homes. However, it was stressed that new development should be accompanied by the necessary infrastructure.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. The Neighbourhood Plan is informed by a local Housing Needs Assessment to better understand the mix and type of homes that should come forward in the future, as reflected in the Policy. Wider infrastructure requirements are to be assessed by Three Rivers DC in partnership with service providers as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan supporting the new Local Plan. In the meantime, the S106 process and Community Infrastructure Levy are to be used to direct funds to infrastructure that is required in the local area.*
- Herts CC wrote to acknowledge and welcome reference to specialist housing in the Plan.
 - *Comments are noted and welcomed by the Steering Group.*
- The Colne Valley Regional Park Trust wrote to suggest that the Plan should include housing allocations.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. However, there is no requirement for Neighbourhood Plans to include allocations and, given the status of the emerging Local Plan, it is not appropriate for the Plan to do so at this time.*
- The Neighbourhood Plan is silent on opportunities for infill development or for individuals who wish to bring sites forward for self-build, and should include policies on meeting the need for self-build plots.
 - *The Neighbourhood does not preclude infill development nor opportunities for self-build. Applications will be determined on their merits against the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan, including general design principles etc. The requirement for providing plots for self-build is a District-wide matter to be explored through the Local Plan in response to the self-build register, land availability and development viability.*

Policy BW CO2: Rickmansworth Town Centre Uses

Of those who responded to the survey, 49% strongly agreed with the policy and 31% agreed. Of the remainder, 18% neither agreed nor disagreed, and just 2% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Support was expressed for efforts to improve the quality of the pedestrian environment, but that this should be well designed to avoid conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and others. It was also questioned how retail units might be serviced if the High Street were to close.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. Any proposed changes to the High Street will be subject to further design proposals and testing, which will include aspects such as access and servicing. Policies in the Plan in respect of Active Travel also require infrastructure to be designed in line with Government guidance.*
- Support was expressed for a wider range of uses to enhance the vitality of the centre, including encouragement for pop-up shops and other similar uses of vacant units.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. This is reflected in the policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.*
- Although support was expressed for the approach outlined by the policy, some noted issues in respect of high business rates and parking charges, and that these are having a detrimental impact on the High Street. Concern was also expressed in respect of permitted development rights, that this is undermining the economic role and function of the centre, and whether this can be addressed in the Plan.
 - *These comments are noted by the Steering Group but are outside the scope of what a Neighbourhood Plan can do. However, issues around change of use are recognised and the Plan will be amended to include a project / aspiration to explore the potential for an Article 4 direction with the District Council that would require planning applications to be submitted for any proposed changes of use in the town centre.*

Policy BW CO3: Rickmansworth Library and Civic Area

Of those who responded to the survey, 54% strongly agreed with the policy and 24% agreed. Of the remainder, 18% neither agreed nor disagreed, 2% disagreed and 2% said they strongly disagreed.

No specific comments were made about this policy in the online survey.

- Herts CC wrote to acknowledge the position with respect of the Library area and provided a copy of their response to the Three Rivers Local Plan, noting that they would not support relocation of the Library.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. However, the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose relocation of these services, but rather suggests that the cluster of services around the library should be strengthened.*

Policy BW CO4: Rickmansworth Town Centre Design Principles

Of those who responded to the survey, 49% strongly agreed with the policy and 29% agreed. Of the remainder, 18% said they neither agreed nor disagreed, 2% disagreed and 2% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Some supported ideas to restrict vehicular access along Rickmansworth High Street, but others were concerned about access to the shops, particularly for servicing.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. Any proposed changes to the High Street will be subject to further design proposals and testing, which will include aspects such as access and servicing.*
- Support was expressed for well-designed development that reflects and reinforces the character of the town centre.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group, with the policy establishing design principles for the area (and which are further supplemented by the Batchworth Neighbourhood Design Code.*
- Herts CC wrote to welcome support for the approach taken and the concepts to improve the quality of the High Street.
 - *The comments are noted and welcomed by the Steering Group.*

Policy BW CO5: Moneyhill and Moor Park Local Centres

Of those who responded to the survey, 31% strongly agreed with the policy and 37% agreed. Of the remainder, 27% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 5% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- The approach to the Moneyhill centre is generally supported, with improvements to the quality and appearance of the retail offer stressed.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. Matters of design are included in the policy and supplemented by the Batchworth Neighbourhood Design Code.*

- Several respondents, including comments from Moor Park 58 Ltd, said that proposals to remodel the street environment in the local centre were unnecessary.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. Although the policy doesn't specifically make suggestions about the remodelling of the street environment, the supporting text does, and will be amended accordingly.*

Policy BW CO6: Community Facilities

Of those who responded to the survey, 40% strongly agreed with the policy and 36% agreed. Of the remainder, 20% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 4% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Use of existing community facilities should be maximised in the first instance, allowing dual use of schools for example. It was also suggested that a community centre in Eastbury is not necessary.
 - *Comments are noted by the Steering Group. Reference to a Community Centre in Eastbury is a response to comments received through previous consultation events.*

Policy BW CO7: Employment

Of those who responded to the survey, 36% strongly agreed with the policy and 40% agreed. Of the remainder, 22% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Herts CC wrote to clarify that Ebury Way is not a public right of way and its status should be correctly reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Design Code.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group, with reference in the Plan to be amended accordingly.*

Policy BW CO8: Design principles for B2-B8 Employment Uses

Of those who responded to the survey, 33% strongly agreed with the policy and 42% agreed. Of the remainder, 23% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2% said they strongly disagreed.

No specific comments were made about this policy in the online survey.

General Comments

Where comments were made not all specified which policy they applied to. These are summarised below:

- Enforcement of the policies is critical.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. Enforcement is the responsibility of the local authority.*
- It was suggested that there should be no 'high rise' development in the town centre.
 - *This is noted. The Design Code sitting alongside the Neighbourhood Plan includes guidance on scale and building heights appropriate to each of the character areas in Batchworth.*
- Where reference is made to routes for pedestrians and cyclists, it is suggested that this is extended to refer to non-motorised users, to include horse riders and others.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes are to be made in the Plan to reflect this.*
- Croxley Green Parish Council note the importance of Croxley Common Moor and that development at Tolpits Lane industrial area should not cause intrusion into or 'overbear' the natural landscape and views across it
 - *This is noted by the Steering Group and is to be reflected in the supporting text to the policy, with wider design principles set out in the Batchworth Neighbourhood Design Code.*
- Some concern was expressed about the impacts of business rates and parking charges on the success of Rickmansworth town centre.
 - *Whilst noted by the Steering Group, these are not planning policy issues and not within the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan.*

Design (section 7 of the Plan)

Policy BW DE1: High Quality Design

Of those who responded to the survey, 55% strongly agreed with the policy and 32% agreed. Of the remainder, 11% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Reference to walking and cycling should be extended to other non-motorised users.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes are to be made where appropriate in the Plan.*
- The Colne Valley Regional Park Trust wrote to express support for the policy but recommended a minor wording change to the policy.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes will be made accordingly.*
- The policy refers to openness and coalescence which are not design matters and should either be removed from the policy or a new policy drafted.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. The openness between 'places' contributes to the character of the area and is thus an important design consideration.*

Policy BW DE2: Gateways

Of those who responded to the survey, 49% strongly agreed with the policy and 25% agreed. Of the remainder, 22% neither agreed nor disagreed, 2% disagreed and 2% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- It was suggested that where improvements are proposed, these should have a long-lasting impact (i.e.: temporary, short-term solutions are not the answer).
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and will be subject to schemes that come forward, though temporary projects might be a way of testing ideas before they are made permanent.*
- It was also suggested by one respondent that slowing traffic and providing improved pedestrian routes could lead to noise and air pollution associated with stationary traffic, and that this will be exacerbated by new development.

- *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. Wider policies in the Neighbourhood Plan seek to support a move to use of other modes of transport.*

General Comments

Where comments were made not all specified which policy they applied to. These are summarised below:

- The policies are supported but need to be used by planning officers when determining planning applications. It was also suggested that more care should be taken when designing new development to ensure it reflects local character.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. The suite of design policies and associated Design Code should be used by applicants and decision makers in preparing and determining proposals.*
- Where reference is made to routes for pedestrians and cyclists, it is suggested that this is extended to refer to non-motorised users, to include horse riders and others.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes are to be made as appropriate through the Plan.*
- The supporting Design Guide / Code should clarify that when reference is made to the height of buildings by way of storeys, this should be in terms of above ground storeys.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group for review within the Design Code.*

Access and Movement (section 8 of the Plan)

Policy BW AM1: Active and Healthy Travel

Of those who responded to the survey, 47% strongly agreed with the policy and 24% agreed. Of the remainder, 24% neither agreed nor disagreed and 5% said they disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- The quality of walking and cycling routes need improving if people are to use them, and that proper segregated routes are required to avoid conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and other traffic. A proper cycle plan is required for the area. Delivery of improved walking and cycling conditions is considered important given the associated health benefits from exercise.
 - *The Steering Group notes the comments. Policies point towards Government guidance and best practice in terms of new infrastructure. A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is being prepared by Three Rivers District Council and will be referred to in supporting text. The projects identified in the Neighbourhood Plan are intended to help inform this.*
- One respondent felt that too much emphasis is placed on cycling and that this is inappropriate in the area.
 - *The Steering Group notes but disagrees with the comments, noting the wider level of support expressed for intervention in this area.*
- The Colne Valley Regional Park Trust wrote to express support for the policy but recommended a minor wording change to the policy.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes will be made accordingly.*

Policy BW AM2: E-Vehicles, Technology and Micro-Mobility

Of those who responded to the survey, 44% strongly agreed with the policy and 18% agreed. Of the remainder, 31% neither agreed nor disagreed, 2% disagreed and 5% said they strongly disagreed.

In terms of comments received:

- Residents should be encouraged to use more environmentally friendly forms of transport, but that electric vehicles alone are not the solution to climate change. It was also suggested that hire bikes and scooters are inappropriate in the Plan area, and that issues associated with E-Vehicles should be addressed at the national level.

- *The comments are noted by the Steering Group but do not change the thrust of the policy.*
- Herts CC wrote to confirm that the policy reflects their position in respect of Electric Vehicles.
 - *The comments are noted and welcomed by the Steering Group.*

General Comments

Where comments were made not all specified which policy they applied to. These are summarised below:

- Enforcement of the policies is critical.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. Enforcement is the responsibility of the local authority.*
- Reference to walking and cycling should be extended to include non-motorised users, such as horse-riders and others.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group and changes are to be made as appropriate to the Neighbourhood Plan.*
- Concern is expressed about the use of tow path and conflicts between users.
 - *This is acknowledged in the text of the Neighbourhood Plan, with policies making reference to good practice design principles.*
- Some concerns were expressed about the overall volume of traffic and impact of this on the environment.
 - *This is noted, though is not strictly a planning policy matter. However, the combination of projects and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan do seek to change travel behaviour and improve the quality of the environment.*
- Herts CC wrote to suggest that a wider transport policy linked to the County Local Transport Plan could be included to enable walking, cycling and use of public transport to key destinations. It is also suggested that reference is made to the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) being consulted upon by the District Council.
 - *The Steering Group notes the comments but does not agree that a separate policy is required, rather that cross-reference to the Local Transport Plan and the LCWIP can instead be made within the Neighbourhood Plan.*

Other comments

In addition to the comments outlined above, other comments were made as following:

- It was noted that although the identified character areas make reference to the river valley, there is no specific guidance or objectives relating to this, which is considered important given the nature of the landscape, wildlife sites and flood issues.
 - *This is noted by the Steering Group. The focus of the design guidance which relates to the character areas is on the built-up areas where there will be pressure for change and development. Outside of these (e.g.: the river valley and wider green areas) wider policies are intended to inform planning applications, including the suite of 'green and blue' infrastructure policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. Wider national and local guidance in respect of designated wildlife areas and flood risk amongst others also offer these areas protection from development which are not necessary to duplicate in the Neighbourhood Plan.*
- The character area map included in the Neighbourhood Plan and associated Design Code does not correctly reflect the extent of development along Moor Lane and London Road, and it omits the River Chess from the plan. Equally, mapping showing the convergence of green corridors, rivers and canals is incorrect, as are some of the plans within the Design Guide/Code. These should be updated.
 - *This is noted and the maps will be updated accordingly.*
- The Design Code introduces a wide range of ideas for Rickmansworth town centre and High Street, particularly in terms of parking and pedestrianisation. Views on these were mixed.
 - *The comments are all noted. The ideas are conceptual and should they be taken forward will, be subject to further testing and consultation. This is to be clarified in the text.*
- In their role as minerals and waste planning authority, Hertfordshire CC wrote to clarify the position with respect of waste and minerals plans, and designated sites with the Plan area, and that note of these should be made in the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - *The comments are noted by the Steering Group. Reference will made in the appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan.*

- Herts CC has also provided suggestions as to the rewording of parts of the Plan to reflect the most current position in respect of various initiatives to provide further clarity.
 - *The suggestions are all noted by the Steering Group and will be reflected as appropriate in the Plan.*
- The Coal Authority wrote to confirm that they had no specific comments to make on the Plan. Similarly, Natural England and the Environment Agency both wrote to confirm they had no comments on the Neighbourhood Plan. Sport England, The Marine Management Organisation and Herts Valley Clinical Commission Groups also wrote to say they have no comments on the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - *The Steering Group takes the above to mean there are no issues with the Plan and thus they support its progress.*
- Historic England wrote to say they welcomed the Plan and the approach taken to it, but that they would like to see more on the historic environment.
 - *The Steering Group notes the support expressed for the Plan and is satisfied that the Plan covers issues of interest to the local community, and that issues associated with heritage assets are suitably addressed in higher level policy.*
- Highways England wrote to note that they do not consider the Neighbourhood Plan will impact upon the Strategic Road network and that they welcome the proposals to improve access and take up of sustainable transport.
 - *The Steering Group notes the support expressed for the Plan.*
- The Hertfordshire Constabulary provided a copy of comments also sent to Three Rivers in respect of the emerging Local Plan and the need to incorporate secured by design principles in this.
 - *The Steering Group notes the comments. The Design Code that sits alongside the Neighbourhood Plan is based on good practice principles, including those that are concerned with safety and security. Indeed, policies within the Neighbourhood Plan also make reference to safety and security, through the creation of active frontages that provide overlooking and natural surveillance of public areas.*
- The Colne Valley Regional Park Trust provided comments on several policies as outlined in previous sections. It was also suggested that more could be said in respect of the quality of the Green Belt.
 - *The Steering Group notes these comments and does make reference to the Green Belt and openness of the area in the Plan. However, it is*

also to be noted that review of the Green Belt is a strategic matter for the District Council, is being reviewed through the new Local Plan, and not within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- Croxley Green Parish Council wrote to endorse the Plan and express support for policies in it as well as the use of separate policy and project boxes, character areas and production of the accompanying design code. The response noted the importance of green space along the River Chess as being important to the setting of Croxley Green and that this would benefit from being a separate character area.
 - *The Steering Group welcomes the response from Croxley Green Parish Council. It is not considered necessary to establish a new character area, though the setting of the Parish is acknowledged and, where specific comments have been provided (in respect to the Tolpits Lane area for example) these will be reflected in amendments to the Plan.*
- Some respondents noted that the Neighbourhood Plan is silent on the potential allocation of Batchworth Golf Club in the Three Rivers Local Plan and that this needs addressing.
 - *The Three Rivers Local Plan is still at a relatively early stage and no decisions have yet been made about allocations. If sites need to be released from the Green Belt then the evidence to the Local Plan needs to demonstrate and justify this. That has not yet been shown or tested through the Local Plan or examination process. Until such time as the Local Plan progresses, national Green Belt policies and more locally specific policies in the Neighbourhood Plan around design and green space etc will apply.*
- A late response to the consultation was received from the Canal & River Trust (i.e.: it was received after the consultation period closed), but has been considered by the Steering Group in any event. This welcomes reference to the canal and blue infrastructure in the area, but requests clarity in respect of the term towpath within the Design Code, opportunities for improving access to and along the canal, that development adjacent to the canal should be well designed so as not to impact on the setting or integrity of the canal, and that the extent of the proposed local green space designation at Riverside Drive should be reviewed to ensure it does not include land within the ownership of the Trust.
 - *The comments are noted. Amendments in respect of the use of the towpath and the design of buildings adjacent to the canal are to be reflected in the Design Code. In terms of the proposed Local Green Space designation, the area proposed for designation only covers that land administered by the Batchworth Allotment Association.*

Three Rivers District Council

It is to be noted that Three Rivers District Council did not provide a response to the Regulation 14 consultation. However, an extensive response was provided at the pre-Regulation 14 stage, with helpful comments provided on the suitability of policies, their conformity with national guidance and the Three Rivers Local Plan, and how and where policy wording (and supporting text) might be clarified and amended. The comments were reflected in the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A response from the District Council to the Regulation 14 consultation was specifically requested. It was advised that comments are not normally provided until the Neighbourhood Plan is ready for submission. An amended version of the Neighbourhood Plan, including changes made based on comments received, was subsequently provided to the District Council for comment.

Comments received from the District Council were fairly limited and included minor matters of clarification and typographical errors. In addition to these, changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan in response to comments received from the District Council include:

- Clarifications are provided in the Neighbourhood Plan as to the current status of the review of the Local Plan.
- Minor amendments are made to Policy BW GB1 (Biodiversity), acknowledging that off-site net gain might be acceptable if on-site delivery is impracticable. It is also noted the District Council questioned the appropriateness of asking applicants for a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan to be prepared. This is linked to Government guidance on net gain which states that '*LPAs will have to approve a biodiversity net gain plan for development work before it can start*'.
- An additional map and information on strategies contained in the Colne Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy are included in the Plan for clarity in support of Policy BW GB2.
- Policy on Local Green Spaces (BW GB4) is now amended to reflect the NPPF in terms of the Green Belt tests being applied to these.
- Minor wording changes are made in respect of the requirement for dropped kerbs needing to be subject to a planning application in Policy BW CC4.
- Policy BW CO1 has been updated to reflect the threshold for affordable housing established by the District Council. Other minor wording changes are made to the Policy in response to comments received.

4. Local Green Space Designations

Respondents to the survey were asked whether they agreed with the proposed Local Green Space designations in the Neighbourhood Plan and, if so, what they used the space for and how it meets the criteria for designation established in the NPPF.

Responses indicate overall support for all of the designations (See Figure 9).

In terms of individual sites:

Rickmansworth Park

- Of those who responded, 80% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who said they make use of the space, most said they used it for walking, including dog walking, and general leisure and recreation.
- Respondents indicated that it was an important local space in close proximity to the community.
- It was suggested that it could be better signposted to encourage greater use and with new cycle routes provided through the park. One respondent suggested that Village Green Status be explored.
- The majority of respondents suggested the space is important, well used and should be protected. However, one noted that the site is in close proximity to the town centre and could be better used for new homes.

Bowls Club, Northway Gardens & Orchard

- Of those who responded, 79% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who indicated they use the space, they said it was a peaceful and relaxing spot for participating in and watching sports, and for social interaction.
- It was noted as being an important green space in the town centre, but that more use could be made of it. In contrast to this, one respondent noted that its central location would make it appropriate for delivery of new homes.

Bury Gardens

- Of those who responded, 85% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who indicated that they use the space, many said they used it for walking, including dog-walking, general leisure, fitness and recreation, and as place for relaxation.

- It was noted that the gardens is in close proximity to the town centre and provides an attractive walk between this and the Aquadrome.
- It was noted as being important for leisure and wildlife, and that it is an important historic asset that should be preserved and enhanced.
- One respondent noted that there may be some opportunities for imaginative development that helps to restore the space.

Scotsbridge Play Fields & Sports Club

- Of those who responded, 84% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who said they used the site, most indicated that it was for the purposes of sports, child's play, walking, including dog walking, and as a means of accessing the river walk. It was noted that the site is well used by local schools for a range of activities.
- It was noted that the site meets all the criteria for designation in the NPPF, being a site in close proximity to the community for leisure and recreation.

Fortune Common

- Of those who responded, 68% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who said they used the site, most indicated that it was for the purposes of walking, including dog walking.
- Respondents indicated the site is important for leisure and recreation, and also has biodiversity value. It was also noted as being important to help mitigate flooding.
- It was suggested that it could incorporate a cycle route and might benefit from Village Green Status. However, one suggested that, given its location in a residential area, that it could be used as a site for new homes.

Riverside Drive

- Of those who responded, 88% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who said they used the site, most indicated that they use it for walking, including dog walking, cycling, leisure and recreation.
- It was noted as being important to the character of the area, providing a green route around the south of the town. It was noted as being a good means of access by foot to the river and the town centre (linking through Bury Gardens).
- The site was noted as having biodiversity value, though there are opportunities for rewilding. It was also suggested it has an important role in

helping to manage and mitigate flood risk, and filter air pollution from vehicles on Riverside Drive.

- It was though suggested by one respondent that some imaginative development could help deliver new homes and improvements to the quality of the site.

Ebury Road Allotments

- Of those who responded, 74% said they agreed to the designation.
- The allotments were recognised as being important places for social interaction, food growing, health and wellbeing, as well as being a place of relaxation and supporting local wildlife.
- It was suggested that to support food resilience, the allotments should be protected.

Eastbury Recreation Ground

- Of those who responded, 72% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who used the space, many said it was for the purpose of walking, child play, sports, general leisure and recreation, and attending community events.
- It was noted as being a locally important green space in close proximity to the community, in a place where there are few such spaces. It acts as an important place for people to meet friends and family.
- It was suggested that the site might benefit from Village Green status.

Grove Green (Next to Grove Farm Park)

- Of those who responded, 62% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who said they use the space, all said they use it for walking. It was noted as being an important space next to a busy road, being important to the setting of the area and providing respite from that, but that more could be done to maintain the area, including transforming this into a wild flower meadow.

Greenbroom Spring and the Grove Woods

- Of those who responded, 67% said they agreed to the designation.
- Of those who said they use the space, most said they use it for walking and enjoying the local wildlife and biodiversity.

- The site is noted as being filled with bluebells, being important to the character of the area and for local wildlife.

Batchworth Allotments

- Of those who responded, 76% said they agreed to the designation.
- Similar to the Ebury Road Allotments site, the Batchworth Allotments were recognised as being important places for social interaction, food growing, health and wellbeing, as well as being a place of relaxation and supporting local wildlife.
- It was suggested that to support food resilience, the allotments should be protected.
- The Canal & Rivers Trust, whilst supporting designations, requested that the extent of the proposed Local Green Space be reviewed to ensure it does not encroach on to land in their ownership. By way of response, it is to be noted that the area proposed for designation only covers that land administered by the Batchworth Allotment Association.

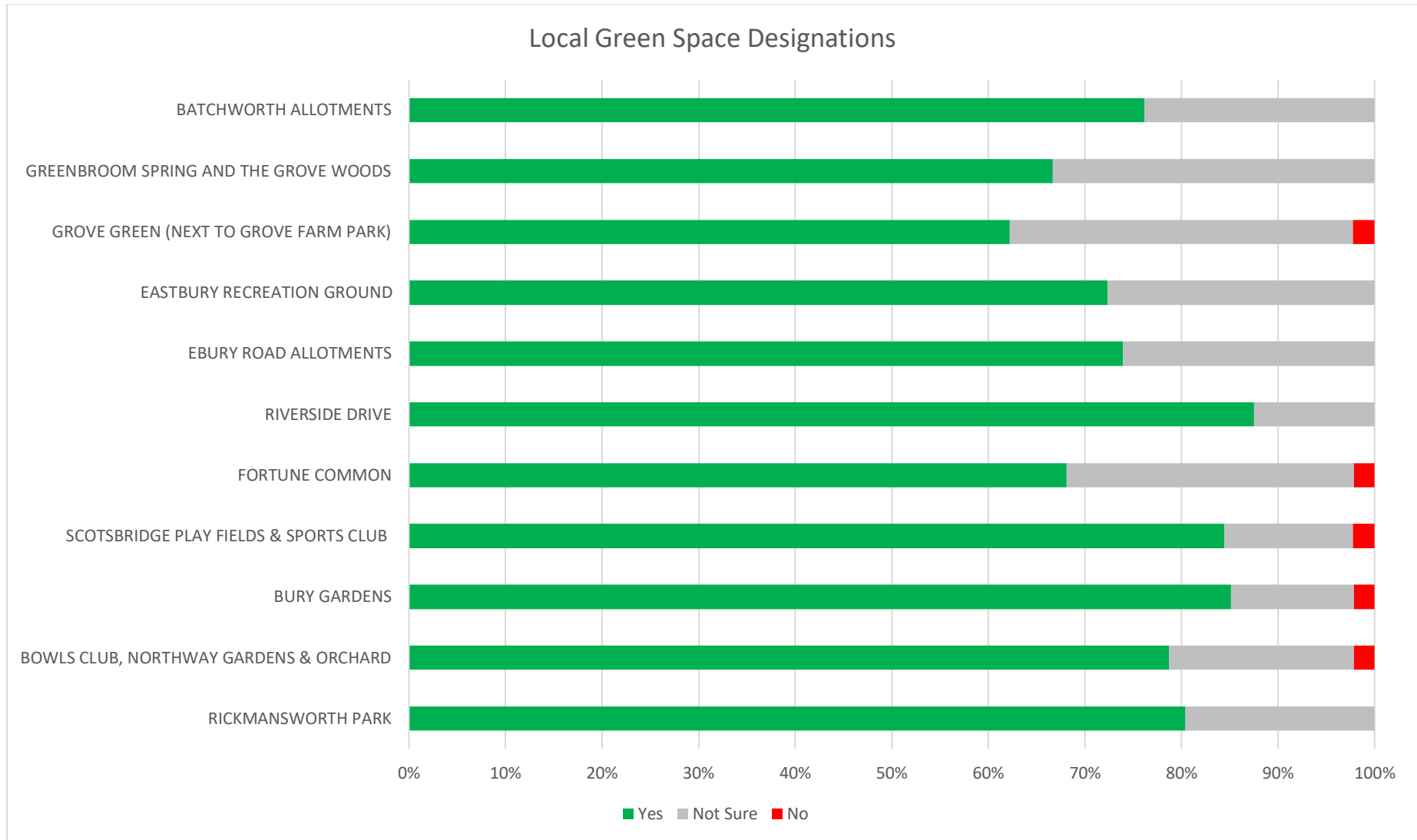


Figure 9: Chart displaying overall responses to each of the proposed Local Green Space designations in the Neighbourhood Plan

5. Summary

- Consultation on the Regulation 14 draft of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan lasted for almost eight weeks.
- Considerable efforts were made to advertise the consultation and encourage people to view the material and respond to this.
- Extensive use was made of social media, digital tools and in-person events to display the material and provide people with opportunities to respond.
- A wide range of organisation and other interested parties were contacted and invited to respond to the draft Plan.
- There were 55 responses to the survey as well as twelve responses received by letter and email. These came from a mix of residents, statutory consultees and other interested parties.
- There was a very high level of support for the Plan and policies within it. Where comments were received, these were generally helpful and comprise suggested rephrasing and clarifications.
- Respondents were asked for their views on the proposed Local Green Space designations in the draft Plan. Responses indicated strong support for these.

Appendix A: TRDC News Item

Welcome to the new Three Rivers District Council website. Please have a look around and complete a [short survey](#) to let us know what you think.
You can return to our [archived site](#) until the 30 June 2023.

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Help shape the future of Rickmansworth, Moor Park and Eastbury](#)

Help shape the future of Rickmansworth, Moor Park and Eastbury

Press Release | Updated: 6 June 2023 | Planning



Residents are being invited to have their say on the future of development in Rickmansworth, Moor Park and Eastbury.

The Batchworth Community Council (BCC) Neighbourhood Plan – a document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – is now open for public consultation, and the community council would like to hear views on the plan.

Figure 10: News item on the TRDC website (continued overleaf)

A series of exhibitions are on display at Sandy Lodge Golf Club and St Mar y's School this June, at which members of the steering group will be present to answer questions, followed by a static exhibition at Thr ee Rivers House, Rickmansworth, for four weeks, and an online digital exhibition and questionnair e.

Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to have a say in the futur e of the places where they live and work. Local plans help people choose where they want new homes, shops and ofices to be built and have a say on what those new buildings should look like.

Over the past three years, a resident led Steering Group set up by Batchworth Community Council has been developing the Neighbourhood Plan which incorporates the feedback and comments r eceived from residents through focus groups, online tools and a survey.

All comments should be submitted by 21 July. Find out more at www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Batchworth Community Council
History Moor Park Rickmansworth

Neighbourhood plan

COME AND SEE THE FUTURE VISION FOR EASTBURY, MOOR PARK & RICKMANSWORTH

You are invited to visit the exhibitions of the draft Neighbourhood Plan:

SANDY LODGE GOLF CLUB
Sandy Lodge Lane, Northwood, HA6 2JD
Wednesday 7 June, 7-9pm
Sunday 11 June, 3-5pm

ST MARY'S SCHOOL
Stockers Farm Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1NY
Wednesday 14 June, 7-9pm
Saturday 17 June, 3-5pm

STATIC EXHIBITION
Three Rivers House, Northway,
Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL
Material will be displayed in the lobby of the Three Rivers District Council Offices from 19 June to 21 July.

THE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY HALL
Visit our virtual display by scanning this QR Code! You will find everything that you can see at the exhibitions, with links to the feedback forms and download of the plan.

www.batchworthplan.org.uk | Please respond to the consultation by 21 July 2023

Latest news



'A sense of achievement': Local woman explains why she volunteers

7 June 2023

Figure 11: Continuation of TRDC new item from previous page

Appendix B: Moor Park Newsletter



Moor Park (1958) Ltd BiteSize Update



Welcome to Moor Park (1958) Ltd UPDATE Issue 26– 31 May 2023

AGM & EGM change of date...

The AGM has been postponed, new date to be advised.

King's Coronation street parties ...

Moor Park residents celebrated the King's Coronation with numerous well-attended, fun-filled street parties. It was great to see so many people having such a good time.



Figure 12: Front page of Moor Park 58 Ltd 'Bitesize' newsletter, May 2023

Neighbourhood Plan...

Neighbourhood Plan public consultation (NP)

Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan has reached the critical Regulation 14 stage whereby the draft plan will be presented to all BCC residents. The NP will ultimately affect Moor Park as a Community and its surrounding areas. This consultation will enable all residents to provide feedback and comments on the draft, which has been developed over the past two years. The Regulation 14 presentation events (face to face) will take place as follows:

- Wednesday 7th June @ 7.00 PM – 9.00 PM – Sandy Lodge Golf Club, Moor Park
- Sunday 11th June @ 3.00 PM – 5.00 PM – Sandy Lodge Golf Club, Moor Park
- Wednesday 14th June @ 7.00 PM – 9.00 PM – St Mary's School, Rickmansworth
- Saturday 17th June @ 3.00 PM – 5.00 PM – St Mary's School, Rickmansworth

The timings of each event are to provide flexibility. Please feel free to come at any time within the two-hour windows. Members of the NP Steering Committee will be on site to answer your questions.

Figure 13: Neighbourhood Plan extract in May 2023 edition of 'Bitesize'

Appendix C: Posters



Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation



Welcome

Thank you for viewing the Batchworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) consultation material.

The material presented here summarises the policies, and projects, in the draft NDP. These have been informed by comments and ideas suggested in previous consultation events.

The NDP is the first of its kind to have been prepared for Batchworth. It includes land use and development policies which, in future, will be used to inform and determine planning applications.

The policies are framed by an overarching vision and set of objectives, which have evolved in response to what the local community has told us is important to them.

Your views are now sought on the draft NDP and the policies within it. Consultation is open until 21 July 2023. Please do let us have your views by then.

All the documents you need can be found on the Batchworth NDP website, along with supporting material and links to the online response form for your feedback.

www.batchworthplan.org.uk

To find out more about the NDP please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website: www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. **Please respond by 21 July 2023.**

Scan for
Website



Figure 14: Summary display poster – page 1



Purpose of the Plan

Relationship with the Local Plan

The NDP is not the same as the Three Rivers District Local Plan.

The Three Rivers Local Plan will present the strategic direction for change and growth across the whole Three Rivers District area, and will include how many new homes and jobs should be provided, and where.

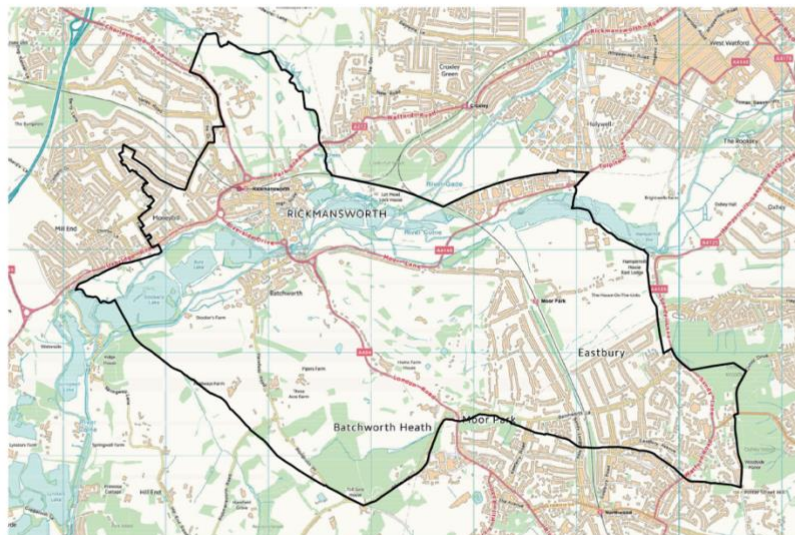
The NDP is specific to the local area of Batchworth. Policies state that when change and development does happen in Batchworth, then it must be done in such a way that reflects the best qualities and characteristics of the area, and can help deliver benefits to the community.

Policies and Projects

The NDP emphasises matters of local importance, guided by feedback from local residents, such as on green spaces and the design and quality of development.

Policies will be used to inform and determine planning applications in the area. They do not apply to 'permitted development' (i.e. relatively limited forms of development that do not require full planning permission).

It also covers more than just traditional planning matters as it presents wider projects, such as infrastructure improvements, that the community has said they would like to see delivered in the area.



The NDP covers the entire Batchworth Community Council area, including the neighbourhoods of Rickmansworth, Moneyhill, Moor Park and Eastbury, as well as the employment area on Tolpits Lane.

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Figure 15: Summary display poster – page 2



The vision for Batchworth is:

*"The **richness of natural assets** in Batchworth will be strengthened, building its reputation as **the "Green and Blue Area"**. This will be reflected both in the protection and enhancement of open spaces, wetland areas and riparian environment, biodiversity and wildlife habits, but also through measures that deliver **high standards of sustainability** in new and existing buildings, and the way that we move around.*

*Infrastructure that supports walking and cycling, particularly for shorter, everyday journeys, will be provided, **facilitating safe and sustainable access for all** residents and visitors.*

*A wide range of recreational and community facilities will help make Batchworth **a thriving and healthy place to live, learn, work and play** for everyone, of all ages and abilities.*

*Through **public realm improvements** and business-friendly policy, local centres and employment areas at Moneyhill, Tolpits and Rickmansworth Town Centre will be bolstered to create **flexible, socially inclusive, economic and social hubs** that respond to modern-day life and working patterns.*

*New residential development will embed high environmental standards and **quality of design**, and be delivered alongside appropriate infrastructure. Individual character areas, from Rickmansworth Town and Moneyhill to Moor Park and Eastbury, will retain their **distinctive identities**, preserving existing built and natural heritage whilst encouraging innovative and sustainable design."*

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Figure 16: Summary display poster – page 3



The following objectives form the basis of policies in the draft NDP:



Objective 1:

To enhance the richness and experience of green and blue assets in the area.



Objective 2:

To respond sensitively to the challenges of and future proofing Batchworth against the impacts of climate change.



Objective 3:

To strengthen community cohesion and inclusiveness by making Batchworth an attractive place for all to live and work in.



Objective 4:

To promote high quality design that helps build a sense of place, responding to the character and identity of individual areas in Batchworth.



Objective 5:

To improve access and movement for all.

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Figure 17: Summary display poster – page 4



Summary of Policies

The NDP includes policies which seek to:

Green and Blue Infrastructure

- Protect the quality of the natural environment and require developers to deliver new and improved areas of biodiversity.
- Enhance and improve the environment of the Colne Valley Regional Park.
- Provide new and safer access, by foot and bicycle, to green spaces for leisure and recreation.
- Protect important local green spaces from development.

Climate Change:

- Support and encourage high standards of sustainable design and construction, including low and zero carbon development.
- Support small scale, community-led renewable energy projects.
- Minimise the risk of flooding, integrating sustainable drainage into new development.
- Minimise the paving over of front gardens and the increased risk of flooding this can bring.



The Neighbourhood Plan area is characterised by its green spaces, network of rivers, canals and lakes. These should be retained and improved, supporting biodiversity and climate change measures, as well as providing opportunities for leisure and recreation.

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Figure 18: Summary display poster – page 5



Summary of Policies

The NDP includes policies which seek to:

Community.

- Require delivery of a range of housing sizes and tenures that meet local needs, including affordable homes and homes for an ageing population.
- Strengthen the quality and experience of Rickmansworth town centre, supporting a mix of uses and facilities that meet local needs and bring life and activity to the centre.
- Support Moneyhill and Moor Park centres as hubs of the community, meeting everyday needs.
- Support diversification of the employment offer, including flexible premises for small and medium sized businesses.

Design, Access and Movement

- Require high quality design in development that responds to the best characteristics and qualities across Batchworth.
- Support for architectural variety and innovation that creates interest and variety, whilst responding to local design cues.
- Improve the sense of arrival at gateway locations into Batchworth, with development supporting public space improvements.
- Support design that makes it safe and more attractive for people, of all ages, to walk and cycle.
- Provide electric charging points at the home and in public locations for cars and other micro-mobility travel options.



The Plan includes policies that seek to reinforce the network of town and local centres as hubs for day-to-day life, being attractive places to spend time in, supporting community cohesion

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Figure 19: Summary display poster – page 6

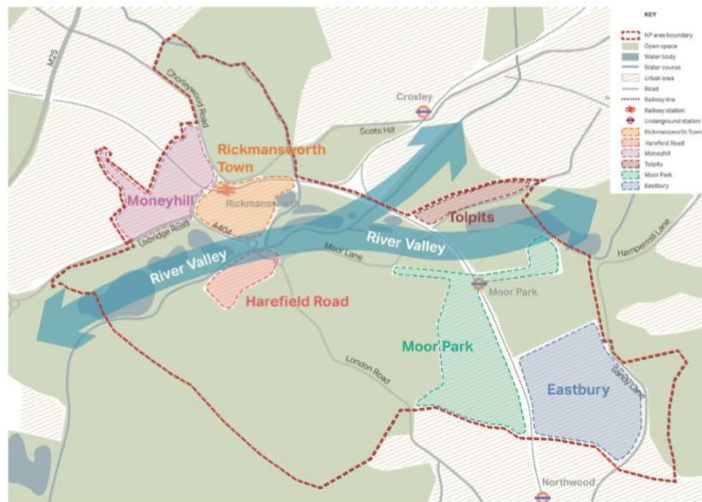
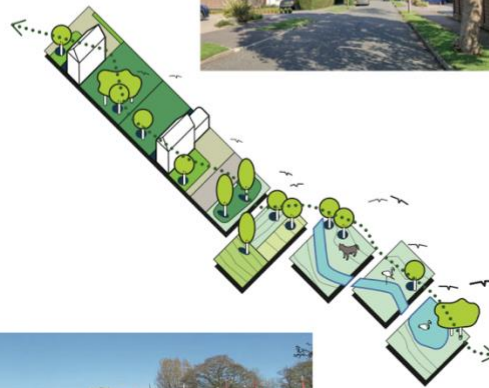
Influencing High Quality Design

The NDP is supported by a Design Guide and Code.

Neighbourhood Plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of an area and how this should be reflected in development.

The Batchworth Design Guide and Code identifies different character areas and the best qualities of the built form in each which help define the area. These relate to matters such as the scale, form and layout of development, landscaping, materials and architectural details.

These are to be used by applicants for development, as well as decision-makers, to help deliver high quality development across Batchworth.



Above: The Design Guide and Code shows how connections between the built form and surrounding green spaces and areas of water can be maintained, as well as introducing new areas of greenery into the built form.

Left: The character areas identified in the Design Guide and Code. New development should be designed to respond to the key qualities of the character area within which it is located

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Figure 20: Summary display poster – page 7



Rickmansworth Town Centre Concept Plan

Creating a Vibrant Town Centre

As part of the Design Guide and Code a concept plan has been prepared for Rickmansworth Town Centre.

It has a strong focus on improving the quality of public spaces, which is intended to kick-start the revitalisation of the town centre and celebrate the history of the area.

Ideas presented in the concept plan are included in policies and wider projects in the NDP, particularly in respect of:

- Appropriate uses in the town centre.
- The scale and form of development.
- Creating pedestrian friendly places.
- Introducing greenery into the public realm.



Extract from Design Guidance illustrating potential for improvements to the public realm in Rickmansworth Town Centre

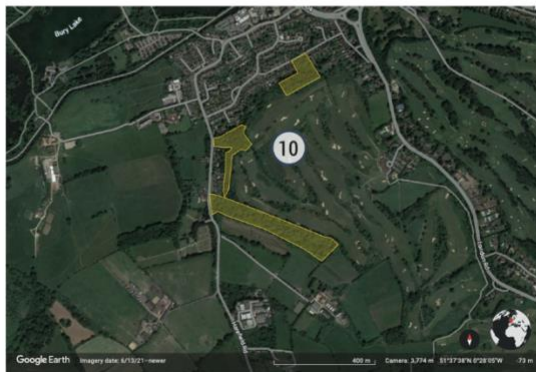
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Figure 21: Summary display poster – page 8



Local Green Space Designations



Local Green Space Designations

Important spaces can be designated for protection. The NDP identifies eleven such spaces.

National Policy says such spaces should be:

- a. in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b. demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c. local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Sites proposed for designation in Batchworth are:

1. Rickmansworth Park
2. Bowls Club and Northway Green
3. Bury Gardens
4. Scotsbridge Playing Fields and Sports Club
5. Fortune Common
6. Riverside Drive
7. Ebury Road Allotments
8. Eastbury Recreation Ground
9. Grove Green
10. Greenbroom Spring and Grove Woods
11. Batchworth Allotments

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Figure 22: Summary display poster – page 9



Projects and Next Steps

Projects

In addition to policies the draft NDP also identifies a series of projects.

These include ideas and aspirations that could be funded through development or by partner organisations and which we would like to continue working on. They include:

- New street tree planting, introduction of wild flowers and new wildlife habitats within built-up areas.
- Provision of new walking and cycling routes within the built-up area as well as improved connections with the surrounding countryside.
- Revitalisation of Bury Gardens in consultation with the community.
- Improvements to the quality of public spaces in the town and local centres.
- A place-branding strategy for Rickmansworth town centre to help market local businesses and capture the benefits of inward investment.
- A new community centre in Eastbury.

Next Steps

Please complete the questionnaire and let us know what you think about the draft NDP.

We will review all feedback and then prepare a revised NDP for submission to Three Rivers District Council.

This will be subject to independent examination and, eventually, a referendum.

If you vote in favour of the NDP at referendum it will then be used to guide, shape and determine planning applications, as well as investment opportunities, across Batchworth.



To find out more about the NDP please visit the Neighbourhood Plan website: www.batchworthplan.org.uk

Please submit your views by either completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Council offices at Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP. **Please respond by 21 July 2023.**

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Figure 23: Summary display poster – page 10

Appendix D: Questionnaire



The draft Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan covers the areas of Eastbury, Moor Park, Moneyhill and Rickmansworth. It has been informed by and responds to comments made during earlier consultation events. We are now seeking your views on the draft Neighbourhood Plan; all of which will be reviewed when preparing the final version.

Before you complete this questionnaire please do take the time to familiarise yourself with the draft Plan. This is available online via the Batchworth Neighbourhood Planning website, where you can also complete this questionnaire:

www.batchworthplan.org.uk

This form can also be downloaded from the website and returned by email, to:

neighbourhoodplan@batchworth-ecc.gov.uk

Alternatively, the form can be returned by post:

Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan
c/o Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth, WD3 1HP

PLEASE RETURN BY: 21 July 2023. Thank you.

PART 1: YOUR DETAILS

Name	
Organisation (if appropriate)	
Address and Post Code	
Email address	

Figure 24: Copy of print version of survey – page 1

Are you (please tick all that apply)

A resident of Batchworth	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
An employee in Batchworth	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other (please indicate)	

How old are you (please only tick one)

Under 18	18 - 25	26 - 35	36 - 45	46 - 55	56 - 65	Over 65	Would rather not say
-----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	-----------------------------

PART 2: PROPOSED POLICIES

The draft Neighbourhood Plan includes a series of proposed policies that will help shape future change and development in Batchworth. These are highlighted in green boxes throughout the Plan and prefixed with the words 'POLICY BW'.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan also includes a series of wider projects and ideas for change in Batchworth. They are highlighted in blue coloured boxes and prefixed with the words 'PROJECT BW'.

Please use the tables overleaf to provide your comments on this draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Your comments will be read and considered carefully and may result in modifications to the draft Neighbourhood Plan before it is submitted to Three Rivers District Council for independent examination.

Figure 25: Copy of print version of survey – page 2

PROPOSED POLICIES

Please circle the number which most closely reflects your views:

1: strongly agree 2: agree 3: neither agree nor disagree 4: disagree 5: strongly disagree

Policy Reference	Proposed Policies	Please circle one number per row				
<i>Green and Blue Infrastructure Policies</i>						
BW GB1	Biodiversity	1	2	3	4	5
BW GB2	Colne Valley Regional Park	1	2	3	4	5
BW GB3	Access to Green and Blue infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
BW GB4	Local Green Space Designations	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Climate Change Policies</i>						
BW CC1	Sustainable Design and Construction	1	2	3	4	5
BW CC2	Renewables	1	2	3	4	5
BW CC3	Sustainable Drainage	1	2	3	4	5
BW CC4	Paving of Front Gardens	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Community Policies</i>						
BW CO1	Housing Type, Tenure and Mix	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO2	Rickmansworth Town Centre Uses	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO3	Rickmansworth Library and Civic Area	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO4	Rickmansworth Town Centre Design Principles	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO5	Moneyhill and Moor Park Local Centres	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO6	Community Facilities	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO7	Employment	1	2	3	4	5
BW CO8	Design Principles for B2-B8 Employment Uses	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Design Policies</i>						
BW DE1	High Quality Design	1	2	3	4	5
BW DE2	Gateways	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Access and Movement Policies</i>						
BW AM1	Active and Healthy Travel	1	2	3	4	5
BW AM2	E-vehicles, Technology and Micro-Mobility	1	2	3	4	5

Figure 26: Copy of print version of survey – page 3

COMMENTS

If you have any comments or suggested modifications please add them here, stating the section of the draft Plan to which they refer (please note the separate section on Local Green Space Designations that follows below and where comments on those should be provided):

Section of Plan / Policy Reference	Comment

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Figure 27: Copy of print version of survey – page 4

LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS

As highlighted within the consultation material, Policy BW GB4 seeks to designate Local Green Spaces within Batchworth. Planning applications on these sites will not be permitted unless they perform a supplementary and supporting function to the green space and use of the space. For reference, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ states that a Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a. *in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b. *demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c. *local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

We are keen to hear your views on the designated local green spaces proposed in the Plan. Your inputs will help us to evidence why (or why not) the designation of these local green spaces is justified. The spaces are mapped below.

	Proposed Local Green Space Designation	Do you support the proposed designation? (Yes / No / Not sure)	What do you use this space for?	Do you think the site meets the NPPF criteria (above) for designation and if so, which, and why?
1	Rickmansworth Park			
2	Bowls Club and Northway Green			
3	Bury Gardens			
4	Scotsbridge Playing Fields and Sports Club			
5	Fortune Common			
6	Riverside Drive			
7	Ebury Road Allotments			

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004408/NPPF_JULY_2021.pdf

Figure 28: Copy of print version of survey – page 5

8	Eastbury Recreation Ground			
9	Grove Green (next to Grove Farm Park)			
10	Greenbroom Spring and Grove Woods			
11	Batchworth Allotments			

COMMENTS ON LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS

If you have any comments on the proposed Local Green Space designations, please add here, stating which of the proposed designations the comments refer to:

Proposed Designation	Comment

Figure 29: Copy of print version of survey – page 6



Proposed Local Green Space Designations in Batchworth:

1. Rickmansworth Park
2. Bowls Club and Northway Green
3. Bury Gardens
4. Scotsbridge Playing Fields and Sports Club
5. Fortune Common
6. Riverside Drive
7. Ebury Road Allotments
8. Eastbury Recreation Ground
9. Grove Green (Batchworth Lane, next to Grove Farm Park)
10. Greenbroom Spring and The Grove Woods
11. Batchworth Allotments

Please see the draft Neighbourhood Plan and or the Local Green Space report for more detailed mapping

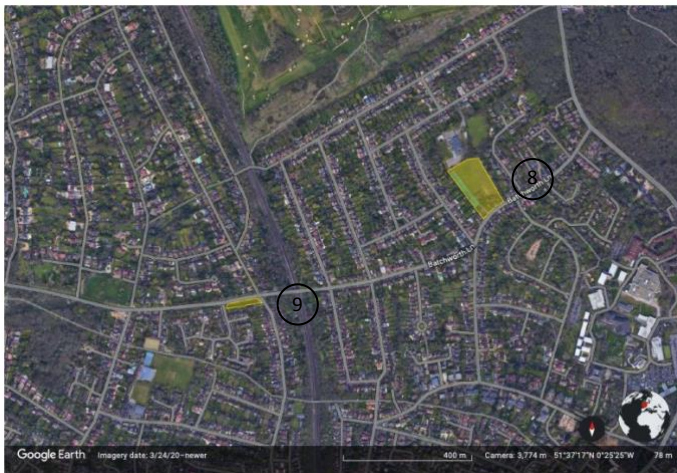


Figure 30: Copy of print version of survey – page 7

PART 3: CONSENT

We need to store your personal information in order to receive your comments. Please confirm whether you agree to the following:

I consent to Batchworth Community Council storing my personal data [*]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I consent to my name being published alongside my comments in the Consultation Statement prepared for submission and examination of the Neighbourhood Plan [*]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
I consent to be contacted with regard to my response by Batchworth Community Council [*]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): protecting your data

A summary of all comments will be made publicly available. Please note that any other personal information provided will be confidential and processed in line with the Data Protection Act 1988 and General Data Protection Regulations. Batchworth Community Council will process your details in relation to the preparation of this document only.

As part of the consultation and in line with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) please confirm that you are happy for Batchworth Community Council to pass on your contact details (name, address, email address) to Three Rivers District Council so that they can contact you at the Regulation 16 consultation and examination stages if required.

I consent to Batchworth Community Council passing my contact details (name, address, email address) to Three Rivers District Council so that I can be contacted regarding the Regulation 16 consultation and examination stages [*]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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For further information on the Batchworth Community Council Data Protection Policy please visit the website: <https://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk/privacy-policy/>

Figure 31: Copy of print version of survey – page 8

Appendix E: Letters

This appendix includes copies of letters sent by email and post to the statutory consultees, neighbouring Parishes and Local Authorities. Other interested parties who had previously registered their interest in the Plan and receiving updates to this were contacted by email and through use of social media campaigns.



Basing House, 46 High Street, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HP
Marion Seneschall, Clerk to the Council
clerk@batchworth-ecc.gov.uk
01923 590201

Dear Colleague

Notification of formal consultation on Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14, Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning Regulations)

I am pleased to advise that the Regulation 14 Consultation of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan runs for an 8-week period between 30th May 2023 and to 21st July 2023.

The Neighbourhood Plan is available to view online

- via the dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://www.batchworthplan.org.uk/>
- and an online digital presentation: <https://batchworthplan.consultation.ai/>

Exhibitions will be held throughout June – dates and venues can be found on our website. Hard copies of the Plan are also available to view at the Community Council offices:

Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1HP

If you would like to make representations, please send your comments by email to neighbourhoodplan@batchworth-ecc.gov.uk or by post to the address above.

Sincerely

Marion Seneschall

Marion Seneschall Clerk to the Council
Batchworth Community Council

Figure 32: Copy of letter sent to statutory consultees notifying them of the Regulation 14 consultation

Dear Colleague

Notification of formal consultation on Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14, Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning Regulations)

I am pleased to advise that the Regulation 14 Consultation of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan runs for an 8-week period between 30th May 2023 and to 21st July 2023.

The Community Council looks forward to receipt of representations from Hertfordshire County Council. We would be grateful if any comments from the County could be consolidated and provided as one complete set from all relevant service areas.

The Neighbourhood Plan is available to view online

- via the dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://www.batchworthplan.org.uk/>
- and an online digital presentation: <https://batchworthplan.consultation.ai/>

Exhibitions will be held throughout June – dates and venues can be found on our website. Hard copies of the Plan are also available to view at the Community Council offices:

Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1HP

If you would like to make representations, please send your comments by email to neighbourhoodplan@batchworth-ecc.gov.uk or by post to the address above.

Sincerely

Marion Seneschall

Marion Seneschall Clerk to the Council
Batchworth Community Council

Figure 33: Copy of letter sent to Hertfordshire County Council notifying them of the Regulation 14 consultation. A separate letter was sent to the County specifically to request that comments from various service areas be coordinated.

Batchworth Community Council
Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Report
Summary of Regulation 14 Consultation
August 2023 (updated October 2023)

Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1HP

<https://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk/>

Batchworth Community Council
Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Statement
Volume 4 (of 4): Regulation 14 consultation
November 2023

Batchworth Community Council
Basing House
46 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1HP

<https://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk/>