



BOTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Sustainability Statement

Prepared by Botley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

April 2023

Botley Parish Council will take a positive approach to its consideration of development. The Council and the Local Planning Authorities will seek to work with applicants and other stakeholders to encourage the formulation of development proposals that can be approved. This strategy incorporates the NPPF key principle of sustainable development into the Neighbourhood Plan. Where planning applications are to be considered against the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan, then this principle will underpin the approach the Parish Council and Local Planning Authorities will adopt in delivering development in the Parish.

A Sustainability Appraisal was carried out on the draft neighbourhood plan in May 2022. The Vision and Objective and each policy was appraised against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework using standard criteria to evaluate the level of impact it is expected to have against each of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. **Full information can be found in the Botley NP SEA and Sustainability Appraisal document.**

As the below table demonstrates, all the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and Sustainability Appraisal objectives (excluding the then-wording of objective 23) were compatible with one another or have a neutral impact.

The appraisable made the following summary and required alternatives:

- Only one element of the Neighbourhood Vision or Objectives scored negatively against the Sustainability Objectives (Objective 23). When taken as a whole the Vision and Objectives are deemed to have an overall positive impact against the Sustainability Objectives.
- As a result of this appraisal, it is recommended that Objective 23 is reworded to mitigate the potential increased impact on road traffic and air pollution that may result from provision of additional car parking at Botley Centre.
- No further alterations to the Vision and Objectives are considered necessary as a result of this appraisal.

Following this, the wording of objective 23 was amended to reflect the above requirements.

Criteria used to appraise the Vision & Objectives Key	
Compatible	+
Neutral/No Impact	0
Incompatible	-
Uncertain Impact	?

Criteria used to appraise the Neighbourhood Plan Policies	
Significant Positive Impact	++
Positive Impact	+
Negligible/No Impact/option not assessed	0
Negative Impact	-
Significant Negative Impact	--
Uncertain Impact	?
Mixture of Positive and Negative Impact	+/-

Sustainability Appraisal Summary

- The majority of the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan score positively or neutrally against the Sustainability Objectives.
- Policy 1 scores negatively against SAO 4, however Policy 4 also seeks to improve pedestrian access to Botley Mills which will help to encourage people to travel to the site on foot, therefore decreasing congestion. This should assist in mitigating any potential negative impact.
- Policy 4 is expected to have a negative impact on SAO 6 through the provision of additional car parking and creation of Botley Bypass which may encourage car use and increase levels of air pollution. However, the cumulative impact of this policy on the Sustainability Objectives overall is expected to be positive.
- Policy 7, Policy 8 and Policy 9 were found to have a mixture of both positive and negative impacts when assessed against a number of the Sustainability Objectives including SAO 5, SAO 10 and SAO 11. However, it is considered that the overall impact of each of these policies when assessed against all of the Sustainability Objectives combined is likely to be either positive or neutral.
- Policy 3 and Policy 16 were assessed as having the most positive impact overall, having significant positive impacts on many of the Sustainability Objectives related to climate change and environmental sustainability.

Subsequent to Regulation 14 consultation, some policies have slightly altered in name and/or wording amended/added. However, it is believed the sentiment of the policies has not altered and therefore the sustainability scores remain true. **NOTE: Policies 5 and 6 have switched order since the Sustainability Appraisal.**

Element of Draft Plan	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives												
	SAO 1	SAO 2	SAO 3	SAO 4	SAO 5	SAO 6	SAO 7	SAO 8	SAO 9	SAO 10	SAO 11	SAO 12	SAO 13
Policy 1: Retention of Existing Commercial Premises	0	++	++	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy supports the preservation of existing commercial sites and promotes the development of new retail uses at certain sites and within the existing settlement boundary. This policy is therefore expected to have a significant positive impact on SAO 2 and SAO 3 by providing improved access to community services and facilities and enhanced employment opportunities. The development of retail facilities may cause a slight negative impact on SAO 4. Policy 4 seeks to improve pedestrian access to Botley Mills which will help to encourage people to travel to the site on foot, therefore decreasing congestion.												
Policy 2: Retail development sites	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
	Supporting the development of business units will create employment opportunities, having a strong positive impact on SAO 3 and providing local shops within walking distance will reduce the need for travel by car. The development of brownfield land and re-use of redundant agricultural buildings will prevent a loss of green spaces, having a positive impact on SAO 11. The potential impact on SAO 4 from the developments is likely to be positive overall by providing local shops within walking distance, which should encourage sustainable and active forms of travel.												
Policy 3: Local Green Space	0	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	++	0
	This policy focuses on the protection and preservation of sites that have been identified as Local Green Spaces. This policy will have a significant positive impact on community wellbeing, the neighbourhood's green infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape character. This policy is not expected to have any negative impacts on the SAOs.												
Policy 4: Developer contributions	0	++	0	++	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	The use of developer contributions to support the delivery of infrastructure, as set out in Policy 4, will help to increase connectivity, parking and pedestrian access, having a strong positive impact on SAO 4. This policy also helps to add to the cultural significance of the area through the creation of a Botley Museum, having positive impacts on SAO 2 and SAO 13. These developments, including additional parking in Botley Centre and the creation of a Botley Bypass, may have a slight negative impact on light, air and noise pollution (SAO 6). However the cumulative impact across all SAOs is likely to be positive.												
Policy 5: Settlement gaps	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	0
	The retention of physical and visual gaps between Botley and neighbouring settlements will help to retain access to green spaces whilst preventing urban sprawl, having a strong positive impact on SAO 11, as well as protecting the character of the landscape, having a strong positive impact on SAO 12. The retention of green spaces in the parish will in turn help to protect biodiversity having a slight positive impact on SAO 10. Preventing gaps between settlement from being lost through												

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	development will help to protect natural resources and agricultural land, having a slight positive impact on SAO 5. This policy is not expected to have any negative impacts on the SAOs.												
Policy 6: New cemetery provision	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	Emphasis on the suitability of the proposed cemetery site will ensure that the land allocated is suitable in planning terms and contains appropriate ancillary facilities. This policy will therefore have a slight positive impact on SAO 2 as the building of a new cemetery will provide a new community facility. As open spaces, cemeteries also offer opportunities for enhanced biodiversity provision, and as such this policy may also have a positive impact on SAO 10..												
Policy 7: Future development – site one – SLAA-3-20-C Woodhill School north	++	0	0	+	+/-	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	0	+
	This policy allocates a site for the development of 20 dwellings with open space and an overflow car park. The policy indicates that the site will only be permitted when a need for housing has been established. This will help to prevent unnecessary development, thereby having a positive impact on SAO 5. The development may however have a slight negative impact on SAO 5 due to the impact on natural resources. Ensuring that the site meets a 40% affordable housing requirement will help to meet housing needs, having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. Ensuring that open space is provided on the site will help in counteracting any negative effects the development may have on SAO 10 and SAO 11. Providing an overflow car park will prevent congestion, having a positive impact on SAO 4. This policy supports the provision of flats in the Grade II listed parts of the site, which will help to safeguard the future of this heritage asset.												
Policy 8: Future development – site two – SLAA-3-21-C Woodhill School south	++	+	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	0	0
	This policy allocates a site for the development of a maximum of 20 dwellings with open space. The policy indicates that the site will only be permitted when a need for housing has been established. This will help to prevent unnecessary development, having a positive impact on SAO 5. The development may however have a slight negative impact on SAO 5 due to the impact on natural resources. Ensuring that the site meets a 40% affordable housing requirement will help to meet housing needs, having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. Safe pedestrian access will safeguard the community, having a slight positive effect on SAO 2. Ensuring that open space is provided on the site will help in counteracting any negative effects the development may have on SAO 10 and SAO 11.												
Policy 9: Site BO3 (Strategic Allocation) proposals	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	0	0
	This policy allocates a site intended to deliver a mix of housing to meet the requirements of Policy 14. Ensuring that the site meets a 40% affordable housing requirement and is formed of mixed housing will help to meet housing needs, having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. The inclusion of community space will enhance the character of the area whilst increasing wellbeing, having a strong positive impact on SAO 2. Emphasis on biodiversity and wildlife will help to reduce any negative impacts the development may have on the environment, mitigating the negative impacts that the development may have on SAO 10 and												

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	SAO 11.												
Policy 10: Utilities provision	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
	This policy ensures that development proposals will not worsen the existing drainage situation, helping to reduce pollution and enable the sustainable management of waste (including waste water and foul sewage), thereby having a strong positive impact on SAO 6 and SAO 9. This will have a slight positive impact on SAO 7 due to sustainable surface water drainage helping to mitigate the impact of flooding.												
Policy 11: Flood mitigation	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy focuses on ensuring appropriate means of surface water disposal in new developments, which will reduce flood risk. The use of SuDs and infiltration systems will contribute to sustainable drainage design and reduction in pollution, thereby having a strong positive impact on SAO 6 and SAO 7.												
Policy 12: Strategic high and intermediate pressure pipelines and high voltage electric cables	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy requires development proposals to comply with safety requirements in relation to pipelines and electric cables, which will prevent possible hazards during construction. This may have a slight positive impact on SAO 2 as it will help to keep the community safe.												
Policy 13: Parking standards for new residential developments	0	+	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ensuring that developments provide off road parking will make roads safer for all users whilst protecting public rights of way, thereby having a slight positive impact on SAO 2. This policy will also have a positive impact on SAO 4 as it will decrease road congestion through decreasing the number of vehicles parked on the roads, however it may also have a negative impact on SAO 4 by encouraging the use of the car and not improving sustainable travel choice. This policy should not negatively affect SAOs focused on preserving open spaces as the policy indicates that the off road parking must be included in development proposals and therefore does not immediately threaten the loss of open space or the use of additional natural resources.												
Policy 14: Mix of housing	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	This policy focuses on providing a mix of housing which will help to meet local housing needs – especially affordable housing needs – having a strong positive impact on SAO 1. By encouraging the provision of specialist forms of older persons accommodation and buildings that meet Lifetime Homes Standards this policy will also have a strong positive impact on SAO 2												

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	by enhancing community health and wellbeing.												
Policy 15: Materials	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	++
	Ensuring that all new development adheres to the Botley Design Guide will result in the enhancement of the townscape character and appearance of the neighbourhood area, which will have a significant positive impact on SAO 12 and SAO 13. This policy will also have a positive impact on SAO 10, through the retention of distinctive trees, as well as positive impacts on SAO 4, through the promotion of non-car use on larger residential sites, and on SAO 8, through the introduction of EV charging points in line with Policy 16 of the Plan.												
Policy 16: Renewable energy	0	+	0	0	+	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	0
	This policy supports the development of renewable energy generation and alternative energy systems, which will help to contribute positively towards sustainability by reducing pollution and therefore mitigating the effects of climate change.												
Policy 17: Off-road parking for educational facilities	0	++	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	The provision of off road parking for educational facilities will have positive impact of decreasing congestion whilst enhancing pedestrian safety. The creation of additional car parking provision may however also have a negative impact on SAO 4 which seeks to enhance sustainable travel options.												
Policy 18: Community facilities	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
	This policy seeks to preserve and enhance existing community infrastructure whilst supporting the development of new community facilities subject to certain criteria being met. This policy is therefore likely to positively contribute towards community health and wellbeing, whilst enhancing the economy and protecting the local characteristics of the area. Resisting proposals that would result in a loss of existing community facilities in particular is likely to have a direct strong positive impact on SAO 2.												