Appendix B: Wymondley Neighbourhood Plan – Schedule of proposed modifications to the neighbourhood plan policies and supporting text

This document sets out a schedule of the proposed changes to the Wymondley Neighbourhood Plan.

The examiners comments are shown in blue text.

Text to be deleted is shown struck through and text which is added to the plan is shown in **bold**.

Section 6: Natural and Historic Environments

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy NHE1	Comment: This is not a policy but a statement. For clarity and to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows:  In our discussions with the planning authorities, and responses to any relevant consultation exercises, we will aim to ensure that landscape character assessments have been prepared where appropriate; integrated with assessment of historic landscape character and landscape sensitivity; and due regard had to them in development proposals.  Policy NHE1 – Landscape Character  Where appropriate planning applications should be accompanied by an assessment of the impact of the proposal on landscape character including historic landscape making reference to the relevant character assessment documents including the North Hertfordshire Landscape Study.	In its representations to the submission version of the Wymondley Neighbourhood Plan, the District Council noted that Policy NHE1 was not a policy which could be used in determining planning applications.  The Council is content with the examiners proposed modifications to the policy to meet the Basic Conditions.

Policy NHE2	the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows: proposed	The District Council is content with the examiners proposed modifications to the policy to meet the Basic Conditions.
	Policy NHE2 – <b>Biodiversity</b>	
	Proposals should, where appropriate be supported by a biodiversity action plan and measures to ensure net gains in biodiversity. The use of a Biodiversity Impact Assessment Calculator is encouraged.	
NHE3	Comment: I am unsure of the meaning of this policy and it is unclear how it could be implemented in the development management process. In order to meet the Basic Conditions this policy should be deleted.	The Council agrees with the proposed modification.
NHE4	Comment: This policy does not make reference to specific sites within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and a policy regime already exists protecting designated sites at a European, national and local level. Paragraphs 6.14 and 6.15 read more as policy and are overly prescriptive not reflecting national or local policy. Both paragraphs should be modified in line with policy NHE4. For clarity and in order to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows:	The Council agrees with the proposed modification.
	Policy NHE4 – Wildlife and Ecology.	
	In determining Development proposals affecting designated sites and Priority Habitats or Species, must comply with the relevant European, national and local policy requirements. we will ensure that their nature conservation value is protected in accordance with their status. Development affecting such sites or species is expected to deliver a net gain in biodiversity. In granting permission, we will impose conditions or seek planning obligations that secure appropriate management regimes to deliver biodiversity gain in-perpetuity.	

NHE5	Comment: For clarity and to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows:  Policy NHE5 – Green Infrastructure:	The District Council is content with the examiners proposed modifications to the policy to meet the Basic Conditions.
	In considering Where appropriate development proposals should be supported by, we will expect a Green Infrastructure Plan which will to provide permeability for wildlife through and around development and Gl should be connective and functional as wildlife habitat in its own right not just as a link between habitats.	
NHE6	Comment : I have no comment on this policy as it meets the Basic Conditions.	The title "Roosting Devices" has been added
NHE7	Comment : I have no comment on this policy as it meets the Basic Conditions.	The title "Bats" has been added
NHE8	Comment: Flood risk is already regulated by a policy regime. This policy does not have regard for existing policy and therefore does not meet the Basic Conditions. In accordance to meet the Basic Conditions it should be modified as follows and moved to the flood risk section:	The Council agrees with the examiners proposed modifications to the policy wording but considers that the policy could be combined with Policy FR4 to form one policy on Flood Risk, worded as follows:
	Policy NHE8 – Flood Risk:	Policy FR1 – Flood Risk:
	Development will not be permitted within 12 m of a watercourse should be supported by any required Flood Risk Assessment and adequate information to assess the potential impact of the proposal on flooding both on and off site.	Development proposals which would result in an increase in flood risk will not be supported.
		Development within 12 m of a watercourse should be supported by any required Flood Risk Assessment and adequate information to assess the potential impact of the proposal on flooding both on and off site.

NHE9	Comment: Paragraphs 6.26-6.30 are written like policies and are overly prescriptive. They should be modified appropriately. There can be no requirement to submit European Protected Species Licenses to the Parish Council, for example. This policy would be better located with policy NHE7 modified and renumbered.	Paragraphs 6.26 – 6.30 have been amended as set out in the examiners report.  Policy NHE9 has been amended and combined with Policy NHE7 to create the new policy NHE6 "Bats".
NHE10	Comment : This policy lacks clarity and should be modified as follows:	The Council agrees with the proposed
	Policy NHE10 Lighting:	modification.
	On sites where, protected species have been identified proposals should include mitigation measures to address In considering development involving potentially adverse lighting impacts. to wildlife we will expect surveys to identify movement corridors and ensure that these corridors are protected and enhanced.	
NHE11	Comment: Paragraph 6.35 should be modified; the submission of details can be requested but not required. This policy should be given a title. I have no other comment.  In considering landscaping schemes the we will expect that appropriate native species are used whenever possible and that benefits to biodiversity are maximised.	Paragraph 6.35 has been amended as recommended in the examiners report.  The neighbourhood plan examiner has not made any proposed modifications to this policy, however, it is recommended that the policy is amended to delete the word "the" (as highlighted) as it appears to be a typographical error.  The title "Landscaping Schemes" has been added
		to the policy.

#### NHE12

Comment: This policy is confusing and would be better located under heritage assets and renumbered as NHE 13. National and local policy already exists which sets out clearly how proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets should be considered. As currently worded this policy does not accurately reflect existing policy. For clarity and to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows:

#### Policy NHE12: Heritage Assets

Proposals affecting designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings including those with archaeological interest must comply fully with the requirements of National Planning Policy and the development plan.

By working collaboratively with our local and neighbouring planning authorities, (and other stakeholders), we will aim to ensure that the significance of the Parish's heritage assets and the contribution they make to the environment is recognised - and due account taken of it in considering development proposals. This includes ensuring that, in line with paragraphs 169 – 170 of the Government's discovered in the future. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the planning authorities use their Examiner's Report Wymondley Neighbourhood Plan

23 required up-to-date evidence about our historic environment to predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

The Council agrees with the examiners proposed modifications to policies NHE12, NHE13 and NHE16. These amended policies have been combined into one new policy, NHE9 on the historic character of the parish and historic assets, worded as follows:

#### Historic Character and Historic Assets

Development proposals should reflect and where possible enhance the historic character of the area.

Proposals affecting designated and nondesignated heritage assets and their settings including those with archaeological interest must comply fully with the requirements of National Planning Policy and the development plan.

To protect our natural and historic environment, and retain the rural character and intimate scale of Wymondley Parish any new development should:

- be appropriately sited and of an appropriate scale, form and style;
- avoid visually intrusive locations such as upper ground where they would be visible from the skyline;
- avoid lighting that would create additional urbanising influences on the character of the area.

NHE13	Comment: As currently worded, this is not a policy. For clarity and to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows:  Policy NHE13: Historic Character  We wholeheartedly concur with this view, and will work vigorously with local planning authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that the historical character of the area is preserved; the key environmental features maintained (and enhanced wherever possible); and that in the absence of any "exceptional circumstances", (as defined in relevant legislation, caselaw or guidance), Green Belt land in and around our Parish remains inviolate.  Development proposals should reflect and where possible enhance the historic character of the area.	The Council agrees with the examiners proposed modifications to policies NHE12, NHE13 and NHE16. These amended policies have been combined into one new policy, NHE9 on the historic character of the parish and historic assets, worded as follows:  Historic Character and Historic Assets  Development proposals should reflect and where possible enhance the historic character of the area.  Proposals affecting designated and nondesignated heritage assets and their settings including those with archaeological interest must comply fully with the requirements of National Planning Policy and the development plan.  To protect our natural and historic environment, and retain the rural character and intimate scale of Wymondley Parish any new development should:  • be appropriately sited and of an appropriate scale, form and style;  • avoid visually intrusive locations such as upper ground where they would be visible from the skyline;  • avoid lighting that would create additional urbanising influences on the character of the area.
NHE14	Comment: This is not a policy but a community aspiration and should be moved to a separate section of the plan.	The Council agrees with the proposed modification.

NHE15	Comment: This policy should be given a title. I have no other comment on this policy.	The title "Green Spaces" has been added.
NHE16	Comment: This policy would be better combined with NHE13 and for clarity modified as follows:  Policy NHE16: Natural and Historic Environment To protect our natural and historic environment, and retain the rural character and intimate scale of Wymondley Parish we will work with local authorities, landowners and other interested parties to ensure that any new development is should:  • be appropriately sited and of an appropriate scale, form and style; that • avoid visually intrusive locations such as upper ground where they would be visible from the skyline are avoided; • avoid and that associated lighting does not that would create additional urbanising influences on the character of the area.	The Council agrees with the examiners proposed modifications to policies NHE12, NHE13 and NHE16. These amended policies have been combined into one new policy, NHE9 on the historic character of the parish and historic assets, worded as follows:  Historic Character and Historic Assets  Development proposals should reflect and where possible enhance the historic character of the area.  Proposals affecting designated and nondesignated heritage assets and their settings including those with archaeological interest must comply fully with the requirements of National Planning Policy and the development plan.  To protect our natural and historic environment, and retain the rural character and intimate scale of Wymondley Parish any new development should:  • be appropriately sited and of an appropriate scale, form and style;  • avoid visually intrusive locations such as upper ground where they would be visible from the skyline;  • avoid lighting that would create additional urbanising influences on the character of the area.

#### Section 7 : Green Belt

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy GB1	Comment – As currently worded GB1 is not a policy, for clarity it should be combined with policy GB2 and modified as follows:	The examiner has amended the policies (GB1 and GB2) to ensure that the policy meets the basic conditions.
	Policy GB1 – Green Belt:	Conditions.
	We will work positively with stakeholders to ensure that Development proposals impacting on Wymondley Parish must comply with Government Green Belt policy; and that primary consideration is will be given to effective use of brown-field sites which are not of high environmental value.	
	We will work positively with stakeholders to ensure that Development proposals do should not impact negatively on Wymondley Parish - particularly in terms of visual impact on the openness of the Green Belt landscape and its important contribution to the character of our villages/hamlets.	
	We will work positively with stakeholders to ensure that development proposals do not impact negatively on Wymondley Parish - particularly in terms of visual impact on the openness of the Green Belt landscape and its important contribution to the character of our villages/hamlets	
Policy GB2	Comment – As currently worded GB2 is not a policy, for clarity it should be combined with policy GB1 please refer to GB1 for modification.	
Policy GB3	Comment - Green Belt policy is set out at national level. This policy does not meet the Basic Condition and should be deleted from the plan.	The District Council supports the examiners proposed modifications.

## Section 8 : Flood Risk

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy FR1	Comment – FR1 is not a policy but a community aspiration and should be moved to a separate section of the plan.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications. As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.
Policy FR2	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	
Policy FR3	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	
Policy FR4	Comment – The National Planning Policy Framework only requires that new development does not increase existing flood risk and ideally reduces flood risk overall. In order to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be reworded as follows:	The Council agrees with the examiners proposed modifications to the policy wording but considers that the policy could be combined with Policy NHE8 to form one policy on Flood Risk, worded as follows:
	Policy FR4: Flood Risk	Policy FR1 – Flood Risk:
	Development proposals which would result in an increase in flood risk will not be supported.	Development proposals which would result in an increase in flood risk will not be supported.
	We will robustly oppose any proposed development that fails to address the required infrastructure implementation needed to mitigate and reduce flood risk to our community.	Development within 12 m of a watercourse should be supported by any required Flood Risk Assessment and adequate information to assess the potential impact of the proposal on flooding both on and off site.

#### Policy FR5

Comment – As currently worded this policy mixes policy and community aspiration. The second sentence of the policy could be included in a separate section of the plan. In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the policy should be modified as follows:

Policy FR5 Flood Risk:

We believe an integrated, risk-based approach to flood risk management is the way forward, and strongly support the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in any development proposal.

We will work positively with local authorities and other stakeholders to ensure they are fully considered from the design stage onwards; and that development proposals include (and implement) measures to satisfactorily address issues highlighted in SFRAs and SWMPs.

The Council agrees with these proposed modifications to the policy.

The title "Flood Risk Management" has been added.

Section 9 : Green Infrastructure and Spaces

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy GIS1	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	The Council agrees with the proposed modification.
Policy GIS2	cy GIS2  Comment:  Local Green Space and open space are two distinct issue. It is unclear whether this policy is intended to designate Local Green Space. Although there are areas identified in the evidence base and included on maps within the NP itself the policy does not seek designation and no information provided as to whether or not the spaces identified meet the Local Green Space requirements as set out in the NPPF.  "The NPPF states:	Local Green Space designation was discussed at the examiners' exploratory meeting in some detail. The Council agrees that the sites are all suitable to be designated as Local Green Spaces and is content with the proposed modifications.  There is a duplicate sentence in the examiners report and it is recommended that one is deleted in the final policy, as highlighted. The amended policy will read:
	<ul> <li>76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.</li> <li>77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:</li> <li>where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;</li> </ul>	Policy GIS2: Local Green Spaces The following Local Green Spaces are designated:  1. Wymondley Woods and Scout Hut 2. Church Green, Great Wymondley 3. Siccut Road Green, Little Wymondley 4. Recreation Ground, Gravely Road, Great Wymondley 5. Tower Close Green, Little Wymondley 6. Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields, Little Wymondley

- where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

It was clarified at the Exploratory Meeting that the intention was to designate the Local Green Spaces and additional information has been submitted in accordance with the NPPF to support the designations. For clarity I have been provided with the following list of proposed designations (this information is available to view on the North Hertfordshire District Council website):

- 1, Wymondley Woods and Scout Hut
- 2. Church Green, Great Wymondley
- 3. Siccut Road Green, Little Wymondley
- 4. Recreation Ground, Gravely Road, Great Wymondley
- 5. Tower Close Green, Little Wymondley
- 6. Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields, Little Wymondley
- 7. Allotments, Siccut Road/ Grimstone Road, Little Wymondley
- 8. Garden Plots (Allotments), Great Wymondley
- 9. Allotments, Stevenage Road, Little Wymondley
- 10. Tower Close Central Green, Little Wymondley

I am satisfied that the proposed designations were the subject of appropriate consultation.

Having considered the information closely I can confirm that I of the opinion that all of the Local Space Designations meet the NPPF requirements with the exception of the following:

- 7. Allotments, Siccut Road/Grimstone Road, Little Wymondley
- 8. Garden Plots (Allotments), Great Wymondley
- 9. Tower Close Central Green, Little Wymondley

Development will not be permitted except in very special circumstances.

9. Allotments, Stevenage Road, Little Wymondley

I have not been provided with sufficient evidence to satisfy me that the area in question is where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and

For clarity the policy should be modified as follows:

Policy GIS2: Local Green Spaces

#### The following Local Green Spaces are designated:

we will apply to NHDC for Local Green Space designation in relation to green spaces within Wymondley Parish which are special to the local community; meet the relevant criteria, and which are not otherwise protected. The following Local Green Spaces are designated

- 1. Wymondley Woods and Scout Hut
- 2. Church Green, Great Wymondley
- 3. Siccut Road Green, Little Wymondley
- 4. Recreation Ground, Gravely Road, Great Wymondley
- 5. Tower Close Green, Little Wymondley
- 6. Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields, Little Wymondley
- 7. Allotments, Siccut Road/Grimstone Road, Little Wymondley
- 8. Garden Plots (Allotments), Great Wymondley
- 9. Tower Close Central Green, Little Wymondley

Development will not be permitted except in very special circumstances.

# Section 10 : Transport Links

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy TL1	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.
Policy TL2	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these
Policy TL3	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	policies have been included.

Section 11 : Traffic Management

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy TM1	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	The Council agrees with the proposed modifications.
Policy TM2	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.
Policy TM3	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	
Policy TM4	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	
Policy TM5	Comment – The policy as currently worded lacks clarity and should be modified as follows:	The Council is content with the proposed modifications.
	Policy TM5 Roads:	
	We will study closely any Development proposals should where appropriate, be supported by a Travel Plan assessing the impacting on the Parish, to ensure that road infrastructure issues have been properly considered and addressed from project concept to implementation; and where insufficient account has been taken to including any mitigation measures. mitigate the effects of increased traffic we will object accordingly Development will be refused where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe.	

### Section 12 : Education

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy E1	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.
Policy E2	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these
Policy E3	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	policies have been included.

### Section 13: Telecommunications and Broadband

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy TB1	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.  As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.

Section 14 : Supporting Local Business and Employment

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy SLBE1	Comment – This is a community aspiration and should be deleted from the policy section and moved to a separate section of the plan.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.  As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.
Policy SLBE2	Comment – The policy as currently worded lacks clarity and should be modified as follows:	The Council is content with the proposed modifications.
	Policy SLBE2 <b>Business Development</b> :  We will work positively with local businesses, landowners and relevant planning authorities to ensure that Any proposed business development within Wymondley Parish <b>should be</b> is appropriate in terms of location, scale and type; and is otherwise in keeping with the intrinsic character and environment of our parish. (In relation to business premises on the Elms Close industrial estate in Little Wymondley, for example, we would seek to limit any expansion on this site to within its current boundary.)	
Policy SLBE3	Comment – Neighbourhood Plans cannot have policies which relate to land outside the Neighbourhood Plan Area and as currently worded policy SLB3 does not meet the Basic Conditions. This policy in essence repeats SLBE2 and should be deleted.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.
Policy SLBE4	Comment – This is not a policy and should be deleted from the plan.	

## Section 15: Social Cohesion and Well-being

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy SCW1	Comment – This is not a policy and should be removed from this section of the plan and placed within the community projects/aspirations section.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.
Policy SCW2	Comment – This is a community aspiration and not a policy. It should be deleted from the policy section and moved to a separate section of the plan.	As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.

# Section 16: Housing and Other Development

Section, Page No. or other reference	Examiners Comments and Proposed Modifications	North Hertfordshire District Council comments
Policy HOD1	Comment – In this section reference should be made to the impact of the emerging local plan policies and site allocation.  This policy should be given a title. I have no other comment on this policy.	The title "Wymondley Parish Housing Needs" has been added in accordance with the examiner's recommendations.

Policy HOD2	Comment – HOD 2 is currently worded as a statement not a policy. For clarity and to meet the Basic Conditions the policy should be modified as follows:	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.
	Policy HOD2 – Design  In considering planning applications and other development proposals impacting on the Parish we will work to ensure that All developments are should be well-designed and located appropriately, i.e. where they will enhance or maintain the vitality of our community; reflect the identity of our parish; and respond to our local character and history.	
Policy HOD3	Comment – HOD3 seems to be missing?	Policy HOD3 was missing in the submission version of the neighbourhood plan.
Policy HOD4	Comment – The first part of this policy is a community aspiration and should be moved to a separate section of the plan. For clarity, the second part of the policy should be modified as follows:  Policy HOD4 Parking:  We will continue to explore opportunities to increase available parking within the Parish and, when considering Development proposals should provide parking to meet the relevant adopted parking standards., work with relevant parties to ensure that adequate parking facilities are included in plans.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.  As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.
Policy HOD5	Comment – This is a community aspiration and should be moved to a separate section of the plan.	The Council agrees with these proposed modifications.
Policy HOD1*	Comment – This is presumably HOD6?  This is not a policy but community aspiration and should be moved to a separate section of the plan.	As recommended by the examiner, a section has been included in the neighbourhood plan which sets out the community aspirations and these policies have been included.