



Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Eri Wong
Spatial Planning Manager

Planning Policy
Charnwood Borough Council
Council Offices
Southfield Road
Loughborough
LE11 2TN

Midlands Operations Directorate
Highways England
Stirling House
Lakeside Court, Osier Drive
Annesley, Nottinghamshire
NG15 0DS

Via Email: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk

Direct Line: 0300 470 0842

26 April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on the Submission Version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16

Highways England welcomes the opportunity to comment on the submission version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan which covers the period of 2018 to 2036. The document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the operation of the strategic section of the A46 Trunk Road and the M1 Motorway which route 1 and 10 miles to the west of the Plan area respectively.

We understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with relevant national and Borough-wide planning policies. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan for Rearsby is required to be in conformity with the adopted Charnwood Core Strategy (2011-2028) and emerging Draft Charnwood Local Plan (2019-2036), and this is acknowledged within the document.

Highways England previously reviewed the pre-submission version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan and provided commented in a response letter in February 2019.

At the time, there were no housing allocation targets set for villages within the emerging Draft Charnwood Local Plan. However, the Charnwood's Core Strategy

classified Rearsby within the 'Other Settlements' category and determined that it had a requirement to contribute towards a 500-dwelling target alongside other villages. This target had already been exceeded at the time of writing of the pre-submission version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan, with 887 houses already being anticipated to 2028.

The pre-submission version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan included an assessment of local needs over the following five-year period which concluded that there was a need for 4 properties for affordable rent and for 8 new properties for market sale. This need was meant to be met through infill developments.

Due to the small scale of development growth being proposed in the pre-submission version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan, we did not consider that there would be any impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.

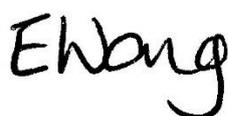
Having reviewed the submission version of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan, we note that there are minimal changes to the pre-submission version. The document recognises that the emerging Draft Charnwood Local Plan currently allocates a housing site for 47 dwellings in Rearsby and states that further housing growth over and above the Local Plan's allocation can be met through windfall development in the Parish.

With regard to employment, we understand that Policy R5B will support new employment opportunities that would not have significant harmful impacts on the local area.

In light of the above, we maintain our previous position that, considering the limited level of growth proposed across the Neighbourhood Plan area, we do not think that there will be any significant impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.

We have no further comments to provide and trust that the above is useful in the progression of the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Eri Wong
Midlands Operations Directorate
Email: Eri.Wong@highwaysengland.co.uk