



WITCHFORD Neighbourhood Plan

**SINGLE-ISSUE REVIEW (CLIMATE CHANGE) CONSULTATION STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 2024**



**Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change)
Consultation Statement November 2024**

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Accordingly, this Consultation Statement contains the following information:



- details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) (hereinafter the 'SIR') of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan (hereinafter the 'WNP')
- an explanation as to how they were consulted
- a summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- a description as to how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan.

1.2 Community and stakeholder engagement has been an integral part of the SIR process. The consultation activity can however be broken down in four key stages as follows:

Stage	Description	Time period
1	Inception – steering group established	July 2021 -September 2022
2	Initial review development including evidence gathering and consultation	October 2022 – June 2023
3	Advanced review development	September - December 2023
4	Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation	24 th January – 6 th March 2024

1.3 This consultation statement provides an overview of the activity which took place at each of these stages.

2. General overview of approach to consultation

2.1 The WNP was developed for the community by the community. Following a Referendum in March 2020 it was formally made by East Cambridgeshire District Council on 21st May 2020. On 12th July 2021 Witchford Parish Council resolved to undertake a Single-Issue Review of the WNP, to integrate climate change issues into the existing Plan policies, as it was felt that climate change was not adequately addressed in the original Plan.

2.2 A steering group of residents, assisted by a professional planning consultant, was set up in October 2022 to deal with the details of the SIR and to make recommendations to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has retained overall responsibility for the SIR.

2.3 In undertaking the SIR Witchford Parish Council has endeavoured to keep residents and other stakeholders informed of the review process, and to encourage participation as widely as possible.

2.4 Early on in the process, a separate page on the Parish Council website was set up to host news about the SIR, consultation survey results, evidence documents, the draft text as well as the Regulation 14 version draft of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change). All Parish Council Agendas and Minutes are published on the Parish Council website and



Witchford Residents Facebook Group page, as well as on the Parish Council notice board in the village. The Parish Council also publishes a quarterly newsletter which is hand delivered to every home in Witchford parish, and placed on the Council's website. Updates on the SIR have been included regularly in the newsletter since September 2022.

- 2.5 Over time, the Witchford Residents Facebook Group page was found to be a particularly useful conduit for informing residents about updates with the SIR and for getting feedback, on a day-to-day basis. This Facebook Group is for Witchford residents only. As at September 2024 there are 4400 members.

3. Inception stage July 2021 – September 2022

- 3.1 East Cambridgeshire District Council adopted the WNP on 21st May 2020, and the Plan has been used for making planning decisions since that date. However, the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan was a very long one, commencing in December 2015 and with the Regulation 14 consultation taking place in June-July 2019. At the time of drafting, climate change was not necessarily a main focus of the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan steering group, but by 2021 climate change had become more of a priority. Although the environment is referred to in general terms in the WNP, there is no direct reference to climate change; this reflects the way the issue has been raised in public consciousness since work on the WNP started.

- 3.2 On 3rd March 2021 Witchford Parish Council adopted a Climate Emergency Action Plan with the aim of becoming a carbon neutral parish by 2030. At action 5.4 of this Action Plan, the Parish Council stated that it would:

'Update the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure buildings are designed and constructed with energy conservation foremost'

- 3.3 Section 7 of the WNP states *'The Parish Council intends to hold four-yearly (one Parish Council term) reviews of the effectiveness of this Neighbourhood Plan.'* Hence, the first review of the WNP was due to be held in 2024.

- 3.4 However, following on from action 5.4 of the Witchford Climate Action Plan, on 6th April 2021 Witchford Parish Council agreed *'to set up a working party to look at the initial stages of the review process'* and that *'This will be a single issue review, i.e. to input only matters addressing climate change into the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan, and not to consider any other matters (including housing allocations).'* On 12th July 2021 Witchford Parish Council formally agreed to bring forward the review of the effectiveness of the WNP (Minute 21/51).

- 3.5 Substantive work on the SIR began in September 2022, following the Parish Council's approval of a consultancy support proposal from Cambridgeshire ACRE on 7th September 2022.



4. Initial Plan Development October 2022 – June 2023

Initial Plan Development Stage - Who was consulted and how were they consulted?

4.1 Initial publicity for the SIR beyond the published Parish Council Minutes was via an article in the Parish Council's newsletter. The newsletter is printed in hard copy and is professionally hand-delivered to every household in Witchford every quarter. Appendix 1 is a copy of the article in the September 2022 newsletter.

4.2 The steering group drafted a package of documents for an initial parish-wide residents' consultation during October and November 2022. These were approved by the Parish Council on 7th December 2022.

4.3 An engagement strategy for this initial consultation was also agreed by the Parish Council on 7th December 2022. This stated that:

'The objective of the strategy is to be as inclusive as possible to give all residents the chance to comment and provide their thoughts on how the WNP can address climate change issues locally.

This means that a mixture of online, paper and in-person opportunities to comment will be provided.

The Parish Council has reviewed the effectiveness of the methods used for public consultation during the production of the WNP during 2016 – 19 and for parish-wide consultations on CIL and play areas in 2020 and 2022. This current engagement strategy is based on what was found to be successful in those consultations.

Online communications were found to be most effective, while it is essential also to make sure that residents who do not wish to respond online have easy access to paper copies of publicity and consultation documents. Holding a single dedicated drop-in event for the WNP was not particularly effective (only 20 persons attended during the four-hour period of the session); therefore, a single drop-in event will not be held for the SIR consultation but instead the Parish Council will seek to hold 'pop up' stalls at other events in the village during the consultation period.'

4.4 The initial SIR consultation was based on the Engagement Strategy.

4.5 Initial consultation was with Witchford residents only, to get a feel for the level of concern about climate change as a whole. The initial consultation took the form of a survey, which was live between 28th December 2022- 31st January 2023. The survey asked for responses on suggested climate change mitigation and resilience measures; these had been agreed by the steering group to 'test the water' for the type of ideas that might be looked into in more detail at the next stage of the SIR process. The survey also provided opportunities throughout for residents to propose their own ideas, which would all be looked at individually as part of the analysis of the consultation responses.

4.6 The survey also asked for comments on whether the overall Vision for the WNP needed amending, and whether a proposed new objective specifically addressing climate change should be added to WNP.



4.7 In line with the Engagement Strategy the survey took place online with paper versions available on request. A copy of the paper survey is at Appendix 2. The survey was accessed via a link on Witchford Parish Council’s website. Links to the survey were published on the Witchford Residents’ Facebook Group page.

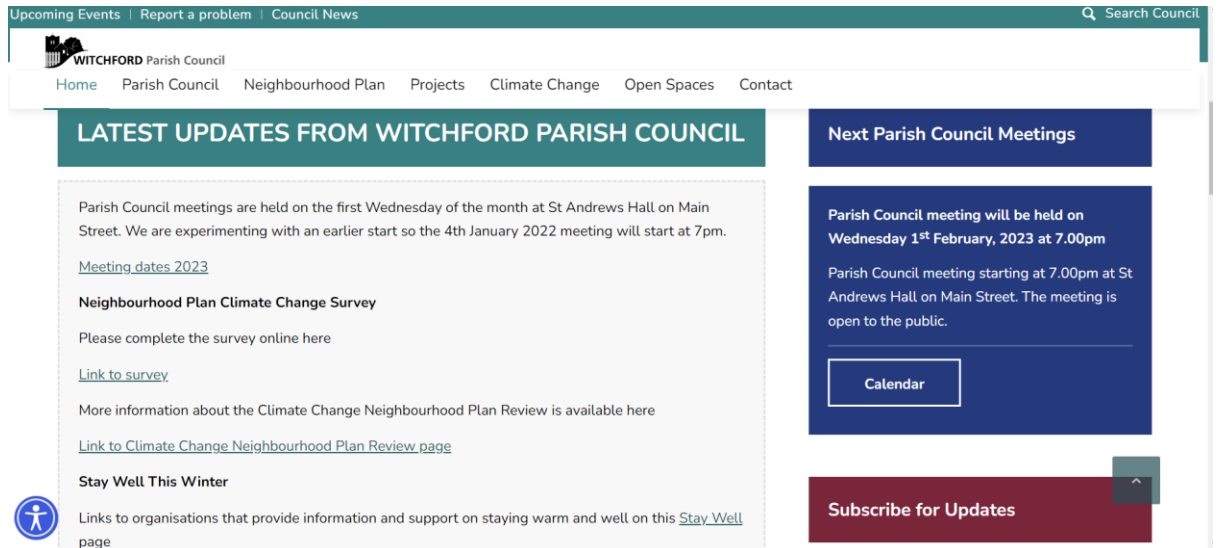


Fig. 1 Snip tool image of Witchford Parish Council website home page
www.witchfordpc.org

4.8 Publicity for the survey took a variety of forms. A leaflet about the survey with the weblink was professionally delivered to every house in the Parish between 28-30th December 2022. A copy of the leaflet is Appendix 3. Copies of the leaflet were posted around the parish on all seven of the community notice boards and on lampposts/telegraph poles in the village. Table-top stalls were set up at the village social club, village coffee mornings and at a meeting of Witchford WI. A banner advertising the consultation was also fixed to the gate at the entrance to the village. A display was placed in the village phone box community art gallery.



Fig. 2 Publicity for January 2023 survey on community notice board.



Fig. 3 Publicity for January 2023 survey on telegraph pole in village.

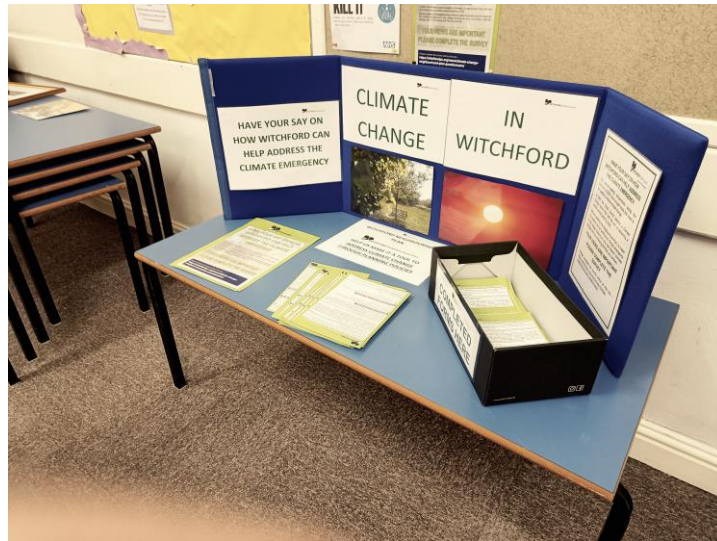


Fig. 4 display at WI meeting January 2023



Fig. 5 banner on entrance gate



Fig. 6 display in community gallery

Initial Plan Development Stage – Summary of the main issues and concerns raised and how these have been considered and addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

- 4.9 A total of 118 responses were received via the online survey. The SIR Steering Group, comprised of residents and Parish Councillors, met three times in February 2023 to review the responses and to consider how these could be addressed in draft new policies within the limited scope of the SIR (that is, *to input only matters addressing climate change into the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan, and not to consider any other matters (including housing allocations)*).
- 4.10 There was strong support (77.4%) for the current WNP Vision. However, given the concerns about the environment that were strongly expressed in the survey responses, the SIR Steering Group recommended to the Parish Council that the Vision should be amended. At its meeting on 1st March 2023 Witchford Parish Council agreed that the overall Vision for the WNP should be amended to (Minute 22/298 i):

'To value and protect the rural character and community spirit of Witchford, ensuring that future development is sustainable and meets local needs.'

A copy of the report considered by the Parish Council is included at Appendix 4.

- 4.11 There was strong support (84.6%) for the proposed new Objective addressing climate change. At its meeting on 1st March 2023 Witchford Parish Council agreed to add Objective 8 to the WNP (Minute 22/298 ii):

'Objective 8 Climate Change: actively identify and promote climate change mitigation and resilience measures.'



A copy of the report considered by the Parish Council is included at Appendix 5.

4.12 A summary of the full survey responses is included at Appendix 6. A table showing the SIR Steering Group’s responses to the text comments in the survey is included at Appendix 7. The text comments covered a very wide range of issues, many of which were not able to be addressed through the WNP process; in response to increased concern about climate change and biodiversity issues in general, and to comply with the new Biodiversity Duty, in November Witchford Parish Council set up a Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee with delegated powers to implement the Parish Council’s Climate Emergency Action Plan and to produce and implement a Local Nature Recovery Plan. Ideas from this initial consultation survey, that are outside the scope of the SIR or which are not achievable via neighbourhood planning, will be reviewed by the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee.

Issue or concern	How this has been addressed
Green infrastructure	Included in proposed Policy CC2
Environmental performance of homes and other buildings	Included in proposed Policy CC1
Renewable energy generation	Included in proposed Policy CC5
Making it easier to walk and cycle and reduce the need to travel by car	In WNP at Policies T1 and C1
Community charging points for electric vehicles	Witchford Parish Council could consider taking this forward
20mph zones in residential areas	Witchford Parish Council has introduced a 20mph zone in Field End /Victoria Green area and has applied to Cambridgeshire County Council for a 20mph zone in the Manor Road area
Planting trees and shrubs to provide shade	Included in proposed Policy CC4
Reduce flood damage by planting trees and shrubs	Proposed Policy CC4 addresses new tree planting on new developments. Witchford Parish Council has an active annual tree planting campaign – 58 new trees to be planted in the village in Autumn/Winter 2024-25
Protect and increase flood storage assets including gardens and verges	Addressed in WNP Policy IC4
Help wildlife by protecting and increasing habitat	Included in proposed Policies CC2, CC3 and CC4. Witchford Parish Council has set up a separate Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee to produce and implement a Local Nature Recovery Plan as part of the Parish Council’s new Biodiversity Duty.



4.13 Policy development was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group during March – May 2023. Draft policies (for further consultation) and proposed changes to the WNP were approved by Witchford Parish Council on 1st November 2023.

5. Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation

5.1 Witchford Parish Council undertook a formal pre-submission consultation on the Witchford Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan as required by the Localism Act 2011 and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2015 (as amended) during the six-week period 24th January – 6th March 2024. The Regulation 14 version of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) was uploaded on to the Parish Council website at <https://witchfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-single-issue-review-climate-change/>. Paper copies of the plan were made available on demand by contacting the Parish Clerk, and paper copies were also available at the consultation event held on 14 February 2024

Regulation 14 Consultation Stage - Who was consulted and how were they consulted?

5.2 An article about the Regulation 14 consultation was placed in the Parish Council's Winter 2023 newsletter. A copy of this article is at Appendix 8. A leaflet advertising the consultation and a drop-in session on 14th February 2024 at St Andrew's Hall was produced. A copy of the leaflet is at Appendix 9. This leaflet was professionally delivered along with the Fenscene magazine to every house in Witchford during the week beginning 22nd January 2024. The same design was also produced as an A4 poster which was put up on the seven community notice boards around the village and checked/renewed as necessary during the six-week consultation period. A banner was placed on the gate at the entrance to the village for the duration of the consultation period.



Fig.7 Publicity poster during Regulation 14 Consultation



Fig. 8 banner on village entrance gate

- 5.3 Information about the consultation including a link to the Witchford website page where the Neighbourhood Plan documents were uploaded was posted onto the Witchford Residents Facebook page twice a week during the consultation period.

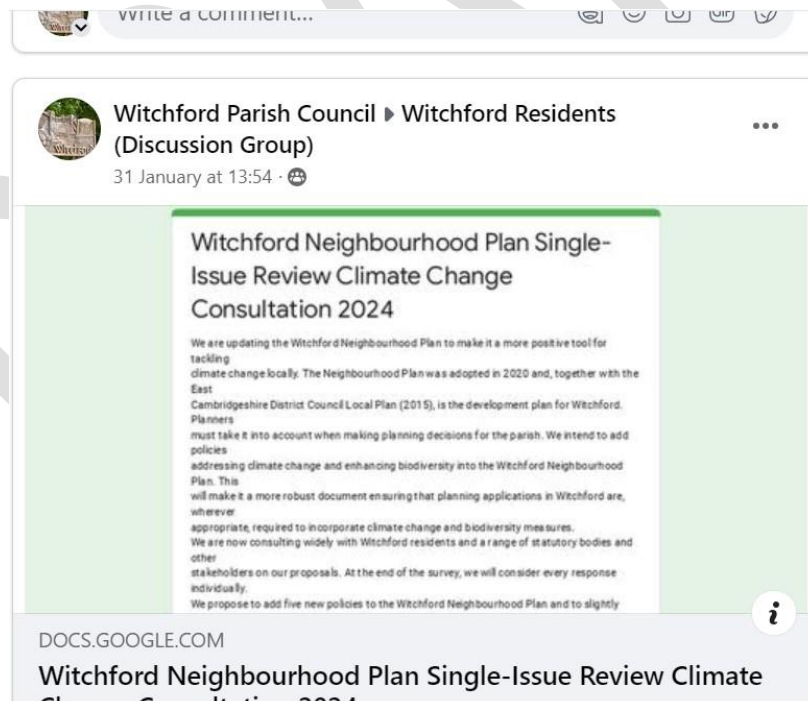


Fig. 9 screenshot of sharing survey information on Facebook

- 5.4 In order to assist respondents in structuring their replies, a survey form was produced and placed online. Hard copy forms were also printed and a drop-box for hard copy responses was placed in the porch of St Andrew's Church for the



duration of the consultation period. A copy of the survey is at [Appendix 10](#). A copy of the hard copy form is at [Appendix 11](#).

- 5.5 A drop-in session was held between 3-7pm on Wednesday 14th February at St Andrew's Hall and a report on the session is at [Appendix 12](#).



Fig.10 Banner advertising the drop-in session at St Andrew's Hall



Fig.11 residents at the drop-in session on 14th February 2024

- 5.6 Regulation 14 b) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires that Witchford Parish Council should consult any Consultation Body set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers



may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan. Accordingly, the following statutory bodies and other consultees that the Parish Council considered appropriate were notified by email or post of the consultation and were invited to respond (a copy of the standard email/letter is included at Appendix 13).

Table 1. Statutory bodies consulted	
Consultation Body (categories a, - q, are as per Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations)	Relevant organisation for the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change)
a) Mayor of London/Borough Council in London	Not applicable
b) Local Planning Authority, county council, parish council any part of whose area is in or adjoins the area of the local planning authority	East Cambridgeshire District Council District Councillor Hunt District Councillor Shepherd
b) Neighbouring Local Planning Authority	Huntingdonshire District Council Fenland District Council South Cambridgeshire District Council Breckland District Council West Suffolk Council Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
b) County Council	Cambridgeshire County Council County Councillor Dupre
b) Neighbouring Parish	Little Thetford Little Downham City of Ely Stretham Wilburton Haddenham Mepal Witcham Wentworth Coveney
c) The Coal Authority	Contact details provided by ECDC
d) Homes and Communities Agency	Contact details provided by ECDC
e) Natural England	Contact details provided by ECDC
f) Environment Agency	Contact details provided by ECDC
g) Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Contact details provided by ECDC
h) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	Contact details provided by ECDC
i) a strategic highways company any part of whose area is in or adjoins the neighbourhood area;	Not applicable
Ia) where the Secretary of State is the highway authority for any road in the	Not applicable



area of a local planning authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the neighbourhood area, the Secretary of State for Transport	
j) Marine Management Organisation	Contact details provided by ECDC
K) Any person i) to whom the electronic code applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106 (3) (a) of the Communications Act 2003; and ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority	National Grid Uk Power Networks UK Mobile Operators Association
l) Where it exercises functions in any part of the neighbourhood area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the National Health Service Commissioning Board; A person to whom a license has been granted under section 6 (1) (b) and (c) of the Electricity Act A person to whom a license has been granted under section 1(2) of the Gas Act 1986 A sewage undertaker A water undertaker 	Anglian Water NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB) Ely Internal Drainage Boards Littleport and Downham IDB
m) Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit all or any part of the neighbourhood area	Witchford Open Spaces Group Witchford Climate Change and Biodiversity Joint Committee Witchford WI Witchford Playing Field Association Manor Road Allotments Broadway Allotments via agent Parish Tree Warden Ely Cycle Campaign Witchford Scouts Witchford Brownies Witchford Rainbows Witchford Guides
n) Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the neighbourhood area	British Horse Society Ramblers Association
o) Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the neighbourhood area	St Andrew's Church St Andrew's Hall Ely Diocese Ely Islamic Centre



p) Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the neighbourhood area	Grovemere Property Witchford Post Office Sedgeway Business Park
q) Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the neighbourhood area	Voluntary Community Action East Cambs Fenland Association for Community Transport Disability Cambridgeshire East Cambridgeshire Access Group
r) Landowners where that information is reasonably known to the Parish Council. The Parish Council does not consider it reasonable to carry out Land Registry searches for every plot of land in the parish.	Landowners known to the Parish Council
s) Other consultees the Parish Council considers appropriate	Wildlife Trust BCN Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Welney Sanctuary Housing St Mary's Surgery Ely Sutton Surgery Haddenham Surgery Witchford Rackham Pre -School Witchford Rackham Primary School Witchford Village College

5.7 **Summary of Regulation 14 Consultation responses.**

The following comments were received during the consultation period:

Category	Number of respondents	Respondent
Resident	34	Anonymised by online survey software
Statutory Consultees	8	Historic England Lead Local Flood Authority Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health Team ECDC Environment Agency



		National Grid Natural England Natural Gas Transmission
Landowners/Agents	1	Anonymous landowner

- 5.8 The residents’ comments were very wide ranging, mostly in support of the proposed new policies but with some concerns raised. The comments were considered in detail by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group during March 2024. In response to the residents’ comments, the Steering Group made a number of recommendations to the Parish Council about amendments to the five SIR draft policies. Appendix 14 is a tabulated summary of all the residents’ comments with the Steering Group’s response to each. The Parish Council considered all the residents’ comments and the Steering Group’s recommended responses at its meeting on 3rd April 2024.
- 5.9 Statutory consultee comments were in support of the five SIR Consultation Draft policies, with a small number of more substantive comments which resulted in amendments to the draft policies. The statutory consultee comments were considered in detail by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group during March 2024. The Steering Group made a number of recommendations to the Parish Council about amendments to the five SIR draft policies. Appendix 15 is a tabulated summary of all the statutory consultee comments with the Steering Group’s response to each. The Parish Council considered all the statutory consultee comments and the Steering Group’s recommended responses at its meeting on 3rd April 2024.
- 5.11 There was one comment from landowner/agents. Appendix 16 is a tabulated summary of the landowner’s comment with the Steering Group’s response. The landowner’s comment was considered in detail by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group during March 2024 and its recommended response was considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on 3rd April 2024.
- 5.12 Appendix 17 is a full listing of all the changes to the Consultation Draft Witchford Neighbourhood Plan approved by the Parish Council on 1st May 2024. These have been incorporated into the text of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2031 Climate Change Single-Issue Review Post- Regulation 14 consultation version.
- 5.13 The key amendments to the Plan in response to the comments made during the Regulation 14 consultation are:
- General – corrections to typographical errors and clarifications to text that do not change the content but make it easier to read
 - CC1 – clarifications to text



- CC1 – amendments to bring the text in line with new national guidance dated December 2023
- CC2 – amendments to include more direct references to Local Nature Recovery Toolkit work in Witchford
- CC3 – amend the required Biodiversity Net Gain figure from 20% to 10%. The submission version of the policy encourages the achievement of 20%
- CC3 – amendments to bring text in line with new legislation and planning practice guidance in February 2024
- CC4 – improvements to detailed guidance on tree planting
- CC5 – significant modifications to text of policy
- Appendix 2 – additional ideas for Parish Council to consider taking forward outside of the Neighbourhood Planning process
- SWOT – clarifications to text and update on more recent work in Witchford on climate change

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APPENDIX 1

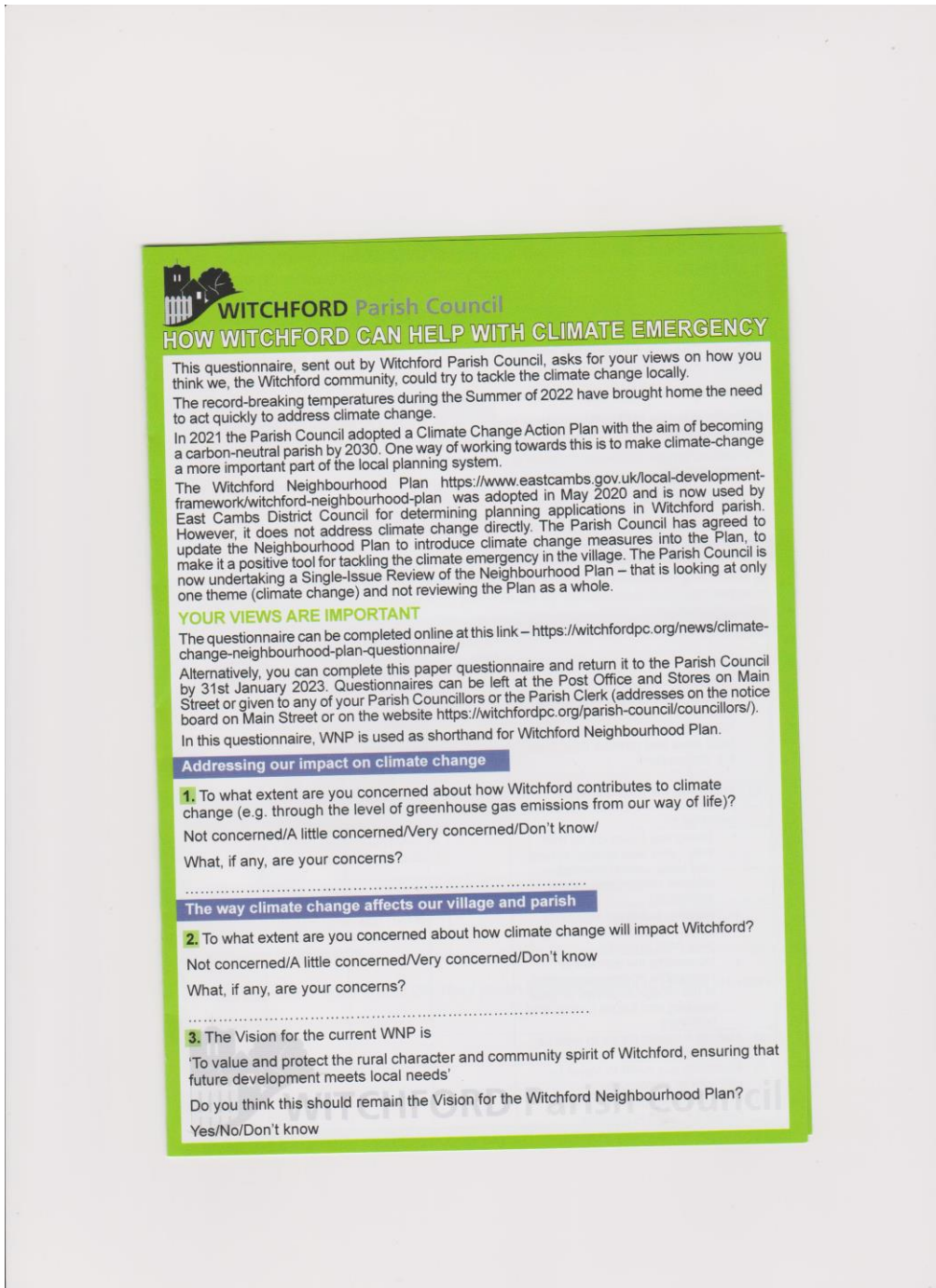
Copy of article in September 2022 Parish Council newsletter





APPENDIX 2

Copy of paper version of initial consultation survey 28th December 2022 – 31st January 2023





If No, please give your reasons and, if applicable, your suggestions for the Vision

.....

4. We propose to add a new Objective to the WNP
 'Climate Change; pro-actively identify and promote climate change mitigation and climate change resilience measures'
 Do you agree that this objective should be added to the WNP?

Climate change mitigation means measures to prevent or reduce our contribution to climate change.
Climate change resilience means measures to help us prepare for and adapt to climate change.

Yes/No/Don't know
 Please write any comments here.....

Climate change mitigation measures

5. Below are examples of climate change mitigation measures. Please indicate whether you think these would be good ideas for Witchford by placing a tick in the appropriate box.

	Great idea	Ok idea	Bad Idea	Not sure
	<i>please tick</i>			
a) Provide or improve green infrastructure (including hedges, trees and grassed surfaces) to help reduce temperatures in the local area and remove CO2 from the atmosphere.				
b) Improving the environmental performance of homes and other buildings by:				
• Designing buildings so that they need less energy to heat and keep warm (orientation, window proportions, better insulation)				
• Heating buildings efficiently using low carbon technologies (e.g. heat pumps)				
• Increasing the amount of renewable energy generation in the village to power or heat existing and future homes and buildings				
c) Making it easier for us to walk or cycle to places				
d) Reducing our need to travel by car, van or motorcycle				
e) Providing community charging points for electric vehicles				



Do you have other ideas to help Witchford reduce its contribution to climate change?


6. Do you support 20mph zones in residential areas.
 Yes/No/Don't know
 Please write any comments here.....

Climate change resilience measures

7. Below are examples of how places can be better prepared for climate change.
 Please indicate whether you think these would be good ideas for Witchford by placing
 a tick in the appropriate box.

	Great idea	Ok idea	Bad idea	Not sure
a) Adapting to higher temperatures: Planting trees and vegetation to provide shading for people in public spaces.				
b) Reducing flood damage during periods of heavy rainfall by:				
• Increasing tree planting and hedgerows so that the land can cope better during periods of heavy rainfall				
• Protecting and increasing flood storage assets (for example drains, ditches and open spaces) which have an important role in absorbing rainwater during periods of heavy rainfall				
• Retaining or increasing garden and verges, which also have an important role in absorbing rainwater.				
• Installing green roofs on buildings				
c) Helping wildlife cope with climate change through protecting and improving their habitat				

Do you have other ideas to help Witchford parish be more resilient to climate change?

 WITCHFORD Parish Council



8. Are you in favour of renewable energy technology such as solar power, wind power or air/heat source pumps?
 Yes/No/Don't know
 Please write any comments here

9. Would you support the provision of a small scale renewable energy scheme in the parish to generate energy specifically for Witchford?
 Small scale solar array Yes/No/ Don't know
 Small scale wind turbine Yes/No/ Don't know
 Community heat pump Yes/No/ Don't know

10. Do you have any other comments about the issues in this survey?

Please help us monitor how representative our feedback is, by answering the following questions.


Do you live in the parish or Witchford village?
 Yes/No/Skip

Do you work in the parish or Witchford village?
 Yes/no/Skip

Do you go to school in the parish or Witchford village?
 Yes/no/Skip

How old are you?

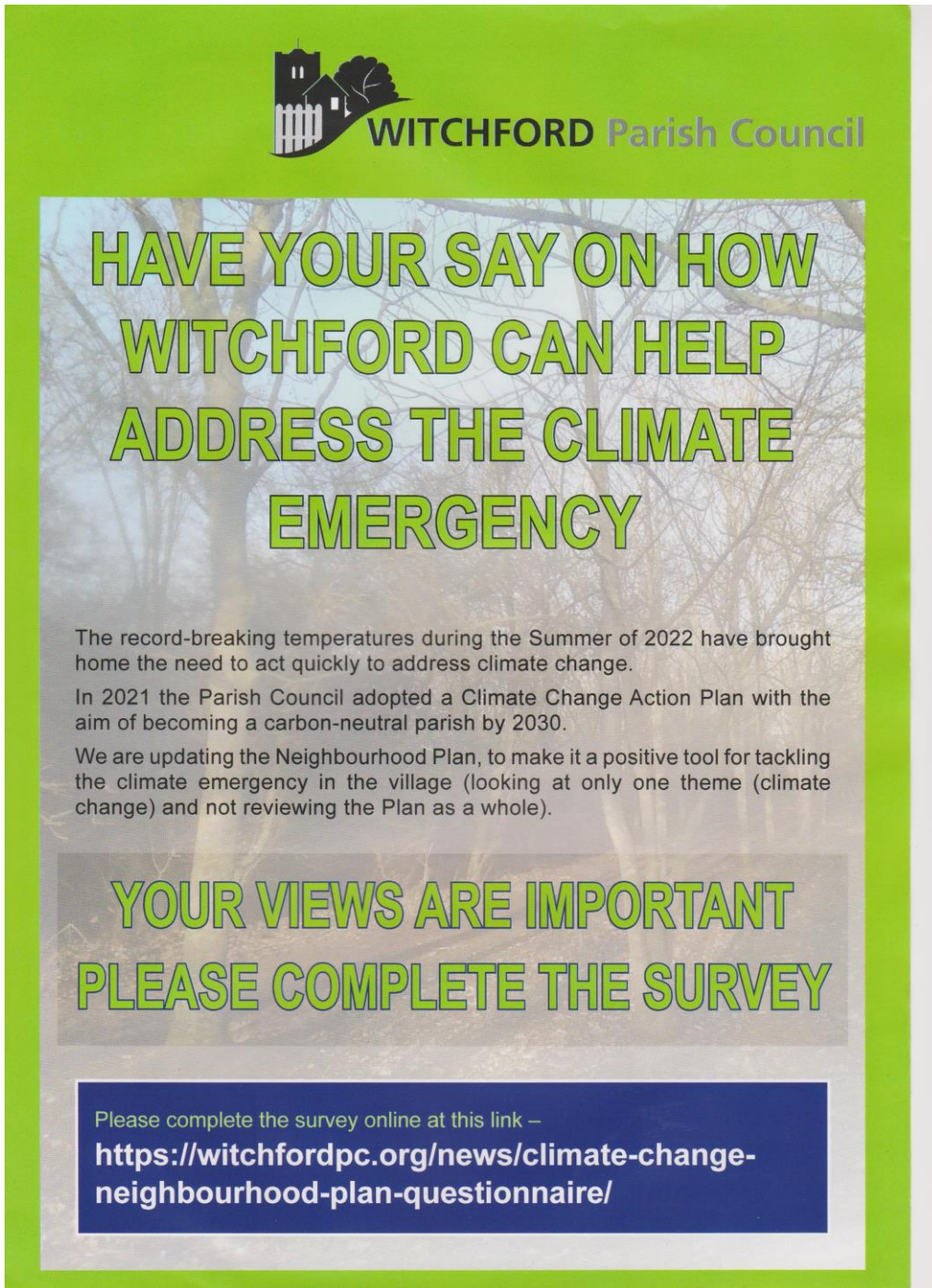
Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60 - 74	
75 and over					


 WITCHFORD Parish Council



APPENDIX 3

Copy of leaflet delivered to all homes in Witchford parish 28-30th December 2022



 WITCHFORD Parish Council

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW
WITCHFORD CAN HELP
ADDRESS THE CLIMATE
EMERGENCY**

The record-breaking temperatures during the Summer of 2022 have brought home the need to act quickly to address climate change.

In 2021 the Parish Council adopted a Climate Change Action Plan with the aim of becoming a carbon-neutral parish by 2030.

We are updating the Neighbourhood Plan, to make it a positive tool for tackling the climate emergency in the village (looking at only one theme (climate change) and not reviewing the Plan as a whole).

**YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT
PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY**

Please complete the survey online at this link –
<https://witchfordpc.org/news/climate-change-neighbourhood-plan-questionnaire/>



APPENDIX 4

Copy of report to Witchford Parish Council on 1st March 2023 regarding WNP Vision



22/298 i To review and approve the suggested Vision for the Climate Change Review Neighbourhood Plan

1. As part of the Residents' Survey into the Climate Change Single-Issue Review of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan that took place in January 2023, residents were asked to comment on the suitability of the Vision in the current Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan working group met on 6th February to review the survey responses. Appendix 1 is the paper considered by the working party and contains the survey responses.
3. The existing Vision for the current Witchford Neighbourhood Plan is:

“To value and protect the rural character and community spirit of Witchford, ensuring that future development meets local needs”

Recommendation

4. The working party recommends that the Vision for the Climate Change Reviewed version of Witchford Neighbourhood Plan should be as follows. The text in red is an addition to the current Vision.

“To value and protect the rural character and community spirit of Witchford, ensuring that future development **is sustainable and** meets local needs”



APPENDIX 5

Copy of report to Witchford Parish Council on 1st March 2023 regarding Objective 8



22/298 ii To review and approve a suggested additional Objective for the Climate Change Review Neighbourhood Plan

1. As part of the Residents' Survey into the Climate Change Single-Issue Review of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan that took place in January 2023, residents were asked to comment on whether an additional Objective covering Climate Change should be added to the Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan working group met on 6th February to review the survey responses. Appendix 1 is the paper considered by the working party and contains the survey responses.

Recommendation

3. The working party recommends that the following Objective should be added to the Climate Change Reviewed version of Witchford Neighbourhood Plan:

'Objective 8 Climate Change: proactively identify and promote climate change mitigation and resilience measures.'



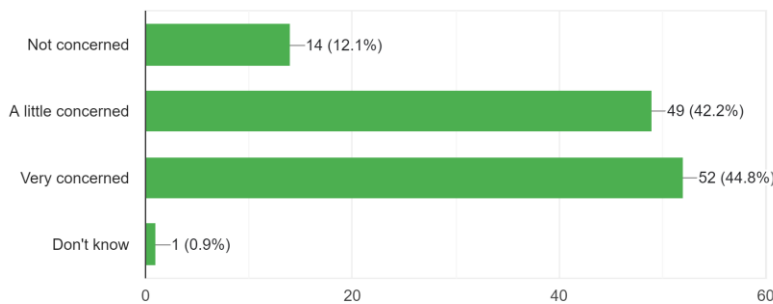
APPENDIX 6

Summary of responses to the initial consultation survey 28th December 2022 – 31st January 2023

Results of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan SIR (Climate Change) Residents Survey January 2023

To what extent are you concerned about how Witchford contributes to climate change (e.g. through the level of greenhouse emissions from our way of life)?

116 responses



What, if any, are your concerns?

I'd like my children and grandchildren to inherit a functional planet

Lots of traffic passes through, fly tipping

Damage to peoples health and possible less green open space

The rapid growth of the village and the extensive development of houses here.

Global temperatures

Probably most concerned about the impact of new housing and building which may make the villages infrastructure tested to its limits

The extra housing and the increased traffic generated.

Flooding, energy and supply disruption

We should be changing to renewable energy

Climate change is a natural process governed by the Sun and Oceans and cyclic and we cannot change that. Also the drive for reduction of CO2 to zero will kill all trees and greenery. It is a necessary part of photosynthesis and plant growth.



That people actually buy into this?

Lack of public transport and safe cycle routes make us very reliant on cars.
we need a better transport system so that people can leave their cars at home

Traffic pollution

Future of the planet

Overdevelopment and a poor recycling process

The contribution towards the reduction in fossil fuel emissions

Poorly insulated properties, pollution from cars etc, low take up of green energy

Contribution to global impact

Poor public transport options leading to high levels of car usage.

Lack of renewable energy generation and too many new houses on greenfield sites.

Excessive greenhouse emissions are a concern to both personal health and the environment
and need to be addressed

rural areas not considered by ccc and Westminster

Traffic levels, housing stock insulation, low levels of local renewable power production

That housing, especially the new housing being built in Witchford, are not designed to be
carbon neutral. This means that poor housing design is contributing to climate change.

Many households rely on personal car transport to travel to work, leisure, anywhere outside
the village, significant buildings works have destroyed surroundings wildlife and habitats

Recycling bins, green spaces, building site emissions

Green washing. Increased taxes. road and parking restrictions under the guise of 'climate
change'.

The concerns of climate warming and my inability to adapt my home to avoid this

New-build properties rarely include solar panels or batteries, or other energy saving designs.
This should be mandatory in any new build. There is also little genuine contribution to



sustainable transport or reduction of transport by establishing services within the village such as local GP, regular bus routes etc. The community levy is not targeted at specific enough measures, and developers are allowed to get away with poor design, and poor building techniques.

Reliance on petrol/diesel cars; new houses without renewables/low or zero carbon; old housing stock and school buildings with insufficient insulation and no financial incentive to have renewable heating/electricity generation

Emissions from vehicles and fossil fuels.

There is a clear need to both reduce our contribution to climate change through better insulation, education about things such as water shortage. For many people it seems to be a non problem still or in the 'too difficult to worry about' box. This needs to change through both carrot (education and incentives) and the stick (regulation)

Increasing traffic levels through the village

Suitable provisions and support for residents to reduce greenhouse gasses E.g. electric car charging, green energy, reduced emissions and sustainable food sources

We all need to do what we can to reduce climate change and we need to build new homes to cope with the impact and be as efficient as possible

The cutting down of the hedge rows for new homes

That everyone should be trying to adapt their behaviours to reduce negative impact on the environment, for example reducing car usage and increased recycling

Offset using wind turbines

We need to be more conscious of how individuals will be affected

No specific concerns but would like to see the village contribute to reducing climate change in as many ways as possible

People driving short distances when they could be walking

Being rural the only realistic option when leaving the village is to drive. Many vehicles in Witchford are highly polluting.

Lots of houses going up, lots more cars on the road, poor public transport

The number of new houses



the future of our children and the planet

Poor insulation / construction & no renewable energy (solar panels) in the copious new builds in the village. Traffic / poor public transport - buses too infrequent, inconvenient routes (why none to train station?)

The amount of cars

We are close to an increasingly busy road so I am concerned about what this means to residents and wildlife

Mainly cars

New housing estates being built.

More vehicle emissions due to more housing in the village.

Energy and resource use, climate change, sustainability generally...

Future developments maximise low impact on the environment and climate.
not enough green spaces for the huge amount of new housing developments

Way too many houses are being built

Every effort is required by councils to reduce emissions

A) Transport emissions due mainly to: 1) the lack of viable public transport and 2) the lack of a safe route across the A10 for active travel and 3) the continued encouragement of people to use motorized vehicles for short journeys to Ely due to free parking policies and lack of facilities and safe routes for cyclists - policies which are at odds with the climate emergency.

B) Lack of biodiversity across the Parish: farming practices have been dependent on fossil fuel inputs to the detriment of the natural world.

We are populous, relatively wealthy and rural. The car plays a big part in many lives. Parts of Witchford lay low and get flooded in heavy rainfall. Lots of buildings is occurring and very little offers sustainable energy.

Having to drive far to access services

Number of cars used to ferry children to school

Air pollution etc.



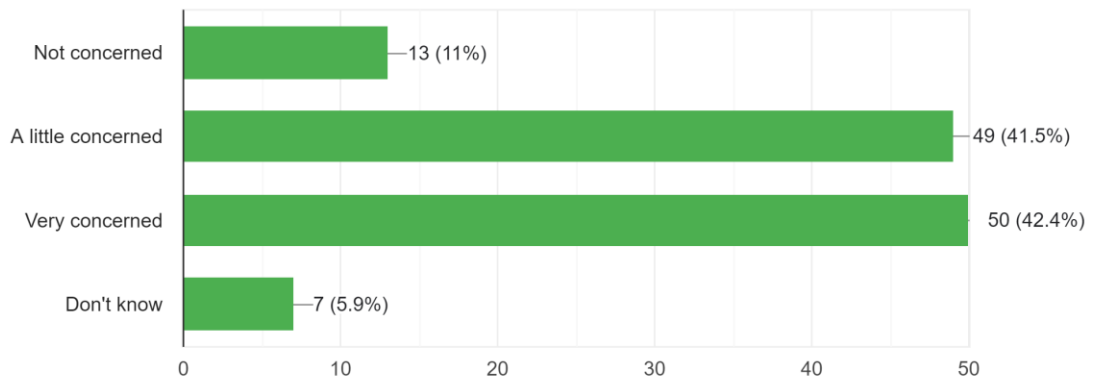
That there are still many people in the village that are unaware or unconcerned of the importance of reducing greenhouse gases, and that at our local level we must play our part.

I just think it's up to everybody to make changes however small.

Impact of huge number of new houses being built in the village: waste management, pollution from vehicles, additional road congestion, reduced air quality, proximity of new houses to A142, reduced access to green spaces in the village. Current growth of village is simply unsustainable. Loss of bus service leaves no other option but to drive or get a taxi into Ely if you're unable to walk or cycle.

To what extent are you concerned about how climate change will impact Witchford?

118 responses



What, if any, are your concerns

flooding

I think it's impacting everyone everywhere

Climate change affects EVERYBODY. So freak weather, less food, less land, less resources, dying planet

Witchford is becoming to developed with few facilities and green areas

Flood risk

At this rate of growth we will not be able to maintain "the rural character and community spirit" of this village for much longer.

The wildfires we saw in Essex could happen here



Our environment, green spaces.

Global issues out of the control of local authorities and councils may have an uncontrollable effect on the countryside way of life

The farming community may not be able to cope.

For millions of years the planet has gone through cycles of warm and then cold periods which are completely beyond our control. The CO2 level is currently about 0.04% of our atmosphere and that is half of the optimal level. The 0.04 % is not having any effect on our climate either.

Changes in climate affecting flooding and wildlife

as summers are hotter out habitat will change and this needs addressing

The UK produces 1% of the world CO2 emissions. It is essential that the other 99% is addressed at the same time to minimise the impact upon the UK economy.

Need to look at local concerns, as government is not taking action

Housing developments on flood planes

The importance of the air-quality for the inhabitants.

Extreme weather, rising sea levels

Contribution to global impact

Increased temperatures leading to frequent heatwaves and drought conditions. Impacts of energy crisis causing high electricity prices but poor investment in green energy to allow residents to switch to renewable and sustainable options.

Storms like last year's and eventually flooding of the fens

The effects of drought, extreme temperatures, rising sea levels /flooding, and air quality on the local environment.

Parts of Witchford are below sea level and liable to flooding in extreme conditions

Both local flooding and drought. Impact on food production. Impact on local biodiversity.

Reduction in the variety of species of flora and fauna. Poor air quality due to the proximity to the A142. Flooding due to river and sea level rises.



Hot weather, flooding

'Climate change' seems to be another word for local mismanagement and poor planning.

I am unsure what the PC is doing about it or the issues the face.

We already see extensive flooding issues from poor drainage in new developments around Sutton Road. Developers hide behind theoretical models without taking enough care to see the impact of poor drainage, of ten caused by their own poor standards of construction (the sump by Skylarks for instance which is lower than the drain it feeds)

Flooding risk from surface water during storms; effect of higher temperatures on flora and fauna.

Climate change will impact every village, not just Witchford.

We live in a low lying area where flooding is only stopped through effective drainage. More extreme rainfall is going to test the system unless we build in better protection or alleviation

Detrimental effects on wildlife, village infrastructure and the wellbeing of people living here. Impacts on houses, gardens, allotments.

Negative effects on wildlife, for example the pond on Broadway dried up this year and the area then floods in winter. Plants are blooming early and dying in the drought. New trees are dying because they need water which nature didn't provide.

Flooding, crop failures

Flooding/ extreme weather

Climate change will impact everyone

Much like the rest of the world - more extremes of temperature and weather.

Surrounded by busy roads

Living in the fens flooding is a concern

High temperatures, flooding, other adverse weather, impact on wildlife, food production.

More extreme weather, rising sea levels

Wildlife and out beautiful surroundings destroyed



We live in low lying land so flooding will one day become a serious issue

Pollution

Changes in weather, therefore causing flooding in the suburbs of Witchford, poor quality roads.

Not enough use of solar panels on roofs of new housing

Quality of life, and everything that flows from it (costs, resource availability, social mobility etc)

A close study of sea levels puts Witchford in a precarious position 10m above current level. local flooding near by meaning Witchford may be cut off from accessing the towns. Animals unable to survive unpredictable climates and growing isn crops becoming too difficult (making sustainable living even harder). Not enough knowledge about the impacts and not enough people caring about it - unless they are directly affected eg when there's a flood and they cant get to work. Not enough people prioritising it.

pollution from traffic, increased risk of flooding due to covering the village in buildings

We loose our wildlife and some variety of plants

Excess emissions will lead to excessive changes to the environment

A) We are already experiencing extremes of weather which will get worse and will threaten our farms' ability to grow food. B) The risk of flooding across the parish will be greatly heightened - in spite of the drainage infrastructure that is already in place. This was not designed with climate change in mind and will not be sufficient to cope with the extremes.

No where is immune to the effects of climate change. We are very rural but being agricultural, not very ecological.

Need to do all we can to make the village more bearable in extreme weathers

Living at sea level means increased risk of flooding

That as high rainfall events become more frequent and more intense, parts of the village will suffer from surface water flooding.

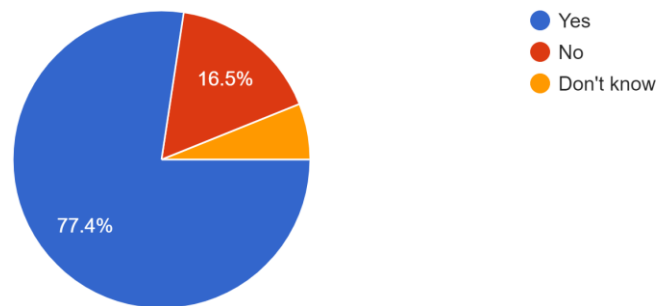
Climate change impacts everybody
Flooding



Flooding more likely, especially with new housing estates placing additional demand on drainage network. Some new developments on land that has historically been crucial for drainage and frequently floods.

The Vision for the current Neighbourhood Plan is 'To value and protect the rural character and community spirit of Witchford, ensuring that futur... the Vision for the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan?

115 responses



If no, please give your reasons and, if applicable, your suggestions for the Vision

The village is becoming a horrible place to live, will soon be joined up with Ely can't wait to move

infrastructure does not support it

Every place needs to evolve and develop

Add " and environmental" between local and needs

Village seriously lacks a Residents' Association to promote schemes such as car share and volunteering

Traffic is a major concern

The plan is a joke given the current level of overdevelopment and lack of planning process

Would like to see commitment to improving community spirit and developing tolerance and empathy along with a collective responsibility

Climate change should be addressed in the NP Objectives

It is important that the rural character and community spirit of Witchford is valued and protected but this needs to be framed in the context of the wider context of protecting the environment and mitigating climate change by becoming a carbon neutral village.



Suitable amenities for the growing population will serve the residents but also cut on car emissions reducing the need to travel further afield for things like a pharmacy

Too late for that with the amount of building work and number of residents within the village. Most moving in don't understand what rural character and village community spirit is and are just trying to get on with life

development seems to happen regardless but we still have no permanent local bus to get people moving where they want to go which are either shops, cinemas, restaurants, sports centres, jobs and medical facilities. Helping people get around would help increase local satisfaction and local revenue.

Perhaps needs something about 'in a sustainable way'

In addition to the current vision there needs to be mention of sustainability.

It isn't working due to excessive development. Lacking infrastructure.

I think there has been enough local development.

Witchford is no longer a village given the amount of new housing in recent years

Too insular. Need to think more widely. If protecting the rural character means blocking windfarms or solar energy, then it's positively counter-productive.

The proposed climate addition must be approved and included.

community spirit particularly, activities and groups for local people that fit the changing needs of people eg to promote mental health.

Add ; additionally Witchford will promote and adopt more sustainable ways of living to improve the local environment.

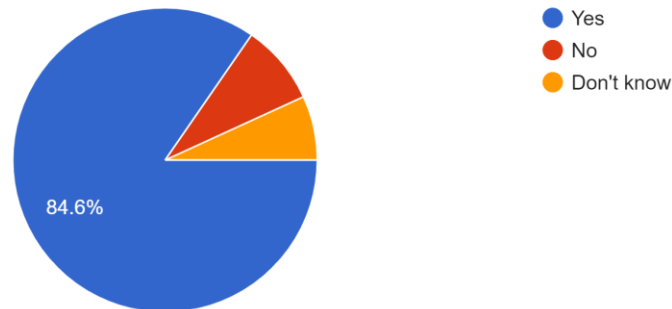
That the Vision should include an objective to take measures to tackle climate change and its impacts.

Greater focus on sustainable growth, both in terms of environmental impact and improving access to public services.



We propose to add a new Objective to the Neighbourhood Plan 'Climate Change: proactively identify and promote climate change mitigation a...ctive should be added to the Neighbourhood Plan?

117 responses



Please write any comments on this proposed new Objective here.

Add the phrase: "with 6-monthly review and publication of progress made."

Although I understand that development is needed, I feel Witchford should stop growing now, virtually all residents use cars and in most households it is 2 or even 3 or 4. Our roads can be gridlocked by the slightest problem and this in itself contributes to greenhouse gasses!

The objective is too vague

Quite simply it's vital

Solar panels should be added to new housing as a matter of course.

I agree we should not actively make things worse and avoid too much development.

Unable to agree until 'proactive' is defined and the associated costs identified and how to be paid for.

Not if I end up with a wind turbine to spoil our view

Should be a consideration in any development plans

Habitats and other species have already been harmed

It should be the priority now.

Fully support



Extreme weather defences could be considered given the low lying fens and flood risks for example

Necessary amendments for current global situation. Proactive

Who's vision are you talking about.

Sounds bonkers

I would like to know more details and how the PC will meet this objective

Planning is fine but it has to be enforced. Sadly we see time and time again that developers get away with ignoring agreed plans and without penalty or repercussion. There has to be genuine penalties for developers which behave in this way.

Again, it would be good to see the village contribute to reducing climate change in as many ways as possible

In reality there is little the Parish Council can do. It is not the planning authority, and does not own any buildings.

Solar panels should be subsidised for all

This doesn't mean just planting a few trees! This means machinery with less emissions and funding to public transport to get workers in and residents to work.

Sounds good but would like to know what this means in practice

There is no need for this objective given that all new development needs to comply with the relevant planning policies at the parish, local and national level. As you are well aware, Witchford falls within the jurisdiction of East Cambs DC who already have policies in place to combat climate change eg Policy ENV4. Plus there is also the recent Climate Change SPD which provides further guidance on how development should address the need to tackle climate change. Given the policy protections in place there is really no need for this additional objective in the Neighbourhood Plan, considering there are mechanisms already at the District level which all new developments have to abide by anyway i.e. this additional objective wouldn't really have any meaningful impact. Regardless of the above, should you proceed with a new climate change policy you will need to ensure that it is compliant with the Local Plan in order for it to be adopted.

To the and keep our current green areas still green as we have lost many wildlife areas to building development. Its so sad to think of the rabbits that I would always see there having to find somewhere else.



Need to accept that change is coming, we just need to decide what kind: the status quo isn't an option. Bluntly, its either windfarms or reduced biodiversity.

Is wide-ranging and will meet the needs of the Parish Council

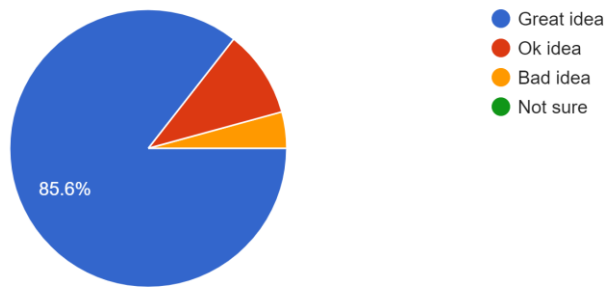
Any mitigation & resilience measures must surely be on at very least a county basis but preferably a country basis

Need concrete plans for how this will be achieved. Does the Parish Council have a dedicated sustainability specialist?

Climate change mitigation measures.

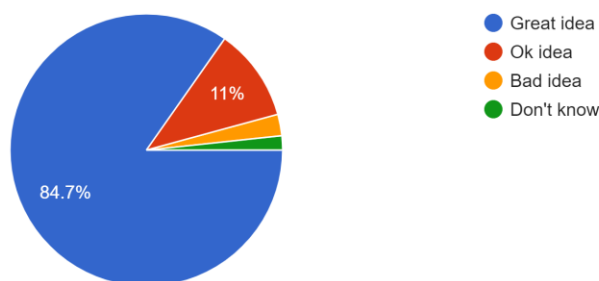
Provide or improve green infrastructure (including hedges, grassed areas and trees) to help reduce temperatures in the local area and remove CO2 from the atmosphere.

118 responses



Improve the environmental performance of home and other buildings by designing buildings so that they need less energy to keep warm

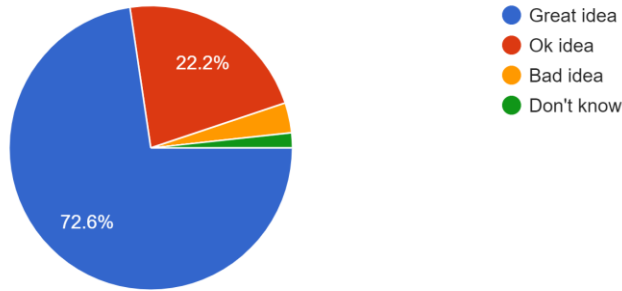
118 responses





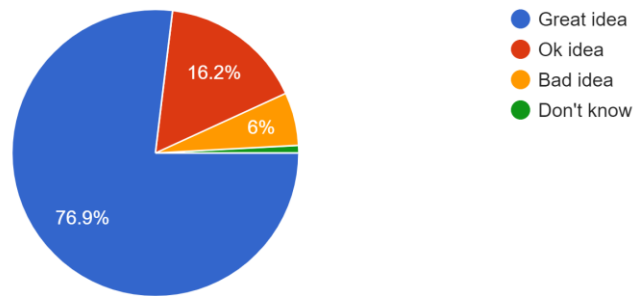
Improve the environmental performance of home and other buildings by heating them efficiently using low carbon technologies

117 responses



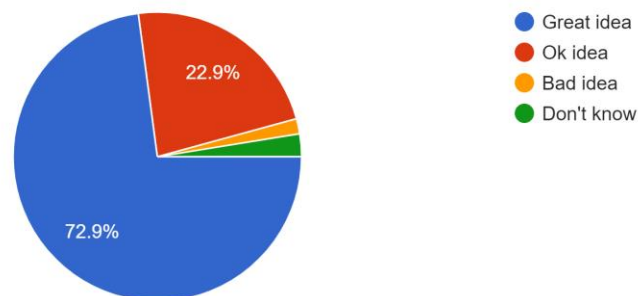
Increase the amount of renewable energy generation in the village to power and heat existing and new homes and other buildings

117 responses



Make it easier for us to walk or cycle to places

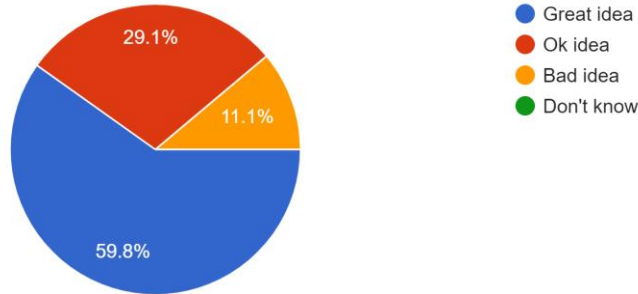
118 responses





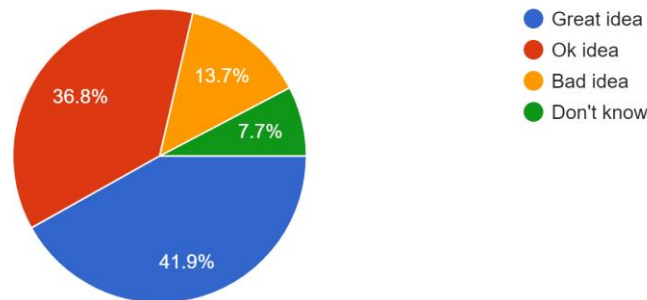
Reduce our need to travel by car, van or motorcycle

117 responses



Provide community charging points for electric vehicles

117 responses



Do you have any other ideas to help Witchford reduce its contribution to climate change

Stop building all these horrible ugly housing estate's

Do not build any more properties than already planned. Use surrounding areas to plant more

Mini turbines using the movement of traffic and wind to produce electricity.

Parking is bad enough as it is, what is meant by community charging points, do you mean communal (ie shared) or multiple separate ones for electric vehicles. To provide either will involve a major update to the electrical supply in the area and using wind-power is not a practical option as it will destroy the look and feel of our rural community as well as not producing power when the wind is too high or wind stops

.
we need a map of Witchford with cycleways and paths connected



Stop building using cement & steel! Production of cement & steel accounts for 16% of global CO2 emissions.

Community Car Loan Scheme.

Reduce traffic

Stop the the bullshit, you've already caused irreparable damage

Make a mandatory requirement that all new residential properties built in Witchford must incorporate PV Solar Panels, Air or Ground-Source Heat Pumps, Solar Hot Water Heating Panels and Rainwater Harvesting facility.

More frequent bus routes

Stop further building on green spaces to retain biodiversity.

Stop building on greenfield sites

solar panels on industrial building roofs plus central battery storage

More regular bus service. I would use if it was every 20 minutes but every 2 hours isn't helpful for most people

the population is mostly elderly and mobility impaired. You're asking them to walk or cycle more. Sounds utterly bonkers. Also planting trees which end up dying is a total waste of money. Stop finding ways to waste public money. This only works if done well and the trees actually survive. Which means managing the things you plant. Not plopping them in the ground and hoping for the best.

Move to improve the bus service to avoid car use

Community advisors on renewable energy sources. Improved recycling - eg village teracycle collection points.

Sustainable food sources, reduced single use plastic.

Look to to see if grants available / support grants for residents who wish to insulate their existing properties or change to lower carbon / renewable. Publicise schemes / funding available for Witchford residents

Put in more drainage that have been taken away by new homes to prevent flooding eg behind new houses on Barton Close



Insist on low emission transport to schools. Only allow disabled parking within 200m of Rackham. Permits for on street parking.

A bus style service to take teenagers and/or adults to the hive leisure village even if it's only weekends or just a Saturday. I feel kids don't have the freedom of being able to travel to places on their own and the route to walk to leisure centre is still I feel not safe. The roads to cross are very busy and the cycle route has a lot of hiding places to be attacked or followed.

Stop over development

Regarding the previous question- I am not convinced that electric cars are the answer. Concerns about the impact of producing them and disposing of batteries. Also the low miles per gallon of some hybrid cars. Concerned about companies (motor industry and others) who are making a great deal of money out of the "environment issues" and probably are not actually bothered about the environment at all.

All new homes should have solar panels installed

Village weekly 'farmers market' where anyone in the village can their bring extra home grown veg / food to sell /swap, regular craft market etc - locally produced products

Stop having large building sites. They increase the amount of vehicles and damage the environment. I get the need for housing but cramming houses into every corner increased stress on the environment, eco systems and the local infrastructure

All new properties should have solar panels

To build a foot bridge over the A10 therefore villagers would be encouraged and feel safer when cycling or walking instead of using a vehicle.

Large village-owned wind turbine(s), which directly reduce the energy costs of locals.

Communal geothermal energy generation? Biomass electricity generator?

Surely you mean increase it's contribution?

Educate the children and young people of the village, presentations in schools etc? Encourage young people to take part in conservation and promote good nature connection so they care about their community and its green spaces eg by allowing them to play and learn in it. Teach them about climate change and how it affects them now and in the future.

It would be great to have an electric car in the village for hire by villagers/carshare.

Sustainable energy to public buildings in Witchford. Give planning priority to those developers offering most sustainable buildings (including industrial units) .



We make sure residents recycle more. Some never use the green wheelie bin.

Within the scope of the NP, no.

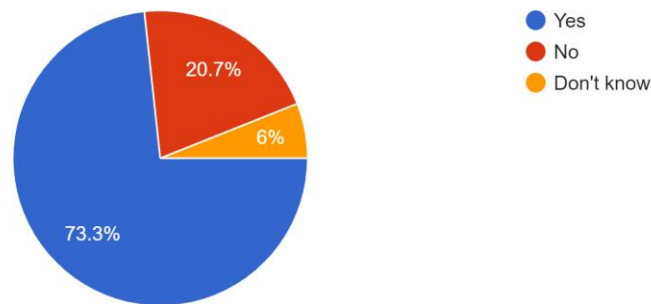
Just to educate people in the village about how important it is

Communal (village) heating with energy efficient central system

Really promote and enable access to public transport. The congestion on Main Street around the Rackham at the start and end of the school day suggests that far too many people are unnecessarily driving their kids to school.

Do you support 20mph zones in residential areas?

116 responses



Please write any comments here

The whole village should be 20 mph including common road from the bypass which seems to get forgotten about

If only people would abide by them

Having seen across London and see the positive impact on speed, which not only is a H&S improvement but also reduces emissions of particulates, it is a good idea

Keep consistent with other villages and Ely. If this is imposed, then ensure relevant providers are notified so maps can reflect the new speed.

20 mph zones only make drivers more frustrated and irritable.

Safety issues must always be prominent,



This does not address the climate issue

Housing estates need 20mph. But it might be good to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village by using the 20mph zones but not necessarily after entry. Slow vehicles can make more pollution than slightly faster ones.

As the vast majority of streets in Witchford are residential this really means making all of Witchford a 20 mph zone. Call it like it is please.

enforcement is the problem - sleeping policemen?

Lower pollution and increased safety

Laughable given the level of overdevelopment

Ensure speed restrictions in Witchford are enforced.

Unenforceable but send a good message

I support 20mph zones in local residential areas where children may be at play but not village wide as they contribute to pollution from vehicle emissions.

Although as people have trouble keeping to 30Imdoubt they will keep to 20

hardly anyone takes any notice of the 20 limit on field end so why add more without enforcement?

20mph increases pollution as typical cars run at around 23mph in 3rd gear (too fast for 20mph speed limit), but the natural speed of a car in 2nd gear is too slow, so the fuel pedal is pushed more to reach 20mph, using more fuel

20 mph zone near school would be particularly useful

Reducing travel by vehicle is a great idea but then many people have to travel to their place of work by car. Additionally, consideration has to be given to the transportation of goods/haulage. Addressing practicalities on a grand scale won't be easy.

20mph zones may help with safety but their performance in terms of environmental impact is less certain. 30mph works fine as a speed limit

I don't understand the question about designing building for Witchford. What does this have to do with the Parish Council?



I would value traffic calming on main street and on the entrance from a142 to common road as many cars use village as rat run and is dangerous

You put 20 they drive at 30 so lower the better!

This is a concern for me, it is often unsafe down Field End when the workmen leave the new Bovis site. Please could we have more signage ?

The bulk of the measures suggested above are going to be accounted for in the upcoming building regulations amendments. Further info on this can be found when researching the 'Future Buildings Standard'.

Increased planting is an excellent idea - will help with temperature cooling and also provide mental health benefits if extra green spaces are created or existing ones expanded. I appreciate the desire to reduce the need to travel by private motor vehicles but at the end of the day this is just unrealistic. We can keep pushing this narrative until we're blue in the face but the reality is that there is a psychological preference for travelling in your own vehicle, for various reasons e.g. comfort, convenience etc. You can of course encourage behavioural change (better cycling links in the village, for example) but people will always use cars. Even in the optimistic assumption that Witchford was provided with an improved bus service, say you had to travel to Cambridge - given the choice, would you actually walk to a bus stop, wait for a bus, travel to Ely and then get on another bus or the train to Cambridge? Or would you just hop in your car and drive there? I would wager the vast majority would choose the latter option given the convenience, comfort, time saved etc. I'm not entirely sure why you have shoehorned in a proposal for a 20mph speed limit - this has nothing to do with climate change. Either way I think this would only be needed for areas of high pedestrian activity i.e. the area around the primary school on Main Street.

Create community garden. Allows people to get food for not only cheaper but with less effects on our planet

Need enforcement, fines ploughed back into village amenities

essential for keeping children safe too

Speed bumps on Main Street More dog waste bins
20mph zones should only be installed when there is a consolidated identified need.

What will be classed as residential?

Unless stringently enforced 20 MPH limits would be mostly ignored, even more than 30 MPH limits. Realistically, to reduce motor vehicle usage in areas like Witchford the level of public transport needed would either be too expensive to use or costly to subsidize. Until electric



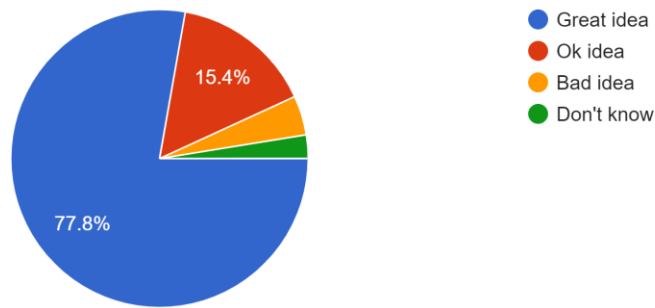
vehicles are more affordable with a decent range only a relative few would need community charging points.

May not reduce CO2 emissions, but will make streets safer.

Climate change resilience measures

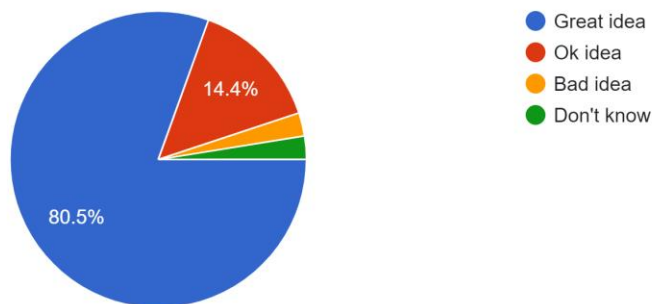
Adapting to higher temperatures by planting trees and vegetation to provide shading in public spaces

117 responses



Reduce flood damage during periods of heavy rainfall by increasing tree and hedgerow planting

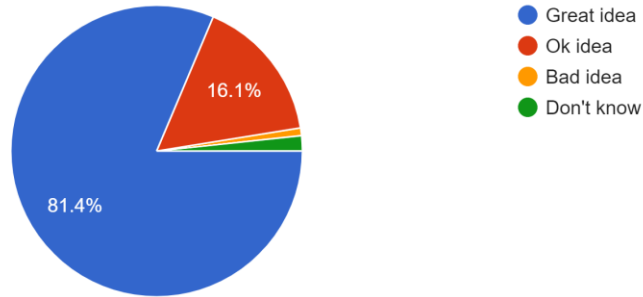
118 responses





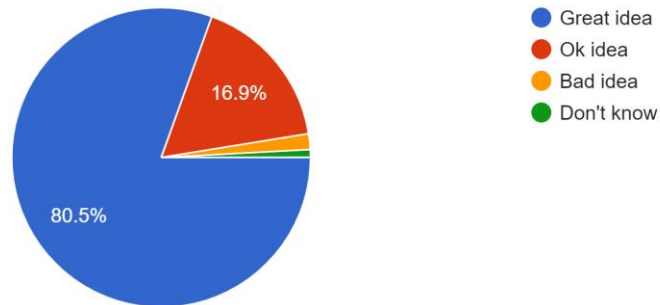
Protect and increase flood storage assets such as drains, ditches and open spaces to absorb rainwater

118 responses



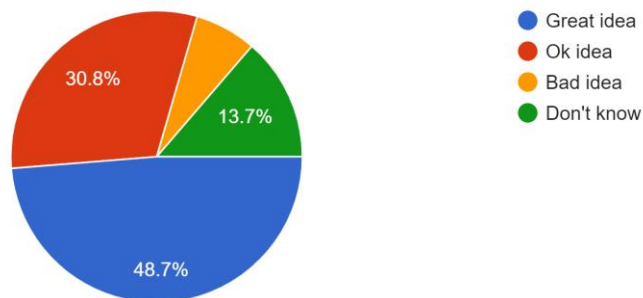
Retain or increase gardens and verges which have an important role in absorbing rainwater

118 responses



Install green roofs on buildings

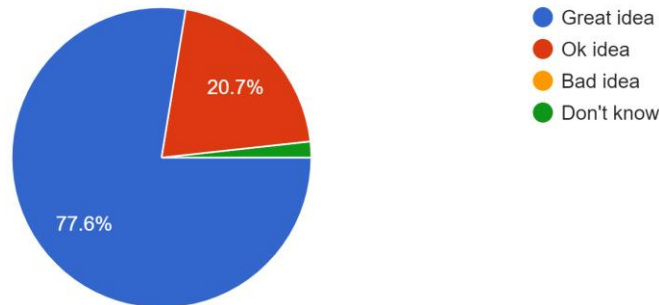
117 responses





Help wildlife cope with climate change through protecting and improving their habitat.

116 responses



Do you have other ideas to help Witchford parish be more resilient to climate change

Stop building 😞 😞

Stop giving out planning permission

Got a question : what do you mean by a green roof ?

My answers have nothing to do with "climate change", more that they are just good ideas for wildlife and sensible countryside management.

Community car hire scheme. Traffic calming to stop pollution from rat run traffic using Grunty Fen.

Support for residents who need help to deal with high and low temperatures

Stop the overdevelopment

All new residences built must include Rainwater Harvesting

Create underground water storage

Stronger cycle and bus routes into Ely and Cambridge, restoration of wetlands and other habitats around Witchford

Keep communal grassed area maintained especially underneath shaded areas so families can sit/congregate in hot weather out doors and children can play outside



Protect existing wildlife. Green spaces and trees is a cost effective method. It's tried and tested. As opposed to planting things which may or may not survive. Maybe set up a local Wildlife trust who can manage the local area.

Increase community resources in the village to save driving into Ely eg doctors, council services.

Hold developers to account when they flout planning permission or build to sub-standard

Making resources such as wood chips and mulch available for gardens and water retention

Sort out a regular bus service to reduce the need to use a car.

Change law to ban artificial lawns and paving over front lawns. Increase taxes if more than one car registered at a property.

Stop building houses without added better infrastructure

Add rainwater collection points at the allotments so we can reuse this water. Or just in general rainwater collection points for the community.

Communal space with eco-heating and air-con to be opened as emergency spaces during weather extremes. Mandated ratio of built-up vs green space in new developments. Better local shops, so we don't drive to Ely for everything.

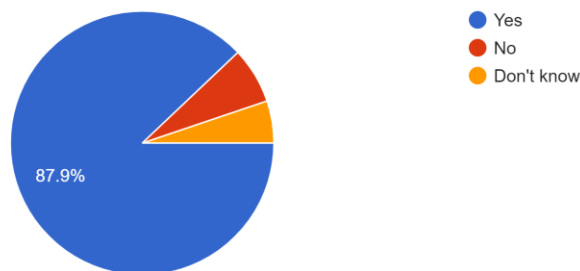
all these are fab

Plant swap within the community

Push for hard limit on number of new houses that can be built. Witchford's current growth rate is simply unsustainable in all meanings of the word.

Are you in favour of renewable energy technology such as solar power, wind power or air/heat source pumps?

116 responses





Please write any comments here

Waste of money

Heat source pumps don't work atm

Make the installation of solar panels on roofs more affordable by using the bargaining clout of the Council to purchase panels cheaper on behalf of residents.

Prioritise heat pumps they work when the sun doesn't shine or the wind doesn't blow

Most properties are privately owned, so the costs will be born to the owner

The impact of building solar farms and wind farms will have a detrimental effect on the countryside and the well-being of nearby residents. I am in favour of renewable energy sources such as solar panels on every new build but not massive energy farms in rural locations

I favour wind and solar power but not air heat source. I am not sure about ground source heat.

Solar panels in fields and on roofs looks ugly. Wind power only works when its not too windy and when the wind is strong enough, they are not good for birdlife and destroy the rural outlook which is one of the major objectives of the plan.

Forget air/heat pumps, waste of money.

Have a look at the Swaffham Bulbeck heat network scheme.

Not at any price. Needs to be balanced approach.

I don't think your serious

See my previous comments above.

Price for such measures is currently unaffordable for most working residents. These should be subsidised by councils.

hey have to be cost effective as well as climate helping

who will bear the costs of the above?

But have to be reasonably priced and affordable to all



I am in favour of renewable energy but not as the only source of energy. This country could use a few nuclear power plants. And this village needs a regular bus service especially if you intend to make it harder for people to drive.

It is great idea but not financially viable for me.

There needs to be more information available regarding renewable energy technology and how it would affect us individually.

It would be good to have some signposting from WPC re local / national funding schemes available for residents

It would be good to have more collective schemes repeated often

Not in favour of wind turbines. Solar/air source are a great idea

it would be great if any future new builds (individual properties or larger developments) had to include at least once source of renewable energy

I have concerns about the way in which open countryside is being urbanised by solar panels. This also takes away valuable farmland.

Currently too expensive given the cost of living crisis currently

The idea of retaining gardens (presumably as green spaces) would conflict with national permitted development rights about what you can do in your garden eg erect outbuildings, add paving slabs etc. Such an idea would not be enforceable. Green roofs are an ok suggestion but it should not be a requirement for all new development to have them; this would be unrealistic and there is a risk of lack of maintenance given the required upkeep and associated costs. If you were to propose such a policy, you could phrase it in a positive, rather than negative way e.g. 'the inclusion of green roofs in new development will be supported'. This therefore doesn't make it a requirement but still provides encouragement for those who wish to provide green roofs. Protecting and improving habitat - already required at the local planning policy level, with developments soon having to provide a 10% net gain in biodiversity (as of November this year).

Have a windmill in the village. More solar panels on the new build homes.

The initial expense of such systems is what stops adoption (it did us on several occasions). Communally owned infrastructure might bring it within reach, for a monthly fee?

Are these not mandated for the new homes?

Grants for air source heat pumps and solar panels would be so good! We'd definitely take it



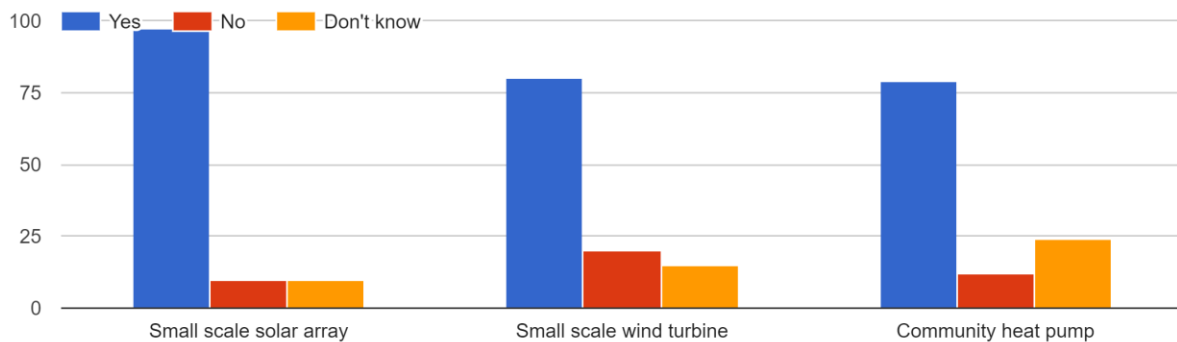
more info needed on the impact of all the hardware for these technologies and whether they can be re-cycled .

Renewable energy systems need to be balanced with all other forms of energy generation (is not all eggs in one basket)

Even if buildings are very well insulated air/heat source pumps do not heat to the level currently enjoyed. In addition super insulated buildings can suffer from condensation issues due to lack of ventilation, the paradox being simple ventilation causes heat loss. So using such pumps requires high levels of investment in insulation & ventilation systems.

Ending/dramatically reducing reliance on fossil fuels is a commitment that we must honour.

Would you support the provision of a small scale renewable energy scheme in the parish to generate energy specifically for Witchford?



Do you have any other comments about the issues in this survey?

We support all small scale energy schemes but seem only to be able to highlight two

It's all it is comments, no ideas as to how this would be implemented

But see last comment

We must learn to look on wind turbines and solar panels as part of our 21st century monuments... better to have them than no world for our grandchildren!

Only if agreed by the community for the community

Would need more information about any community heat pump as with the number of new properties springing up around the village this will require a very large facility. Also does the pc have any idea on the design and location of such a resource.



Climate change happens, who knew!

I believe the wind turbines are noisy and heat pumps have their own problems with installation and efficiency

The Parish Council already has a policy regarding wind turbines and their location.

Depends on location of turbine or solar panels.

No

Many of the questions do not identify the benefits or impacts of the measures so sometimes difficult to give reasoned comment. A short commentary to the purpose of the questions would be helpful

It could help reduce the impact of housing on climate change if houses built in Witchford are carbon neutral from the outset. An example of a carbon neutral prototype house is the Energy House 2.0 (more information at energyhouse2.salford.ac.uk/energy-house-labs/barratt-z-house). It would be great if it could be written into the neighbourhood plan that increasing percentages of new houses built by certain dates had to be carbon neutral to gain planning approval from the parish council.

Would be keen that any noise generating renewable energy source was positioned with consideration of the prevailing wind so quiet enjoyment of gardens and open spaces was preserved as much as possible

More pressure should be placed on national and regional political parties by local parishes to have a sustainable planned and funded process. It's no good some places doing all this stuff whilst others do nothing.

I'd also support a local nuclear power plant. It's also clean energy. Cleaner than massive building developments.

Good to be asked

The answer to question above is Yes in theory but again, the devil is in the detail; more information needs to be shared to enable understanding/impact of these provisions. The governments objections to onshore wind power generation is inexplicable and very short sighted. It has been demonstrated to be the cheapest form of generation. A clear case of NIMBYism it would seem

Sites would need to be carefully considered



Wind turbines can be noisy that is my only concern.

So many people use the car for the school run. Surely this isn't necessary. What about introducing walking buses? Increased public transport needs addressing too

Depending on where these were placed

Yes in theory - but it would depend on the detail

I have answered yes to the above but would need to know more to give my full approval
There is little point worrying about climate change when the UK only emits 2% of global emissions, with Witchford probably accounting for 0.000000000000000000000000015 of them, if that! Unfortunately the sad truth is that the bulk of emissions stem from developing nations who prioritise economic prosperity over climate change. To put things into perspective - it is estimated that there are 120 million Russians who do not have access to an indoor toilet. Do you think these people, who are clearly living in or close to poverty, really care about climate change given their circumstances? If we also look at China, Xi Jinping has to focus on economic prosperity given the rampant countryside poverty.

The UK can of course continue to lead by example, but the impacts are going to be minimal given this is a global issue. The only real solution is for humanity to continue to develop technologies which have a low cost e.g. continue to heavily focus on renewable energy and improve the technology to make it more cost-effective and thus adoptable around the world.

When doing this it's important to not take up too much room or if you do have something else there

People worry about the value of their homes - do stuff that adds value, rather than just creating what some people see as eye-sores. Wind turbines are unpopular with NIMBYs unless they provide a direct benefit to the locals affected. Community schemes that reduce costs or provide a degree of energy supply "continuity" make houses more valuable, not less.

Improving the way we live to reduce climate change is a good idea, but there are many different views on the solutions and the speed at which change should take place. Therefore, it is difficult to answer this survey with certainty as this would require a greater level of detail.

Small scale renewable energy schemes should also provide an income for community benefits in the village.

All public buildings should have solar panels on their roofs

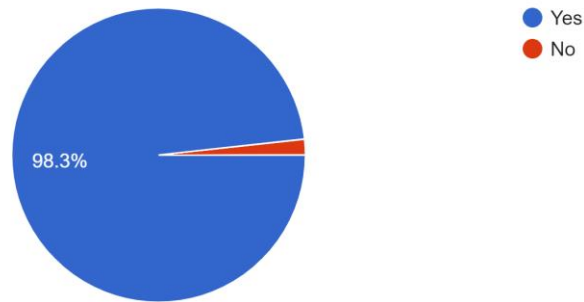
Solar arrays and wind turbines probably the most cost effective option.



Please help us monitor how representative our feedback is by answering the following questions

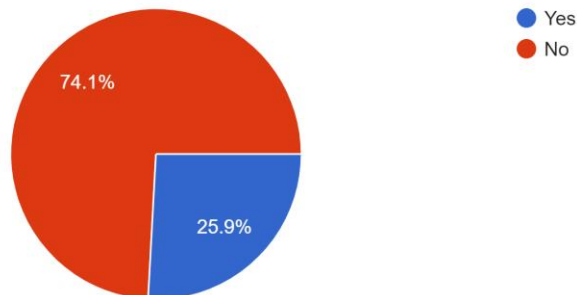
Do you live in the parish or village of Witchford

115 responses



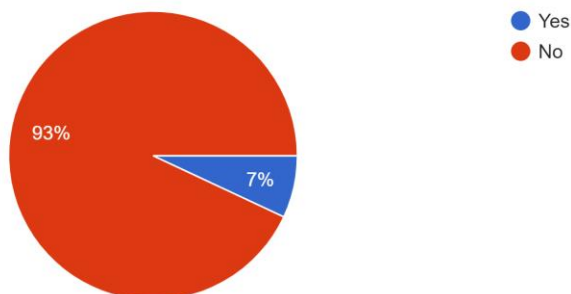
Do you work in the parish or village of Witchford?

116 responses



Do you go to school in the parish or village of Witchford?

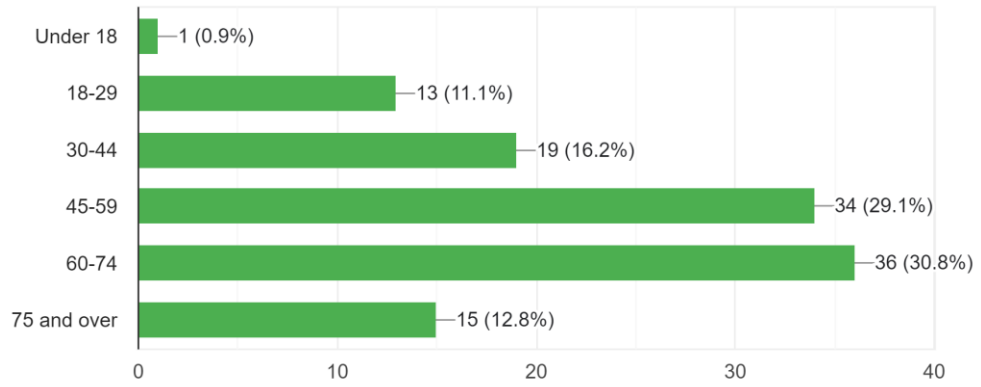
115 responses

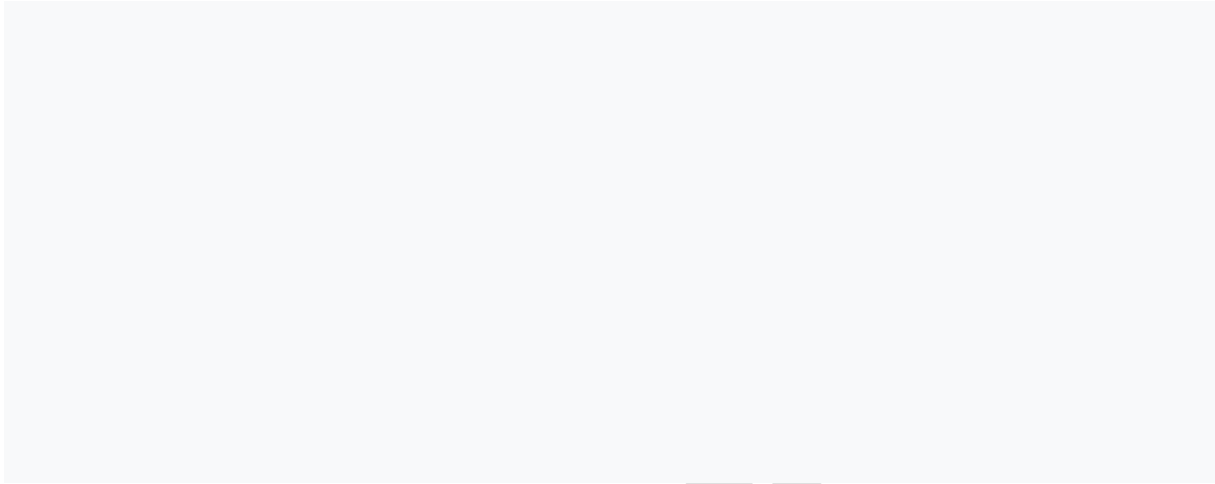




How old are you?

117 responses





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APPENDIX 7

Tabulated summary of text comments made by Witchford residents during the initial consultation survey 28th December 2022 – 31st January 2023 and the SIR Steering Group's recommended responses

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan SIR (Climate Change)

Residents' Consultation January 2023

Number	Comment from Survey	Parish Council response
6.1	Every place needs to evolve and develop.	Agreed and noted
6.2	Add " and environmental" between local and needs	Agreed and will be incorporated
6.3	Would like to see commitment to improving community spirit and developing tolerance and empathy along with a collective responsibility	Agreed but not within the scope of the WNP.
6.4	It is important that the rural character and community spirit of Witchford is valued and protected but this needs to be framed in the context of the wider context of protecting the environment and mitigating climate change by becoming a carbon neutral village.	Agreed and noted
6.5	Suitable amenities for the growing population will serve the residents but also cut on car emissions reducing the need to travel further afield for things like a pharmacy	Agreed and would be supported by the PC if proposed
6.6	Perhaps needs something about 'in a sustainable way'	Agreed and will be incorporated
6.7	In addition to the current vision there needs to be mention of sustainability.	Agreed and will be incorporated
6.8	Too insular. Need to think more widely. If protecting the rural character means blocking windfarms or solar energy, then it's positively counter-productive.	It is agreed that renewable technology such as wind turbines and solar energy can have adverse impacts on landscape and settlement character when sited in the wrong places and/or when schemes are

		not design and landscape led. But the two aspects are not always in tension with each other.
6.9	The proposed climate addition must be approved and included.	Agreed
6.10	Community spirit particularly, activities and groups for local people that fit the changing needs of people eg to promote mental health. community spirit particularly, activities and groups for local people that fit the changing needs of people eg to promote mental health.	Agreed but not within the scope of the WNP.
6.11	Add ; additionally Witchford will promote and adopt more sustainable ways of living to improve the local environment.	Agreed and will be incorporated.
6.12	That the Vision should include an objective to take measures to tackle climate change and its impacts	Agreed and noted
6.13	Greater focus on sustainable growth, both in terms of environmental impact and improving access to public services.	Agreed and noted. Although note the limited scope of NP to deliver improvements to public services

Question 8

Responses on proposed new Objective

Number	Comment from Survey	Parish Council response
8.1	Add the phrase: "with 6-monthly review and publication of progress made."	A periodic review is proposed but will also depend on availability of resources as members of both the PC and the Witchford Climate Action Group are volunteers.
8.2	The objective is too vague	The objective is there to provide an overall description of what is to be achieved. The details are in the rest of the Plan
8.3	I agree we should not actively make things worse and avoid too much development	Noted
8.4	Unable to agree until 'proactive' is defined and the associated costs	The WNP is there to provide boundaries and targets to be achieved

Number	Comment from Survey	Parish Council response
	identified and how to be paid for.	for development of the village in line with the general objectives. Policies in the WNP will apply to applicants bringing forward development proposals
8.5	Not if I end up with a wind turbine to spoil our view	Noted. The importance of protecting and enhancing landscape and settlement character is covered in the policies in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan. We will not be amending these.
8.6	Should be a consideration in any development plans	Noted
8.7	Extreme weather defences could be considered given the low lying fens and flood risks for example	Noted The Plan promotes measures to reduce flooding due to extreme events which would overwhelm older drainage systems
8.8	Necessary amendments for current global situation. Proactive	Noted
8.9	I would like to know more details and how the PC will meet this objective	This is set out in the WNP
8.10	Planning is fine but it has to be enforced. Sadly we see time and time again that developers get away with ignoring agreed plans and without penalty or repercussion. There has to be genuine penalties for developers which behave in this way.	Noted. We agree that enforcement is an important part of the process
8.11	Again, it would be good to see the village contribute to reducing climate change in as many ways as possible	Agreed and noted
8.12	Solar panels should be subsidised for all	Noted but not within the scope of the policies in the NP to influence this
8.13	This doesn't mean just planting a few trees! This means machinery with less emissions and funding to public transport to get workers in and residents to work.	Noted but not within the scope of the NP

Number	Comment from Survey	Parish Council response
8.14	Sounds good but would like to know what this means in practice	Details are set out in the WNP
8.15	There is no need for this objective given that all new development needs to comply with the relevant planning policies at the parish, local and national level. As you are well aware, Witchford falls within the jurisdiction of East Cambs DC who already have policies in place to combat climate change eg Policy ENV4. Plus there is also the recent Climate Change SPD which provides further guidance on how development should address the need to tackle climate change. Given the policy protections in place there is really no need for this additional objective in the Neighbourhood Plan, considering there are mechanisms already at the District level which all new developments have to abide by anyway i.e. this additional objective wouldn't really have any meaningful impact. Regardless of the above, should you proceed with a new climate change policy you will need to ensure that it is compliant with the Local Plan in order for it to be adopted.	Noted. The Witchford NP adds value and strengthens existing policies set out in the ECDC Local Plan and ensures that specific local issues are addressed.
8.16	To the and keep our current green areas still green as we have lost many wildlife areas to building development. Its so sad to think of the rabbits that I would always see there having to find somewhere else.	Noted The WNP incorporates protection for biodiversity
8.17	Need to accept that change is coming, we just need to decide what kind: the status quo isn't an option. Bluntly, its either windfarms or reduced biodiversity.	Agreed and noted.
8.18	Any mitigation & resilience measures must surely be on at very least a county basis but preferably a country basis	Noted and agreed. However, parish level action also has an important role to play
8.19	Need concrete plans for how this will be achieved. Does the Parish Council have a dedicated sustainability specialist?	The 'how' is through the implementation of the WNP The PC does not have a dedicated sustainability specialist. What expertise there is comes from the volunteers in the Open Spaces

Number	Comment from Survey	Parish Council response
		and Witchford Climate Action Groups

Question 16

Do you have any other ideas to help Witchford reduce its contribution to climate change

27 comments are listed below

Number	Comment from survey	Parish Council response
16.1	Do not build any more properties than already planned. Use surrounding areas to plant more	The adopted Witchford WNP defines a settlement boundary and restricts development outside of this settlement boundary. This, in practice, has the effect of managing future growth. However, it is not within the gift of a NP or a Local Plan to place an actual cap on dwelling numbers.
16.2	Mini turbines using the movement of traffic and wind to produce electricity.	These sorts of turbines have been successfully used in some cities where there is significant traffic movement but are not a practical solution for rural areas.
16.3	We need a map of Witchford with cycleways and paths connected	Agreed. This is something the Parish Council is actively considering
16.4	Community Car Loan Scheme.	This is outside the scope of the WNP
16.5	Make a mandatory requirement that all new residential properties built in Witchford must incorporate PV Solar Panels, Air or Ground-Source Heat Pumps, Solar Hot Water Heating Panels and Rainwater Harvesting facility.	Agree all these aspects are important, so long as they are part of an overall design that minimises the energy demand of the building in the first place (e.g. through good insulation, orientation, fabric, airtightness etc) The WNP seeks to promote these. However the mandatory requirements are set out in the Building Regulations
16.6	More frequent bus routes	We agree the improvement of bus services is an important part of addressing current challenges with respect to climate change.

		However, this falls outside the scope of a planning policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.
16.7	Stop further building on green spaces to retain biodiversity.	The adopted Witchford NP defines a settlement boundary and restricts development outside of this settlement boundary. This, in practice, has the effect of managing future growth. However, it is not within the gift of a NP or a Local Plan to place an actual cap on dwelling numbers.
16.8	Solar panels on industrial building roofs plus central battery storage	Noted and incorporated in the WNP update. However, the WNP will only have influence where planning consent is required
16.9	More regular bus service.	We agree the improvement of bus services is an important part of addressing current challenges with respect to climate change. This falls outside the scope of a planning policy in the WNP
16.10	Move to improve the bus service to avoid car use	We agree the improvement of bus services is an important part of addressing current challenges with respect to climate change. This falls outside the scope of a planning policy in the WNP
16.11	Community advisors on renewable energy sources.	Currently outside the remit of a policy in the WNP. The Witchford Climate Action Group is part of the ECDC Climate Partnership Forum is supporting a new website where advice will be centralised.
16.12	Improved recycling - eg village teracycle collection points.	This is beyond the scope of the WNP but it is something the Parish Council would support
16.13	Look to to see if grants available / support grants for residents who wish to insulate their existing properties or change to lower carbon / renewable. Publicise schemes / funding available for Witchford residents	ECDC have a page on grants on their website. The WCAG website also provides some information which is regularly updated
16.14	Put in more drainage that have been taken away by new homes to prevent flooding	It is part of the planning process that any developments ensure existing and future drainage is adequate.
16.15	A bus style service to take teenagers and/or adults to the hive leisure	Unfortunately, bus services are beyond the scope of the NP

	village even if it's only weekends or just a Saturday.	
16.16	All new homes should have solar panels installed	Agree all these aspects are important, so long as they are part of an overall design that minimises the energy demand of the building in the first place (e.g. through good insulation, orientation, fabric, airtightness etc) The WNP seeks to promote these. However the mandatory requirements are set out in the Building Regulations
16.17	Village weekly 'farmers market' where anyone in the village can their bring extra home grown veg / food to sell /swap, regular craft market etc - locally produced products	Agreed and noted However, it is outside the scope of the WNP.
16.18	All new properties should have solar panels	Agree all these aspects are important, so long as they are part of an overall design that minimises the energy demand of the building in the first place (e.g. through good insulation, orientation, fabric, airtightness etc). The NP seeks to promote these and other actions But building regulations would have to be updated to ensure this happens..
16.19	To build a foot bridge over the A10 therefore villagers would be encouraged and feel safer when cycling or walking instead of using a vehicle.	Agreed, Policy WNP C1 in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan seeks this
16.20	Large village-owned wind turbine(s), which directly reduce the energy costs of locals.	The WNP supports this in principle but the delivery will depend on community led/PC led initiative
16.21	Communal geothermal energy generation? Biomass electricity generator?	The WNP supports the provision of renewable sources of energy where appropriate
16.22	Educate the children and young people of the village, presentations in schools etc? Encourage young people to take part in conservation and promote good nature connection so they care about their community and its green spaces eg by allowing them to play and learn in it. Teach them about climate change and how it affects them now and in the future.	Agreed but outside the scope of the WNP.

16.23	It would be great to have an electric car in the village for hire by villagers/carshare.	Noted. But this is outside the scope of the WNP
16.24	Sustainable energy to public buildings in Witchford. Give planning priority to those developers offering most sustainable buildings (including industrial units).	Planning policy dealing with this will be added to the policy chapter of the plan
16.25	We make sure residents recycle more Just to educate people in the village about how important it is	Noted. One of the aims of the WCAG is to promote better understanding of climate impact and resilience as well as the importance of sustainable activity such as recycling. However, it is outside the scope of the WNP
16.26	Just to educate people in the village about how important it is	Noted. However, it is outside the scope of the WNP
16.27	Communal (village) heating with energy efficient central system	The WNP supports this in principle but the delivery will depend on community led/PC led initiative and would need to demonstrate an overall benefit both in terms of cost as well as environmentally
16.28	Really promote and enable access to public transport.	We agree the improvement of bus services is an important part of addressing current challenges with respect to climate change. This falls outside the scope of a planning policy in the WNP

Question 25 ‘Do you have other ideas to help Witchford parish be more resilient to climate change?’

Only responses that are constructive comments with suggestions that could be taken forward are included in this table.

18 comments are listed below

Number	Comment from survey	Parish Council response
25.1	Community car hire scheme.	Noted. But this is outside the scope of the WNP
25.2	Traffic calming to stop pollution from rat run traffic using Grunty Fen.	

25.3	Support for residents who need help to deal with high and low temperatures	Support for residents is outside the scope of the WNP However, we will incorporate cooling, shading and air tight buildings as part of new policy in the WNP as part of the long term target for more sustainable and effective housing.
25.4	All new residences built must include Rainwater Harvesting	This will be included in the WNP as part of the policies for new housing stock. ECDC is currently looking at ways to work with Anglian Water to provide and install water butts
25.5	Create underground water storage	Sustainable Drainage Systems which involve storage of rainwater to attenuate flows to watercourses will be included in the new WNP policies.
25.6	Stronger cycle and bus routes into Ely and Cambridge	The WNP already encourages the establishment of cycling routes We agree the improvement of bus services is an important part of addressing current challenges with respect to climate change. This falls outside the scope of a planning policy in the WNP
25.7	Restoration of wetlands and other habitats around Witchford	Policy WNP – GI3 Development and Biodiversity in the currently adopted WNP seeks the creation, restoration and enhancement of habitats for the benefit of species.
25.8	Keep communal grassed area maintained especially underneath shaded areas so families can sit/congregate in hot weather out doors and children can play outside	This is outside the scope of the WNP.
25.9	Protect existing wildlife. Green spaces and trees is a cost effective method. It's tried and tested. As opposed to planting things which may or may not survive. Maybe set up a local Wildlife trust who can manage the local area	The protection of biodiversity is already included in the WNP. This is being strengthened in the revisions to the plan There already exist a number of volunteer organisations which look to both protect existing wildlife areas such as the Open Spaces Group.
25.10	Increase community resources in the village to save driving into Ely eg doctors, council services.	Noted and agreed.
25.11	Making resources such as wood chips and mulch available for gardens and water retention	This is outside the scope of the WNP. Composted material is available free from the Waterbeach waste

		recycling site
25.12	Sort out a regular bus service to reduce the need to use a car.	We agree the improvement of bus services is an important part of addressing current challenges with respect to climate change. This falls outside the scope of a planning policy in the WNP
25.13	Add rainwater collection points at the allotments so we can reuse this water. Or just in general rainwater collection points for the community	Noted This is outside the scope of the WNP
25.14	Communal space with eco-heating and air-con to be opened as emergency spaces during weather extremes.	Noted This is outside the scope of the WNP
25.15	Mandated ratio of built-up vs green space in new developments.	Noted.
25.16	Better local shops, so we don't drive to Ely for everything.	The WNP is limited in controlling quality of local shops. However, the adopted WNP does protect existing community facilities see Policy WNP IC3
25.17	Plant swap within the community	Agreed and noted
25.18	Push for hard limit on number of new houses that can be built	The adopted Witchford NP defines a settlement boundary and restricts development outside of this settlement boundary. This, in practice, has the effect of managing future growth. However, it is not within the gift of a NP or a Local Plan to place an actual cap on dwelling numbers.

Question 29 'Do you have any other comments about the issues in this survey?'

Only responses that are constructive comments with suggestions that could be taken forward are included in this table.

8 comments are listed below

Number	Comment from survey	Parish Council response
29.1	We must learn to look on wind turbines and solar panels as part of our 21st century monuments	Agreed and noted
29.2	Would need more information about any community heat pump as with the number of new properties springing up around the village this will require a very large facility. Also does the pc have any idea on the	Agreed and noted

	design and location of such a resource.	
29.2	It could help reduce the impact of housing on climate change if houses built in Witchford are carbon neutral from the outset. An example of a carbon neutral prototype house is the Engergy House 2.0 (more information at energyhouse2.salford.ac.uk/energy-house-labs/barratt-z-house). It would be great if it could be written into the neighbourhood plan that increasing percentages of new houses built by certain dates had to be carbon neutral to gain planning approval from the parish council.	Agreed and noted This will be partially addressed through new planning policy and improved building regulations
29.3	So many people use the car for the school run. Surely this isn't necessary. What about introducing walking buses? Increased public transport needs addressing too	The existing WNP addresses this as far as within its scope through Policies Policy WNP T1 – Getting around the village. Policy WNP C1 (connecting Witchford and Ely through sustainable and safe cycle and pedestrian route)
29.4	People worry about the value of their homes - do stuff that adds value, rather than just creating what some people see as eye-sores. Wind turbines are unpopular with NIMBYs unless they provide a direct benefit to the locals affected. Community schemes that reduce costs or provide a degree of energy supply "continuity" make houses more valuable, not less	Agreed and noted
29.5	Small scale renewable energy schemes should also provide an income for community benefits in the village.	Agreed and noted .
29.6	All public buildings should have solar panels on their roof.	Agreed and noted.
29.7	Solar arrays and wind turbines probably the most cost-effective option.	Agreed and noted



APPENDIX 8

Copy of article in Winter 2023 Parish Council newsletter





APPENDIX 9

Copy of leaflet advertising the Regulation 14 consultation and drop-in session



HAVE YOUR SAY ON CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY POLICIES FOR WITCHFORD

We are updating the
Witchford Neighbourhood Plan. We are
consulting on five new policies aiming
for a net carbon future and to help
biodiversity.

FILL IN THE SURVEY
ONLINE

<https://witchfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-single-issue-review-climate-change/> OR PAPER COPIES AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT

DROP IN SESSION ST ANDREW'S HALL 14TH FEBRUARY 3-6PM



APPENDIX 10

Copy of Regulation 14 survey

Regulation 14 survey text

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review Climate Change

This survey is being run by Witchford Parish Council.

We are updating the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan to make it a more positive tool for tackling climate change locally. The Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2020 and, together with the East Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan (2015), is the development plan for Witchford. Planners must take it into account when making planning decisions for the parish. We intend to add policies addressing climate change and enhancing biodiversity into the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan. This will make it a more robust document ensuring that planning applications in Witchford are, wherever appropriate, required to incorporate climate change and biodiversity measures.

We are now consulting widely with Witchford residents and a range of statutory bodies and other stakeholders on our proposals. At the end of the survey, we will consider every response individually.

We propose to add five new policies to the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan and to slightly amend the overall Plan Vision. We are not proposing any changes to current planning policies contained in the adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan (2020).

We would like your views on these.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT

Question 1

Amended Vision for the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan

The current Vision for the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan is:

'To value and protect the rural character and community spirit of Witchford, ensuring that future development meets local needs'

We propose changing this to:

'To value and protect the rural character and community spirit of Witchford, ensuring that future development is sustainable and meets local needs'.

Do you agree with this new Vision?

Yes



No

Don't know

Question 2

The full text of all five policies is set out below and we would very much like your comments on the full policies.

The five policies are:

Policy WNP CC1 – Delivering sustainable buildings fit for a net zero carbon future, which are resilient to the effects of climate change

WNP CC2 - Protecting existing habitats in Witchford and seeking opportunities to strengthen parish-wide ecological networks

WNP CC3 - Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain

WNP CC4 - Trees, woodland and carbon sequestration implications of proposals

WNP CC5 - Supporting renewable energy infrastructure

Do you agree with the focus of these policies?

Yes

No

Don't know

Do you have any comments on these proposed policies?

Question 3

Do you have any further comments on measures to address climate change and biodiversity issues in Witchford?

Question 4

Proposed new policy CC1 is:

Policy WNP CC1 – Delivering sustainable buildings fit for a net zero carbon future, which are resilient to the effects of climate change

All development must be designed to be compatible with a net zero carbon future.



When formulating development proposals, the following design expectations should be considered and in the following order:

1. Orientation of buildings – such as positioning buildings to maximise opportunities for solar gain, and minimise winter cold wind heat loss;
2. Form of buildings – creating buildings that are more efficient to heat and stay warm in colder conditions and stay cool in warmer conditions because of their shape and design;
3. Fabric of buildings – using materials and building techniques that reduce heat and energy needs. Ideally, this could also consider using materials with a lower embodied carbon content and/or high practical recyclable content;
4. Heat supply – ideally achieving net zero carbon content of heat supply (for example, this would mean no connection to the gas network or use of oil or bottled gas);
5. Renewable energy generated – ideally generating enough energy from renewable sources on-site (and preferably on plot) to meet reasonable estimates of total annual energy demand across the year.

With respect to residential development proposals, applicants are strongly encouraged to achieve operational targets for new homes set out in best practice guidance such as the 'Net Zero Carbon Toolkit', prepared by Levitt Bernstein, Elemanta, Passivhaus Trust and Etude.

All proposals should be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement that demonstrates:

- How the design expectations listed above have been considered and the degree they have been incorporated into the design.
- How water usage has been considered (including whether, for residential development, the design intends to voluntarily incorporate Part G of the Building Regulations option of estimated water consumption set at no more than 110 litres per person per day, rather than the standard 125 l/p/d)
- How the choice of building materials is appropriate. In this respect restoration and renovation of existing buildings is preferred over new build. Where new build is involved, materials should be prioritised that are reused, reclaimed or natural from the local area or from sustainable sources and that are durable
- The adaptability of the proposed buildings and associated spaces as climate continues to change e.g. reducing overheating (e.g. designed-in external shading), introducing more water-efficient fixtures and fittings, greywater recycling, rainwater harvesting and managing surface water run-off in line with Policy IC4, for example use of permeable areas instead of hard standing.

Where a robust Sustainability Statement is not provided, or is provided but demonstrates that reasonable opportunities to achieve the expectations set out in this policy have not been taken, then the proposal should be refused.

Do you agree with Policy CC1?

Yes



No

Don't know

Do you have any comments on Policy CC1?

Question 5

Proposed new policy CC2 is:

WNP CC2 - Protecting existing habitats in Witchford and seeking opportunities to strengthen parish-wide ecological networks

The network of habitats to be protected and enhanced in the parish is shown on Map 15.

Proposals coming forward close to or which could otherwise have an impact on these sites must take full account of their biodiversity value in line with Policy G13 in this neighbourhood plan. Regardless of location, development proposals should also take reasonable opportunities to enhance the networks shown on Map 15. This could be through delivering green infrastructure that enhances the existing habitats and the wildlife that depends upon them, or creates new or improved wildlife corridors to connect to them.

Do you agree with Policy CC2?

Yes

No

Don't know

Do you have any comments on Policy CC2?

Question 6

Proposed new policy CC3 is:

WNP CC3 - Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain

In addition to the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements as established by the Environment Act 2021, the additional requirements should be met:

(a) The minimum biodiversity net gain for all qualifying developments shall be 20%, rather than the national mandatory minimum of 10%; and

(b) For householder proposals which are otherwise exempt from mandatory biodiversity net gain requirements, an element of biodiversity gain should nevertheless be incorporated into the proposal of a degree proportionate to the scale of the proposal. Measures could include bird boxes, swift



bricks, insect ‘hotels’, bee blocks, bat boxes and/or hibernation holes, the creation of new ponds for amphibians and invertebrates, making changes to garden fencing to allow access for small mammals, or other nature- friendly landscaping feature within the householder’s garden;

and

When a biodiversity net gain proposal is being formulated, the following are encouraged to be considered:

- a) Creating new wildlife corridors especially where these will help protect or enhance existing corridors in the parish (see Map 14)
- b) The restoration or creation of new natural habitats especially where these will help protect or enhance existing habitats (see Map 14)
- c) The planting of additional trees and hedgerows (See Policy WNP CC4)
- d) Implementing measures set out in Policy WNP GI3 of this plan

Please note the policy numbers “WNP CC4” and “WNP GI3” that appear in this policy are references to policies in the current Witchford Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 2020).

Do you agree with Policy CC3?

Yes

No

Don’t know

Do you have any comments on Policy CC3?

Question 7

Proposed new policy CC4 is:

WNP CC4 - Trees, woodland and carbon sequestration implications of proposals

Development proposals should be prepared on the basis that

- Existing tree and woodland cover is maintained and improved
- Opportunities for expanding woodland are actively considered, and implemented where practical and appropriate to do so

Where a development proposal is likely to affect trees or woodland it will be expected to be accompanied by:

- (a) the completion of a British Standard 5837 Tree Survey and, if applicable,
- (b) an Arboricultural Method Statement, Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan.

Aged and veteran trees



Where the proposal will result in the loss or deterioration of aged or veteran trees, permission will be refused, unless, and on a wholly exceptional basis, the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

Trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order

Where a proposal will result in the loss or deterioration of a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order, permission will be refused unless:

- There is no net loss of amenity value which arises from the development or
- The need for, and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweighs the loss.

Woodland

Woodland is protected under Policy CC2

Category A and B trees (BS 5837)

The loss of higher value trees (category A and B) will not normally be supported. Where their loss cannot be avoided and is fully justified, then appropriate mitigation, via compensatory tree planting, will be required. The bigger the tree diameter at 1.5m above the ground, the bigger the required compensation measures will be (in terms of number and type of replacement trees needed).

All new tree planting should take opportunities to meet the six Tree Planting Principles (see supporting text).

New Trees and Woodland

Where appropriate and practical, opportunities for new tree planting should be explored as part of all development proposals (in addition to, if applicable, any necessary compensatory tree provision). Where new trees are proposed, they should be planted on the basis of the six Tree Planting Principles, having regard to areas of peatland in the parish where tree planting would not be supported (see supporting text).

Planting schemes should include provision to replace any plant failures within five years after the date of planting.

Carbon Sequestration Implications of Proposals

The net increase or decrease in tree cover as a consequence of a development will be a material consideration in the decision making process in terms of the carbon sequestration consequences of the proposal. Considerable weight in favour of a proposal will be given where the net situation is a considerable increase in tree cover (and hence the positive and significant contribution to carbon sequestration). Where the net situation is a loss of trees, weight against a proposal will be given as a consequence of the loss of carbon sequestration, with the degree of weight dependent on the scale of net loss.

Do you agree with Policy CC4?



Yes

No

Don't know

Do you have any comments on Policy CC4?

Question 8

Proposed new policy CC5 is:

WNP CC5 - Supporting renewable energy infrastructure

Development proposals involving the creation of renewable energy infrastructure (such as wind turbines and solar panels), will be supported subject to the following:

Domestic Scale

Where a householder is required to gain planning permission prior to installation of a domestic scale wind turbine or solar panels, then the presumption is in favour of such proposals unless the visual harm is so great as to outweigh the very significant weight applied to the principle of installing such infrastructure.

Business-Use Scale

Where a business or other non-domestic operation is required to gain planning permission prior to installation of a wind turbine or solar panels (with such installations primarily designed to meet the energy demands of that business or other non-domestic operation, rather than primarily designed to export to the national grid), then the presumption is in favour of such proposals unless the harm (visual or otherwise) is so great as to outweigh the very significant weight applied to the principle of installing such infrastructure.

Commercial Scale

A proposal for renewable energy infrastructure outside of the above two classes (such as one which is primarily of a scale designed to export to the national grid rather than serve an existing building or operation), is supported in principle, subject to meeting all of the following requirements:

- (a) The impacts of the proposal are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity (see special clause below); geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape (including Ely Cathedral); and highway safety; and
- (b) The impacts are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and
- (c) The impacts are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, shadow flicker, air quality and traffic; and



(d) That, for wind turbine related proposals, evidence is submitted so that the decision taker on the application can reasonably reach a judgement that the proposal has the support of the local community. To assist reaching that decision, proposals which are community-led, have a significant element of community shared ownership or demonstrate a high degree of public consultation and support from the local community are encouraged.

In order to test compliance with (a)-(d) will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of robust evidence.

The establishment of some form of Community Benefit Fund (for spend on local community infrastructure projects) or other in-kind benefits package for the local community (such as discounted energy bills) associated with a commercial-scale renewable energy proposal is encouraged, but, in accordance with Planning Law, will not be a material factor in making a decision on the proposal.

Biodiversity considerations – Habitats Regulation Assessment

Most of Witchford parish falls within the 'Swan and Goose' Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), as identified on DEFRA's 'MAGIC' website, this being land which may provide important functional habitat for qualifying bird species associated with the Ouse Washes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, particularly swans, for foraging and roosting. Since the IRZ area is considered to be potentially functionally linked to the European designated site, development in this area requires appropriate consideration under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

As such, any business-use scale or commercial scale renewable energy proposals within the IRZ must undertake a project-level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to demonstrate that proposed development will not have any adverse effect on Ouse Washes functional land in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.

Wind Turbine Proposals

For as long as national policy requires this Neighbourhood Plan to confirm as such, then it is confirmed that the whole of Witchford parish is deemed a broad area potentially suitable for wind turbine proposals. However, for the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean that an application for a wind turbine or turbines would automatically be approved in the parish. It is not possible to easily and comprehensively map qualitative considerations in order to define precise locations in this neighbourhood plan which are suitable for wind turbines, so such matters are to be considered at the point of application. All applications for wind turbines will be assessed against the detailed policy criteria set out in this policy, and all other relevant policies in the Development Plan, as well as any national policies.

Do you agree with Policy CC5?

Yes



No

Don't know

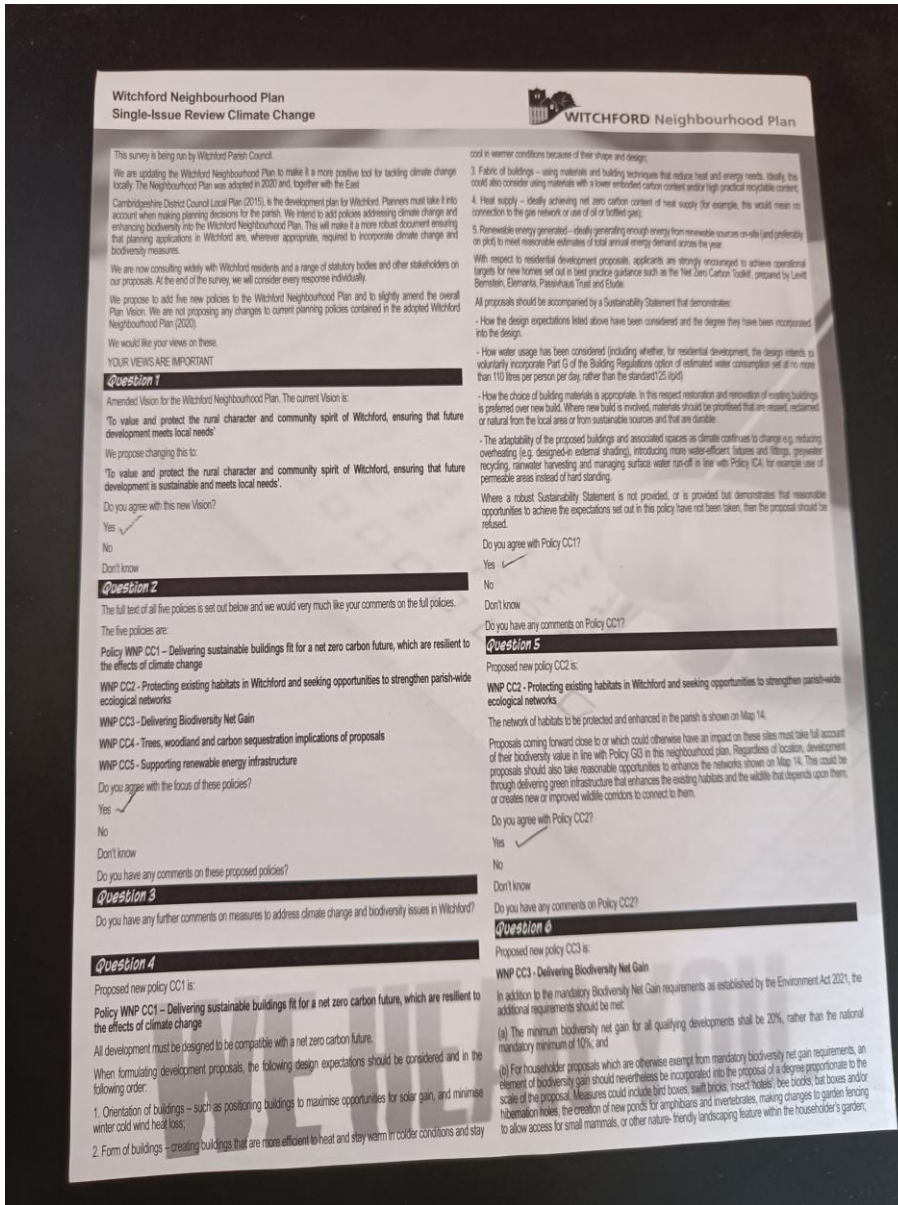
Do you have any comments on Policy CC5?

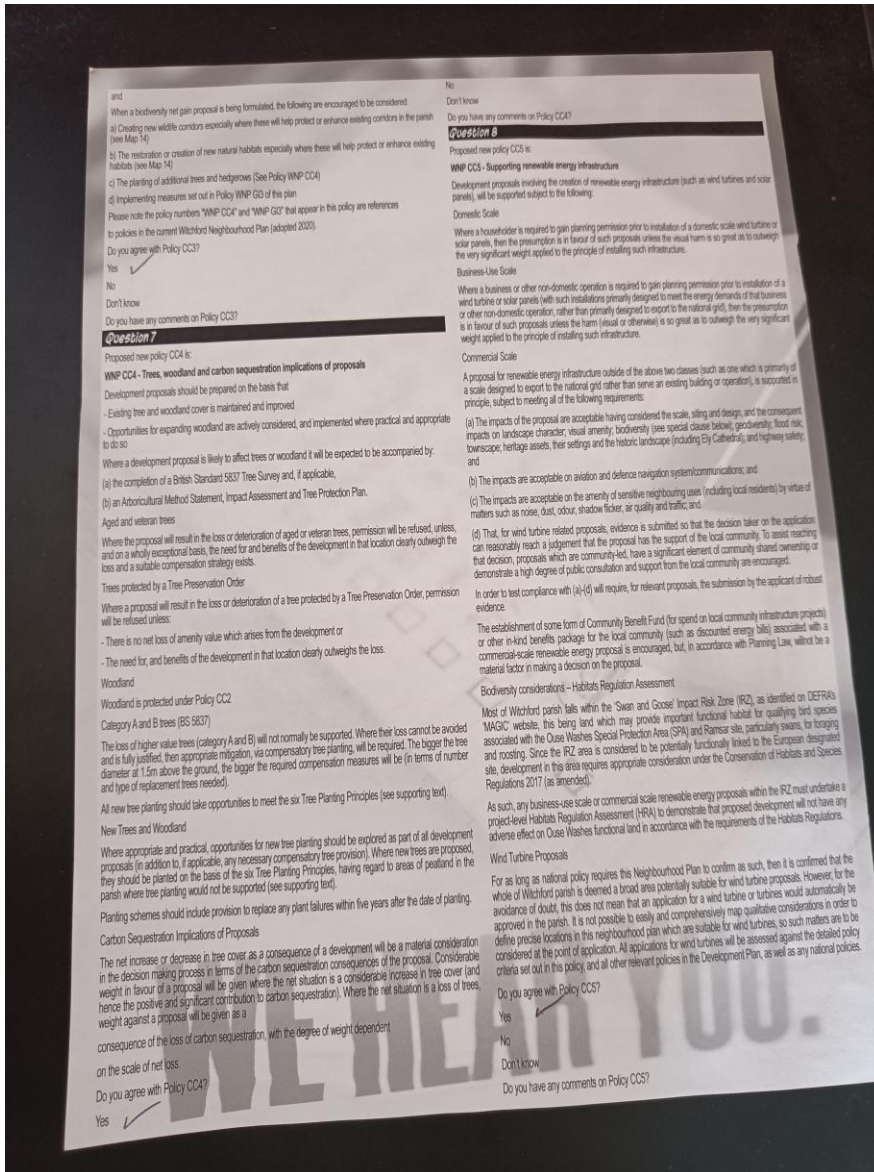
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APPENDIX 11

Copy of the paper survey form available at St Andrew’s Church







APPENDIX 12

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan

Report on public information drop-in session Wednesday 14th February 2024 3-7pm St Andrews Hall Main Street Witchford.

1. Purpose

The drop-in session was intended as a tie-in with the formal Regulation 14 Consultation on which ran from 24th January – 6th March 2024. Full copies of the made Witchford Neighbourhood Plan and the five SIR draft policies were available for inspection, along with headline summaries of the policies. Members of the Parish Council were on hand during the session to answer questions from the public. The Parish Clerk was also present throughout the session.

2. Publicity

The date, time and venue of the drop-in session was advertised on a flyer delivered to every household in Witchford. Details about the drop-in session were posted on the Parish Council website and on the Witchford Residents Facebook page. Posters advertising the survey and the drop-in session were also placed around the village and a banner placed on the railings outside St Andrews Hall for the week leading up to the drop-in session.

3. Attendance

An attendance log was maintained throughout the four-hour period of the drop-in session 3 – 7pm. 10 individual adults attended. From observation, the attendees appeared to be a range of ages from young adults to retirees.

4. Responses

Attendees were given the options either of providing their comments using the hard copy Regulation 14 Consultation comments form (which includes the full text of each of the policies), or of writing on comment sheets headed with the 'titles' of each of the five SIR draft policies. Two attendees completed the full comments form, three attendees wrote comments on the comment sheets and the others took away details of how to complete the online survey.



APPENDIX 13

Copy of Regulation 14 standard consultation email

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single- Issue Review (Climate Change) Regulation 14 Consultation 24th January– 6th March 2024

Witchford Parish Council invites your comments on its Consultation Draft of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change).

Witchford Parish Council is undertaking a formal pre-submission consultation on the Witchford Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) as required by the Localism Act 2011 and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2015 (as amended). The purpose of this Review is to insert into the current Witchford Neighbourhood Plan adopted in May 2020 additional policies relating to climate change and biodiversity. The Review does not propose any changes to the existing planning policies in the current Witchford Neighbourhood Plan adopted in May 2020.

The full Consultation Draft of the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) version and a summary of the proposed additional policies can be found on the Witchford Parish Council website at <https://witchfordpc.org/single-issue-review-climate-change-documents/> and all the supporting documents can be found at <https://witchfordpc.org/single-issue-review-climate-change-documents/>

Please send any comments you may have to Witchford Parish Council either by email at witchfordparishcouncil@eastcambs.gov.uk, by post to the address below (referring to the relevant policy and/or section of the Consultation Draft in your reply) or use the survey form available on the Witchford Parish Council website at <https://witchfordpc.org/neighbourhood-plan-single-issue-review-climate-change/>

Please send your comments by 6th March 2024.

Yours sincerely,
Witchford Parish Council
01353 664427
witchfordparishcouncil@eastcambs.gov.uk
witchfordpc.org





Appendices continue on page 87

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Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

APPENDIX 14

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) Regulation 14 Consultation 24th January – 6th March 2024
 Responses received – residents

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
General comments	Any new build should include solar panels	Policy WNP CC1 seeks to ensure development (that requires planning permission) is designed in such as way to minimise a buildings carbon footprint. This includes the incorporation of onsite renewables.	
	Ensure building regs properly implemented	The application of Building Regulations is separate from land use planning. Building owners and builders are responsible for ensuring works comply with Building Regulations.	
	These policies should be for the benefit of the people and nature of the Witchford area. 'Climate Change' is a theory created by the WEF and national governments based on flawed science which has been denounced by many climate science specialists who are not funded by governments. Net Zero is a radical theory that will never be achieved because it only shifts the carbon emissions to another region e.g. place of manufacture. Communities and their local councils do not have to follow these expensive	Your views are noted.	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	theories of the top government, especially when they create unaffordable communities in times of housing shortages. We are allowed to say NO!		
	Ensure green spaces identified for responsibility	The responsibility for managing open spaces in the parish varies and depends on land ownership. The spaces identified on Map 15 have different ownerships. Where new open space is being provided as part of development, developers are typically required to make provision for the on-going maintenance of informal open space. The approach adopted by the local planning authority, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) is set out under section 4.4. in the ECDC’s Supplementary Planning Document on Developer Contributions (2013).	
	Net zero is a con. CO2 is essential to life and needs to increase	Your views are noted.	
	We must try to stop building on farm land and the green belt.	The adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan includes Policy WNP SS1 <i>A spatial strategy for Witchford</i> that restricts development outside the village development envelope.	
	STOP BUILDING HOMES on GREEN SPACES	The adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan includes Policy WNP SS1 that restricts development outside the village development envelope.	
	I hope we can continue to favour native species of trees, shrubs and flowering plants, even if climate change and the actual average temperature increase, favours more 'heat resilient' species. Favouring	The approach taken in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan (see Policy WNP GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i>) and the proposed Climate Change Review (see Policy WNP CC2 <i>Protecting existing habitats in Witchford and seeking opportunities to strengthen parish-wide</i>	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	native species, hopefully will favour native bio-diversity...what we have now is good so lets try to keep it...	<i>ecological networks</i> and Policy CC3 <i>Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain</i>) is to require new development proposals to protect or enhance known sites and species of biodiversity value currently in Witchford parish.	
	My concern is that these policies look to beyond the scope of a parish council and will potentially be open to expensive legal challenges.	Witchford Parish Council (WPC) is recognised as a ‘qualifying body’ in legislation applicable to Neighbourhood Planning. The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is within the remit of WPC. In preparing the SIR to the NP, the WPC will be required to meet requirements of a statutory process.	
	These are good proposals but should not be used as a stick to deny local people affordable housing by insisting on expensive zero carbon building plans only	Proposed Policy CC1 strongly encourages residential proposals to meet operational targets that are compatible with a net zero carbon future (this will also deliver homes that are more affordable to run). Policy CC1 does not however insist proposals must exceed energy performance levels otherwise stipulated by Building Regulations.	
	Plant more trees	Agreed and noted.	
	Is there an opportunity to also seek that any developers of future developments are required to meet carbon zero targets throughout the construction process, and evidence that the specific development has met carbon zero throughout construction (not just that end product is 'compatible' with a net zero future). This might help developers contribute more directly to biodiversity / increase of trees in developments and in the wider	There are no processes in place to monitor the ‘carbon footprint’ of the construction process on individual development schemes as part of the planning system. With respect to biodiversity this is however built into the system via the Biodiversity Net Gain regime. Here a development is required to deliver a 10% gain above the biodiversity value at pre-development stage.	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	village to offset the construction process. It would be lovely to see tree lined avenues through the village!		
	Biodiversity decreased in the 3yrs we've been here due to too many houses	<p>The approach taken in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan (see Policy WNP GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i>) and the proposed Climate Change Review (see Policy WNP CC2 <i>Protecting existing habitats in Witchford and seeking opportunities to strengthen parish-wide ecological networks</i> and Policy CC3 <i>Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain</i>) is to require new development proposals to protect or enhance known sites and species of biodiversity value currently in Witchford parish.</p> <p>Furthermore, as at February 2024, proposals are required to deliver at least 10% net gain in biodiversity.</p>	
	<p>I would like to see some social evenings, where like minded people could meet and discuss ways and maybe get ideas and advice on sensible rewilding parts of their garden's. I have tried but success has been by accident and my life and family responsibilities mean that I need local access to others with more experience, I don't have time and it's not a hobby, it is something we should all be doing...and business development's too. A social evening, with a guest speaker from RSPB or whoever, and a few words from someone who has some experience of rewilding -or who has tried ;-)</p>	<p>The Parish Council supports and facilitates the work undertaken by the Biodiversity and Climate Change Committee. This committee is looking into running such events.</p>	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	<p>What about improving public transport and encouraging measures to reduce vehicle emissions? Encourage walking to school etc</p>	<p>This is an important part of the adopted Neighbourhood Plan albeit the policies in the NP can only influence new proposals that come forward for planning permission in the parish. Applicable existing policies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WNP SS1 <i>A spatial strategy for Witchford</i> (focuses development in the village – a key part of reducing the need to travel) • WNP GI1 <i>Public Rights of Way</i> • WNP T1 <i>Getting around the village</i> • WNPT C1 <i>Connecting Witchford and Ely through sustainable and safe cycle and pedestrian routes</i> • WNP E1 <i>support for small business development</i> 	
	<p>The money wasted on 'Climate Change' theory should be applied to the benefits for the people and surrounding nature. e.g. woodlands, parks, facilities, roads, cycleways, footpaths, larger outdoor spaces for schools/communities.</p>	<p>The policies in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan, together with the proposed policies set out in the SIR climate change review, provide a comprehensive approach to achieve these benefits for people and the surrounding nature.</p>	
	<p>Discouraging removal of natural grass and shrubs from gardens, especially when substituted for artificial grass and patios.</p>	<p>If the proposal involves covering more than 5 square metres using traditional materials that don't let water through, planning consent will be required. This applies to land between the front walls of a house and the highway. The planning policies in the Neighbourhood Plan can only influence proposals that come forward as part of a planning application. Policies WNP ICF <i>Flooding</i> and WNP GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i> will apply for applicable planning applications.</p>	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	<p>ECDC adopted BNG measure in advance of mandatory adoption being introduced in November 2023 - but do not consistently apply them - a case of superficial virtue signalling without substance. In addition, when BNG and Ecological reports can be written by the developers themselves, without qualification, there can be no confidence in their content. Just as developers have to have independent expert reports for some aspects, so they should for BNG and Ecology.</p>	<p>BNG is, as at 2024 a statutory requirement across the country. A statutory biodiversity metric is used to calculate pre-development and post-development biodiversity value. This must be submitted as part of BNG to demonstrate the formula has been accurately applied.</p>	
	<p>Open space areas would benefit from the ability to store water for future droughts. Especially if we plan to plant new trees.</p>	<p>This idea is noted. It is also noted the NP policies can only influence proposals that come forward as part of a planning application.</p>	
	<p>Specific infrastructure which mitigates flooding must be protected. I refer to ditches which were designed both to direct and hold water so that the area doesn't flood. Where developers have filled these in, or landowners have failed to maintain them, water is displaced elsewhere e.g. new housing developments only need to show how drainage will work on their site only; no consideration is included as to the collateral implications for existing neighbours. This should be required to prevent water displacement onto older</p>	<p>Wherever development comes forward via a planning consent, the existing policies in the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan (e.g. WNP ICF <i>Flooding</i> and Local Plan policy ENV 8: <i>Flood risk</i>) will apply. ENV 8 in particular stresses that <i>All applications for new development must demonstrate that appropriate surface water drainage arrangements for dealing with surface water run-off can be accommodated within the site, and that issues of ownership and maintenance are addressed.</i> It also states:</p> <p>Development will not be permitted <i>if it would increase the risk of flooding or properties elsewhere during the lifetime of the development...</i></p>	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	housing.		
	Solar or wind planning should be easier to obtain.	Noted. Proposed policies CC1 <i>Delivering sustainable buildings fit for a net zero carbon future</i> ..and CC5 <i>Supporting renewable energy infrastructure</i> in the Witchford NP SIR seeks to facilitate this.	
CCC1	Good idea	Thank you.	
	With respect to the first policy emphasis should be placed on best quality insulation, especially for new builds	Noted. Policy CC1 places this as a priority before considering heat supply and on-site renewables.	
	Living roofs or compulsory solar panels required to obtain planning permission for new buildings	Noted. The adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan encourages wildlife friendly green roofs and walls (see Policy WNP GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i>). On-site renewables are strongly encouraged through proposed SIR CC1. Importantly, it recognises the value of prioritising other measures, that have a bigger effect on carbon footprint first. Thereby increasing the difference that the onsite renewables will make. On site renewables are also potentially required through Building Regs if these are needed to bring the carbon footprint down to meet the energy performance targets stipulated in the Regs.	
	Reduce building on green space such as fields and installing energy-efficient features in homes. Green roofs are good.	The adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan protects existing open space through Policy WNP GI2 <i>Local Green Space</i> and encourages wildlife friendly green roofs and walls in Policy WNP GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i> . Proposed Policy CC1 in the SIR strives to deliver of low carbon/zero carbon homes in new build.	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Maybe the PC can act as ‘enablers’ and get local trades people to come to an event/events to meet invited residents to discuss costs/grants for home insulation in Witchford, as well as solar panels heat pumps etc	The Parish Council supports and facilitates the work undertaken by the Biodiversity and Climate Change Committee. This committee will look into this.	
	New builds using reclaimed materials etc not really realistic	Noted. Opportunities to reuse materials should always be exploited.	
	Item 4, Heat supply - not enough renewable energy supply of any other sort, not to use gas or other energy supplies.	Noted.	
	It will impede on personal choice	It is noted that the planning system does place constraints on development rights.	
	Stop building on the village NOW	The adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan restricts development outside the village development envelope through Policy WNP SS1 <i>A spatial strategy for Witchford</i> . See also Policy WNP LC1 <i>Landscape and settlement character</i> and Policy WNP LC2 <i>Witchford Area of Separation</i>	
	This sustainable building system should consider costs and time. If it slows down the down the building of houses and are much more expensive than traditional buildings, then the system only benefits government policies, not the people that require affordable housing.	Your points are noted.	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	It appears to apply to new buildings only but in actual fact I don't really understand it	The planning policies will apply to development that requires planning permission.	
	Policy CC1 doesn't detail if and how existing housing stock will need to be adapted and/or retrofitted with new technologies to meet net zero carbon aims.	The planning policies will apply to development that requires planning permission. The toolkit referred to in the supporting text (after the policy) however does provide guidance for homeowners looking to retrofit their home. It includes information on how home owners can implement energy efficiency measures and begin the process of decarbonising their homes in an affordable and phased approach.	
	These look to be beyond the scope of a parish council	WPC is recognised as a 'qualifying body' in legislation applicable to Neighbourhood Planning. The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is within the remit of WPC. In preparing the SIR to the NP, the WPC will be required to meet requirements of a statutory process.	
	What energy sources are the council proposing; e.g. wind turbine or solar panel roof tiles, not just ugly panels added to the roof	<p>On-site renewables are strongly encouraged through proposed SIR CC1. Importantly, it recognises the value of prioritising other measures, that have a bigger effect on carbon footprint first. Thereby increasing the difference that the onsite renewables will make. On site renewables are also potentially required through Building Regs if these are needed to bring the carbon footprint down to meet the energy performance targets stipulated in the Regs.</p> <p>When incorporated as part of new build, as opposed to retrofitting, design policies in the Local Plan and adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan will also apply. This ensures the look of new buildings will contribute positively to existing design context.</p>	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	<p>1. P2 Water consumption. The consumption figure is given as ‘standard125 l/p/d’. I checked this as I was sure it was too low. I looked at six websites, and all gave</p> <p>between 142 and 149, with three of them at 142, for current or the last year or two.</p>	<p>The standard 125 refers to what is required via building regulations. A change is proposed to the text to make this clearer.</p>	<p>Yes, see Appendix 17</p>
	<p>2. P3 3rd para. Suggest ‘measures’ rather than opportunities.</p>	<p>Ok. Opportunities will be replaced with measures</p>	<p>Yes, see Appendix 17</p>
	<p>3. P3 - 5.11.2 I’m not questioning these figures, but are they correct, i.e. direct quotes?</p> <p>‘Through the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK Government is committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050 and contribute to global emission reductions aimed at limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial areas. More recently, the UK Government’s Sixth Carbon Budget, published in 2020, requires</p> <p>a 78% reduction in UK territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035.’</p>	<p>Not direct quotes but figures are correct</p>	
	<p>4. P4 Planning and Building Regulations. What does</p>	<p>It means that no further work will be needed for them to have zero carbon emissions once the electricity grid has fully decarbonised.</p>	<p>Yes, see</p>

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	'zero carbon ready by 2025' mean?	More recently in December 2023, the government published 'The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation on changes to Part 6 (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for dwellings and non-domestic buildings and seeking evidence on previous changes to Part O (overheating). This sets out government proposals and options for the implementation of the 2025 Future homes and Buildings Standards.	Appendix 17
	5. P4 Residential Development. 1. Energy efficiency. 'Applicable to energy used for heating, hot water, ventilation, lighting, cooking and appliances.' Perhaps add 'cooling'? AC use with hotter summers will become more popular in the UK (as it is in the US, Australia).		
	6. P4 3. Renewable energy generation. The term 'solar' is superfluous as 'photovoltaic' means light to electricity.	Noted.	
CCC2	Essential for those of us who use the rural environment for recreation and peace of mind	Noted.	
	...the size of the development - and it's impact, should also dictate the appropriate sized corridor, in plain English an aircraft hanger sized development should provide a larger corridor than a 10' x 8' shed development. Again expert local knowledge of biodiversity should be a must have in terms of advice	Agreed. Under existing policy the type of extent of mitigation will respond to the type and extent of impact.	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	on this.		
	I think I agree although again I don't completely understand it.	Noted	
	These are already taken account of in planning proposals	Biodiversity is considered in existing planning proposals but the point about proposed policy CC2 it establishes the location of existing sites of biodiversity value in Witchford Parish.	
	We have a hedgehog access policy where i live in Ward Way and on speaking to the neighbours none have ever seen a hedgehog using the gaps in the fences but the local rats have a field day, especially so close to open fields and a horse yard	Noted.	
	Definitely. Habitats in green space must be protected and more should be made. How about creating habitats such as wildflower meadows on derelict land?	WPC supports and facilitates the work undertaken by the Witchford Open Spaces Group that includes such initiatives.	
	1. P7 1st line. Where is Map 15 found? Add title too?	Map 15 is available to view as a standalone document in the suit of consultation documents.	
	2. P8 - 5.11.4 Table. Victoria Green 'area for increasing biodiversity'. I don't see a lot of evidence for increasing biodiversity. Yes, some recent planting and a few patches of temporary wild flower beds, but most of it is likely to remain as closely mown	Noted. The wording will be deleted to remove this confusion	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	grass.		
	3. P9 1st para. Where is Map 14 found? Add title too?	This is a map that exists in the adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan	
	4. P9 Local Nature Recovery Toolkit. 'Witchford Open Spaces group has organised a number of wildlife surveys in 2023, and will continue to do so in 2024 and beyond.'	Noted. The wording will be updated.	Yes, see Appendix 17
CCC3	Should this be something that is an essential requirement for everyone who impacts the environment in any way. Perhaps about the legal requirement of 10%?	The achievement of 10% biodiversity net gain is, as at 2024 a statutory requirement across the country for most types of development.	
	Biodiversity should be preserved and increased as much as possible.	Agreed	
	Why expect more than is required?	Noted. The policy has been amended	Yes, see Appendix 17
	It appears to be an instruction which will impede private choice	It is noted that the planning system does place constraints on development rights.	
	I agree in principle but I am unable to cross reference the Maps listed above. I don't see these map numbers in this doc or the available Witchford Neighbourhood Plan on the ECDC website.	Map 15 is available to view as a standalone document in the suit of consultation documents.	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Putting up buildings with bee bricks and bat holes is nonsense leave the habitats alone	The polices in the adopted Witchford Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed new policies seek to protect and enhance biodiversity in Witchford parish.	
	Provide a fact sheet or request from the applicant details of their wildlife additions - not all ponds are wildlife ponds, to be a 'wildlife pond' there are some specific requirement's regarding depth etc similarly with birdboxes, need to face the right direction -be appropriately made etc	Noted. All ponds and water features have some wildlife value.	
	We should keep in step with national guidelines	Agreed	
	1. P9 last para. Change 'bat boxes and/or hibernation holes' to 'bat boxes and/or winter roosts.'	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17
	2. P10 - 5.11.6. Biodiversity net gain. Provide a definition or short explanation of what this is.	Agreed. This will be included in the supporting text.	Yes, see Appendix 17
	3. P10 The link "Defra metric" http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720 is only to the supporting document JP039. There is a link to the Statutory biodiversity metric tools and guides. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides	Thank you	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	4. P10 'see Appendix 5 for a list of species recorded in Witchford parish'. This is by no means a complete list. We need to make clear what the list represents, and what we mean to demonstrate with this list.	Agreed. Text introducing the list to be amended	Yes, see Appendix 17
	Please specify that landowners must maintain existing water features such as ditches. These are the motorways for water removal and for wildlife - bats, newts, frogs, toads, lizards, insects all rely on these for both feeding and breeding - and navigation. Also protection of trees (which take up a lot of water and are important ecosystems, feed/house many birds, bats, insects etc) should be included - so even if not TPO then trees should be protected and more trees planted where appropriate. Commentary in any planning application as to how ditches and trees are to be treated, should be included.	<p>The scope of the planning policies in the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan will be limited to influencing proposals that come forward as part of a planning application.</p> <p>Proposed policy CC2 <i>Protecting existing habitats in Withford and seeking opportunities to strengthen parish-wide ecological networks</i> is intended to complement adopted Policy GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i>. Policy CC2 is accompanied by Map 15 which identifies all sites, including important water features, that contribute to ecological networks the parish.</p> <p>Proposed policy CC4 <i>Trees, woodland and carbon sequestration implications of proposals</i> seeks to protect existing trees and promote new tree planting.</p>	
CCC4	Funds should be made available to plant as many trees as possible even if this means the purchase of land for this purpose. Of course we must protect what we already have.	This lies outside the influence of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, WPC supports and facilitates the work of the Witchford Open Spaces Group who are proactive in implementing tree planting initiatives.	
	Planting trees and preserving existing ones is very important both for wildlife and people and climate.	Noted and agreed.	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Protection of important trees must be a priority		
	WPC has supported Conservation Volunteers and the Tree Warden in a continuous programme of tree planting. This is to be applauded and be continuous.	Thank you.	
	This option appears to be beneficial to the wider community	Agreed	
	In principle agree, but we need more affordable houses	Noted and agreed.	
	Again, I agree in principle but am unable to see the information referred to as "six Tree Planting Principles" or "supporting text".	This is set out in the supporting text that follows the policy.	Yes, see Appendix 17
	No mention of native species?	The 5 th tree planting principle will be amended to address this	Yes, see Appendix 17
	Trees and woodlands should be increased to benefit future generations of people and animals/biodiversity.	Agreed.	
	Trees should be native to the area	The 5 th tree planting principle will be amended to address this	Yes, see Appendix 17
	WPC has supported Community Volunteers and the Tree Warden in undertaking a programme of tree planting throughout the Village. This should be	Thank you	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	acknowledged and continued for the benefit of the Village, its inhabitants and the environment.		
	The parish is already doing this.	Agreed.	
	One place i have lived had a whole estate with Beech hedges and they were and still are a part of the estate, the builders were made to put hedges rather than fences between the houses; back and front, you could use laurel, or privet but beech is better or hawthorn, any native hedging plant	This is a good idea although hedgerow and tree planting within public realm means there is more public-led control over appropriate maintenance. It is also noted there is limited use of natural features in boundary treatment in current developments including recent new build (there is high use of garden fences). Policy WNP GI3 <i>Development and Biodiversity</i> set out measure through which development can enhance biodiversity and specifically refers to integrating trees, hedgerows, water and other habitats into the development.	
	P11 'Existing tree and woodland cover is maintained and improved'. Could this be more emphatic as 'Existing tree and woodland cover is not damaged or removed, but is maintained and improved'?	Noted. No change necessary	
	2. P12 Tree Planting Principles. '(see supporting text)'. Can this be more specific '(see supporting text in 5.11.8 below)'?	The supporting text follows the policy in each case throughout the plan.	Yes, see Appendix 17
	3. P12 5.11.8 Context and reasoned justification. What is Map 2 and where is it?	It is in the adopted part of Witchford Neighbourhood Plan	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	4. P12 Tree Planting Principles 1. 'connect the development site to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network'. Reference to where it appears in the document by way of explanation?	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17
	5. P13 Tree Planting Principles 3. 'Assist in providing shade and shelter to address urban cooling, and in turn assist in mitigating against the effects of climate change.' Suggest 'Provide shade and shelter to assist in urban cooling, in turn mitigating against the effects of climate change.'	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17
	6. P13 Tree surveys. 'The British Standards BS 5837 states that trees must be categorised in order that they can be assessed. Different categories are used to rate the quality of trees, tree groups or woodland. Category A is the highest standard and category B the next highest standard.' This all comes after the Categories are discussed in the text on p11 under 'Category A and B trees (BS 5837)'. Suggest this Tree Surveys para goes before 'Category A and B trees (BS 5837)'.	No change needed as throughout the plan the supporting text appears after the policy	Yes, see Appendix 17
	High value agricultural land should not be included in this policy - it should be protected for		

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	sustainable food production.		
	Definitely agree we should be resisting the destruction of older and more mature trees. What developers put in to replace them often seem to be inappropriate or die within a short period of time	Noted and agreed.	
CCC5	Common sense.	Agreed.	
	We need power and I would be very unhappy if we had to rely on nuclear power for the majority of our electricity.	Noted.	
	Renewable energy is very good but we must ensure that such energy infrastructure does not harm wildlife or people/houses with its construction and presence	Proposed Policy CC5 <i>Supporting renewable energy infrastructure</i> seeks to achieve this balance. Note also the policy will be amended to emphasise the need for project level Habitats Regulation Assessment in certain circumstances.	
	Both noise and flicker should be included	Noted. This is set out in clause c)	
	Whilst supporting the policy in principle I am concerned that Witchford Village may be too small to take a wind farm.	As set out in proposed policy CC5, all applications for wind turbines would be assessed against the detailed policy criteria set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Plan and national policies.	
	Residential fixtures need to consider noise pollution as well	Agreed. Policy ENV 9: Pollution in the adopted Local Plan by ECDC will apply to all development with respect to noise pollution.	
	As per earlier comment regarding developers, the "impacts of the proposal" might also specify /		Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	<p>consider that the construction "process" also has an "impact" as well as the end product itself having an impact (e.g. wind turbine). This is particularly relevant in point (c) above as the construction process has significant impact on the local residents (e.g. the increased volume of vehicles through the village related to employees at the Bellway, Strawberry Fields and Woodlands Chase developments) - whereas once constructed a turbine may have negligible impact. The community (possible Community Benefit Fund) might benefit greater if the actual construction process was also specifically factored into proposals as well as the end product (whether that be a housing development or wind turbine etc).</p>		
	<p>Wind turbines are a blight on the landscape and not ecologically efficient</p>	<p>Noted. Landscape impacts are included in the policy as an important consideration.</p>	
	<p>We must consider carefully the impact of wind turbines and promote solar panels.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p>	
	<p>Again, I'm struggling to understand it all. I'd like to see solar panels on all houses where it is cost effective. But it's far too expensive for many to afford to do it themselves.</p>	<p>Proposed Policy CC1 strongly encourages residential proposals to meet operational targets that are compatible with a net zero carbon future (this will also deliver homes that are more affordable to run). Policy CC1 does not however insist proposals must exceed energy</p>	

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		performance targets otherwise stipulated by Building Regulations.	
	Whilst supporting the policy in principle I have concerns that Witchford Village may be of insufficient size to accommodate a wind farm.	As set out in proposed policy CC5, all applications for wind turbines would be assessed against the detailed policy criteria set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Plan and national policies.	
	'Unless the visual harm is so great as to outweigh the very significant weight....' is very subjective.	This is a characteristic feature of planning and the process of reaching planning decisions. It is important to be able to identify benefits, identify harms and then weigh them up before reaching a decision. The policies in the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan are intended to guide this process in a way which reflects community-shared priorities in Witchford.	
	P14 – What is 'geodiversity'?	Defined in the NPPF 2023 as (the range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms).	
	Any commercial installation of solar panels should ensure that it can still be used for agriculture i.e. dual use, so as not to remove important farmland from the food supply chain.		
Appendix 3 SWOT	<p>P1 Adaptation. 'The NP has a role in ensuring wetlands and ponds are protected or enhanced so that habitats and species have a better chance of coping during heavy rainfall events and during periods of drought.'</p> <p>Suggest adding 'Wetlands and ponds are also important for providing surface water storage for the</p>	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) Consultation Statement 2024

Policy	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	attenuation of stormwater’.		
	2. P2 b) Change ‘manage temperatures’ to ‘reduce temperatures’.	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17
	3. P2 ‘High heating bills also put residents at risk during cold weather and hot weather.’ High heating bills during hot weather’?. Suggest ‘Residents are put at risk during cold weather because of high fuel bills for heating, and similarly during hot weather to provide air conditioning for cooling.’ or something similar.	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17
	4. P2 ‘The Witchford Climate Action Group have made use of thermal imaging cameras, made available on loan by ECDC’. A thermal imaging camera now purchased by Witchford Parish Council.	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17
	5. P3 ‘Large areas of the parish are below sea level.’ I don’t know where this information comes from, but looking at the contour map, although large areas are close to sea level, very little appears to be below sea level.	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17

APPENDIX 15

Regulation 14 Consultation Responses – Statutory Consultees.

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) Regulation 14 Consultation 24th January – 6th March 2024

Responses received – statutory consultees

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Historic England	Do not consider it necessary for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of your strategy at this time.	Noted	
Policy WNP - GI3 Development and Biodiversity	Lead Local Flood Authority	The inclusion of the 'Policy WNP - GI3 Development and Biodiversity' is supported by the LLFA as it promotes above-ground open SuDS such as attenuation ponds and swales as they provide water quantity, water quality, amenity and biodiversity benefits. The LLFA recommends highlighting the benefits of SuDS in greater detail. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Paragraph 55 details the importance of SuDS which includes reducing the need for carbon-intensive construction and pumped systems, replenishing groundwater resources and capturing and re-using rainwater. Interception source control such rain gardens, bioretention, green roofs and permeable paving should be encouraged on all sites where applicable. Interception source control, as per PPG, manages increased surface water discharge from developed sites, as close to the source as possible, and minimising the volume of surface water discharge from a site.	Noted. This policy was not part of the consultation	
Policy WNP - IC4 - Flooding	Lead Local Flood	The inclusion of the ' Policy WNP - IC4 - Flooding ' is supported by the LLFA as it covers the importance of managing surface water runoff to	Noted. This policy was not part of the consultation	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Authority	<p>ensure that best practice principles are required in new developments. Please note the LLFA would encourage reference to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and PPG, and discussion of a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, with reference to surface water flooding within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>In Witchford, it appears fluvial flood risk and surface water (pluvial) flood risk is of concern. Flood Risk Maps could be utilised to show potential flood risk within Witchford, and the specific locations that are most at risk. Data is available from Find open data - data.gov.uk. Further information of flood risk can be found here: Check the long term flood risk for an area in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p> <p>It should also be noted that the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) is adopted by East Cambridgeshire and promotes the use of SuDS to mimic natural drainage within new developments.</p> <p>It is appreciated that the Neighbourhood Plan draws attention to Policy ENV 8 of the <u>East Cambridgeshire Local Plan</u> which relates to flood risk and drainage.</p>	Add Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) to the supporting documents for the SIR.	
	Lead Local Flood Authority	The Cambridgeshire County Council's Surface Water Planning Guidance also provides technical guidance for developers.	Add Cambridgeshire County Council's Surface Water Planning Guidance to the supporting documents for the SIR.	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	National Grid Electricity Transmission	<p>An assessment has been carried out with respect to NGET’s assets which include high voltage electricity assets and other electricity infrastructure.</p> <p>NGET has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	Noted	
	National Gas Transmission	<p>An assessment has been carried out with respect to National Gas Transmission’s assets which include high-pressure gas pipelines and other infrastructure.</p> <p>National Gas Transmission has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	Noted	
	Natural England	<p>Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>We very much welcome the Parish Council’s recognition of the importance in addressing the impacts and risks associated with climate change and our natural environment.</p> <p>he Neighbourhood Plan should recognise the important role that green Infrastructure and naturebased solutions play in aiding climate change adaptation and reduction in urban air pollution.</p> <p>Many habitats provide essential ecosystem services to allow adaptation to climate change e.g. natural flood management, as well as mitigation e.g. through tree planting and retaining peat or</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The Witchford Climate Change Committee will consider the three documents mentioned in its work, together with all the references set out in the Natural England letter.</p> <p>3 docs:</p> <p>1. Climate Change Adaptation Manual https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/567919784886</p>	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		<p>saltmarsh as a carbon store.</p> <p>Policies should set out appropriate nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation such as woodland or wetland creation or peatland restoration. We refer you to the Climate Change Adaptation Manual, Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat and National biodiversity climate change vulnerability model for further consideration.</p> <p>British Geological Survey (BGS) Peat Status mapping suggests that part of the Witchford Parish could be a large area of deep peat. Peat of all depths is a highly important carbon store, as explained in the England Peat Action Plan (publishing.service.gov.uk).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan should promote the sustainable use and management of peat soils, to ensure their protection and minimise production of carbon emissions through their loss and degradation</p> <p>However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following information.</p> <p>Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further information on protected species and development is included in Natural England's Standing Advice on protected species.</p>	<p><u>2720</u></p> <p>2. Carbon Storage sequestration by Habitat</p> <p>https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5419124441481216</p> <p>3. National biodiversity climate change vulnerability model</p> <p>https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5069081749225472</p>	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		<p>Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission standing advice.</p> <p>We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary.</p>		
	ECDC	<p>ECDC raises no issues with the modifications proposed to the vision and the addition of a new objective.</p> <p>Turning to the proposed new chapter, the following points are made:</p> <p>Overarching comment: ECDC welcomes, in principle, Witchford PC proposing to introduce new policies to help tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies that we face, and we are content, as a matter of principle, that a neighbourhood plan has the right to introduce such policies.</p>	Noted	
	Environment	Point A states “Actively identify and promote climate change	Noted	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Agency	<p>mitigation and resilience measures”. Climate Change allowances should be taken into account when considering Flood Zones and Flood Risk Assessments. Further information can be found at Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p> <p>Point C mentions adding a policy which includes delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (CC3). With Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) now mandatory in the planning process, we wish to comment on BNG when involving major applications running in close proximity to main rivers.</p> <p>We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. Identifying sites for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain could lead to habitat improvements in your area. Biodiversity Net Gain is a system that delivers habitat improvements on any local sites including Local Wildlife Sites. Sites of Special Scientific Interest should not be used to deliver these gains because they have other mechanisms to manage them.</p> <p>Further information can be found at Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>		
	CCC Public Health	<p>Public Health welcomes sustainable approaches to development as they improve health outcomes. The NPPF also clarifies that all plan making should favour sustainable development ‘all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change</p>	Noted	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		(including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects’.		
	CCC Public Health	<p>Adding a new objective to sit under the amended overriding vision: “Actively identify and promote climate change mitigation and resilience measures”</p> <p>Public Health supports mitigations and adaptations which future proof against climate change and its impact on human health in both built and natural environments, by the above addition of the new objective</p>	Noted	
	CCC Public Health	<p>Adding one new policy chapter covering five new planning policies.</p> <p>Public health supports the inclusion of five new planning policies in chapter 5.11. All five policies listed below interdependently support the environmental objective with in the NPPF Paragraph 8 Section C) ‘an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy’.</p> <p>Population wellbeing is ultimately supported through a blend of the wider determinants of health which are economic, environmental and social.</p>	Noted	
	CCC Public	Public Health supports the management and reduction of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions linked to village via WNP CC1,	Noted	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
	Health	CC4 and CC5		
	CCC Public Health	<p>We welcome improved parish resiliency as climate change occurs and future extreme weather events– as highlighted in policy WNP CC1.</p> <p>The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan reminds us that the region is particularly vulnerable to impacts of climate change such as flood and drought. A ‘climate crisis is a health crisis’ as evidenced in the The UKHSA Climate Change: Health effects in the UK report .</p> <p>Key health effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding Increased risk of flooding will mean that people, properties, and infrastructure that were not previously at risk will become at risk of flooding. • Vector Borne Disease (VBD) The UK will become more suitable for the survival of vectors of public health importance, notably Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. Transmission of dengue and chikungunya, and West Nile virus may be possible in the latter half of the century or sooner. • Food Food imports and prices, particularly for fruits and vegetables, will be more volatile due to high UK dependence upon foods from particularly climate-vulnerable countries. • Wildfires Some risks that are not currently considered threats to health in the UK will emerge, including increased exposure to 	Noted	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		<p>wildfires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In some areas, evidence on the health effects is mixed (as for aeroallergens) or insufficient for full assessment (for example human exposure to chemicals and ultraviolet radiation. Of the above climate change / health effects; adverse impacts of temperature on health due to heat and cold, flooding and VBD appear most relevant to Witchford when future proofing for climate change. <p>Therefore, with respect to the SIR we welcome climate change adaptations and mitigations in the five new policies such as sustainable design, designed in external shading, deep shading through protecting existing green space (habits and ecological networks) etc all responding to heat and cold.</p>		
		<p>However we note that within chapter 5.11 there are no comments on flood resiliency nor VBD. VBD will become a concern in the future with stagnant or standing water near or within developments. We would suggest a reference linking WNP CC1 to the comprehensive WNP IC4 Flooding, re flood preparedness as a part of resiliency in both natural and built environments. As improved resiliency for all extreme weather events supports better mental health outcomes, this is documented thoroughly in How to recover from flooding - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>6. Public Health supports the material modifications in the context of</p>	<p>The adopted policies in the Witchford Neighbourhood Plan will apply alongside the proposed new policies coming forward as part of the Climate Change SIR.</p>	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		improved health outcomes.		
Policy WNP CC1 – Delivering sustainable buildings, etc:	ECDC	We welcome this policy, and consider that it has been carefully worded so as to ensure that new development demonstrates, via a sustainability statement, explicitly how it is proposing to help mitigate climate change, and a requirement for ‘reasonable opportunities’ to be taken. However, it is also carefully worded so that development does not necessarily have to be fully compliant with all matters raised in the policy. If it did so, that would require more comprehensive evidence around viability implications, for example. We believe the wording is fully compliant with national policy, including very recent Written Ministerial Statements.	Noted.	
WNP CC2 Protecting existing habitats, etc:	ECDC	Whilst we have no substantive comments to make on the policy, Map 15 to which it refers appears to be missing from the document?	Map 15 was available at the link but as a standalone document.	
WNP CC3 Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain:	ECDC	We are comfortable with the approach taken in this policy, which avoids attempting to repeat or conflict with mandatory BNG, but instead helpfully explores further opportunities for gain and the types of gain the parish council wants to see. It refers to ‘Map 14’ in the policy, and we wonder whether this should be Map 15?	Policy CC3 should refer to Map 15.	Yes, see Appendix 17
WNP CC3 Delivering Biodiversity	ECDC	On the issue of seeking 20% BNG, which in principle we support, we think it is likely that an examiner will want to see a separate evidence note or short document, setting out why you think it appropriate and reasonable to seek 20%. I would therefore recommend you	The policy has been amended to encourage the achievement of 20% BNG, not require it	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
Net Gain:		<p>prepare such a short note, with the following weblink providing some really useful evidence that you may wish to refer to, including the viability implications.</p> <p>https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment/biodiversity-net-gain-local-authorities/journey-biodiversity-net-gain/biodiversity.</p>		
	ECDC	Your note could also refer to local circumstances, including Cambridgeshire being one of the most nature depleted counties in England. In short, you need to justify why you think 20% is appropriate, reasonable and deliverable.		
WNP CC4 – Trees, woodland, etc:	ECDC	No substantive comments to make.	Noted	
WNP CC5 Supporting renewable energy infrastructure	ECDC	This is a comprehensive and carefully worded policy. In principle, ECDC is content that such a policy and the way it is constructed is suitable for inclusion in a Neighbourhood Plan.	Noted	
WNP CC5 Supporting renewable energy infrastructure	ECDC	We have one substantive suggestion. In the section whereby you refer to HRA requirements, we think a third para needs adding to explain in more detail what is expected to be undertaken by the applicant. We believe the following paragraph would be suitable, which replicates that found in ECDC's	Agreed	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
:		<p>Natural Environment SPD:</p> <p><i>Such a project level HRA should initially commence with a robust HRA Screening, prepared by the applicant, to identify whether the land affected by the proposed development is regularly used by qualifying species (especially foraging and roosting swans) of the Ouse Washes SPA / Ramsar site and whether the proposal will have a likely significant effect. Where this identifies a likely significant effect (or the effect is unknown), applicants will be required to submit sufficient information for a project level Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken by the District Council under the Habitats Regulation Assessment process to ensure there will be no adverse impacts on the Ouse Washes designated site.</i></p>		
Consequential modifications or other implications	ECDC	<p>Having read the proposed modifications and commented accordingly, we have also considered those modifications as a whole to determine whether we feel such modifications either (a) may require other consequential modifications elsewhere in the existing plan; or (b) may in some way conflict with other parts of the plan not to be modified. Our conclusion is that neither (a) or (b) applies.</p>		
Examination / Referendum	ECDC	<p>In your Modification Proposal (Climate Change Single Issue Review) Regulation 14 Statement, you state that you think that an examination is required to test the modifications you propose, whilst you think a referendum is not considered to be necessary.</p> <p>Ultimately, this is a matter for an independent examiner to determine in due course, though our provisional view is that there is</p>	Noted	

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		a reasonable prospect that the examiner may decide that a referendum is also necessary.		
SEA / HRA	ECDC	<p>In the last couple of weeks, I've spent quite a lot of time (on and off) researching and drafting up an SEA screening report for you.</p> <p>Whilst not complete, what my research is identifying is a serious problem for your Policy CC5 (renewable energy infrastructure).</p> <p>Much as I (personally) support the principle, I can't hide from the fact that the whole of the parish of Witchford is covered by three separate 'impact risk zones' (Ouse Washes IRZ; Goose and Swan species IRZ; Ely Pitts IRZ); and the research I have found (and discussed with ecologists) is that no matter what mitigation measures you put in the policy, it appears virtually impossible that any wind turbine of any scale (beyond domestic scale) could be classed as having no significant effect on designated nature sites. To compound matters, it appears extremely likely that Historic England will consider that there is a significant effect on Ely Cathedral by the prospect of wind turbines in the parish of Witchford.</p> <p>Both these two issues are leading me to conclude:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That there is zero chance of me 'screening out' policy CC5 for the purposes of SEA and HRA, which means a full SEA/HRA will need to be done. My preliminary assessment in December 2023 said as much, so no surprise there, but... 2. Even if we did the full SEA / HRA (at quite a lot of time and 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Revise CC5 to remove references to wind turbines (other than domestic scale wind turbines).</p>	Yes, see Appendix 17

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		<p>expense), I see very little prospect we could conclude at the end of that that policy CC5 would have no significant effect on either designated nature sites or designated historic assets (Ely cathedral). And if I conclude that, then your plan legally cannot proceed.</p> <p>Put simply, I'm seeing no realistic potential for your plan to continue to proceed with a policy which supports wind turbines in your parish, no matter what 'mitigation' or criteria based policies you put in your plan to try to reduce or minimise the risk of negative effects. Witchford is, unfortunately (of fortunately, depending how you look at it!) just too sensitive an area for nature and historic assets of national and international importance. If you were a parish in the back of beyond with no nature/historic assets near you, policy CC5 would be absolutely fine! But, you are sandwiched between lots of such assets very nearby.</p> <p>I therefore think there are three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proceed as we are, I do the formal SEA/HRA screening and the formal full SEA / HRA, albeit we accept that it is highly likely that policy CC5 will fail, and hence the plan will fail; or 2. CC5 is amended so as to remove explicit reference to supporting wind turbines (i.e. solar farms are still an issue, but I think we can get a supportive policy through on that. It will take a bit of work on my part, and no guarantee of success, but should be ok - happy to help rewording) 		

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Parish Council response	Change to WNP SIR?
		<p>3. CC5 is removed completely, and you just stick with CC1-4. Those policies are easy to get through, and no need for full SEA / HRA etc.</p> <p>Sorry about this outcome, but I've reached the stage whereby I don't want to give you 'false hope' and also I'm reluctant to commit a lot of my time to something which, realistically, has very little chance of success.</p> <p>It is frustrating because the policy itself is suitable for inclusion in a neighbourhood plan. It's worded absolutely fine. It's clear what it is trying to achieve, and how it wants to achieve it. It 'passes' the basic planning policy test. But, I just can't get it through the separate SEA / HRA tests!</p> <p>It's actually been a really useful exercise for me more generally because, unfortunately, I'm leading to a similar conclusion for virtually the whole of East Cambs. There's virtually nowhere in the district where wind turbines would 'pass' SEA/HRA requirements. Perhaps east of Ely/Littleport might? But not even easy there.</p>		

APPENDIX 16

Regulation 14 Consultation Responses – Landowners/Agents.

Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Single-Issue Review (Climate Change) Regulation 14 Consultation 24th January – 6th March 2024

Responses received – statutory consultees

Date updated

Policy	Ref. No	Comment	Neighbourhood Plan SIR response	NP change?
	1	I am in full agreement with the plan, and especially that the green spaces within the village are preserved.	Noted	



Appendices continue on page 126

DRAFT

APPENDIX 17**Single set of approved amendments to Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan text following Regulation 14 consultation**

Page	Change	Reason
Title Page	Change title to Witchford Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2031 Climate Change Single-Issue Review May 2024 Post- Regulation 14 consultation version Change header on each page to same wording	Correct version
Page 3 final paragraph	Change 'January' to 'September 2022'	Correct dates
Contents box Page 6	Add 5.11 Addressing the Climate Change emergency in Witchford page 77 WNP CC1 – Delivering sustainable buildings fit for a net zero carbon future, which are resilient to the effects of climate change WNP CC2 Protecting existing habitats in Witchford and seeking opportunities to strengthen parish-wide ecological networks WNP CC3 Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain WNP CC4 – Trees, woodland and carbon sequestration implications of proposals WNP CC5 Supporting renewable energy infrastructure Page numbers to be entered in final submission version	Clarify contents
Map list Page 7	Add Map 15 'Top 20 Biodiversity Areas in Witchford'	Map accompanying text

Page	Change	Reason
<p>Appendices</p> <p>Page 7 – 8</p>	<p>Add</p> <p>Appendix 2 List of projects to assist climate change mitigation and resilience</p> <p>Appendix 3 Witchford’s ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change: An assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats</p> <p>Appendix 4 Top 20 Biodiversity areas in Witchford</p> <p>Appendix 5 Species List</p>	<p>Update appendices</p>
<p>Section 1 Introduction</p> <p>1.1</p> <p>Page 8</p>	<p>Change ‘This document is the Submission Witchford Neighbourhood Plan.’</p> <p>To ‘This document is the Post-Regulation 14 Consultation Version Climate Change Single Issue Review Witchford Neighbourhood Plan.’</p>	<p>Clarify version</p>
<p>Section 3.10, third paragraph down</p>	<p>Change:</p> <p><i>‘Meanwhile, Witchford faces negative impacts from the effects of climate change including increased flood risk with drainage infrastructure not designed to cope with increased intensity storms, water stress from decreased rainfall combined with greater demand from increased population, negative health impacts from increasing particulates and CO2 emissions from increased traffic in the village and on the A142, rising energy costs and concerns about security of supply, and increasing Summer and Winter temperatures and dry summers having a negative impact on biodiversity.’</i></p> <p>To:</p> <p><i>‘Meanwhile, Witchford faces negative impacts from the effects of climate change. These include increased flood risk with drainage infrastructure not designed to cope with higher intensity storms; water stress from decreased rainfall combined with greater demand from increased</i></p>	<p>Clarify text</p>

Page	Change	Reason
	<i>population; negative health impacts from particulates and CO2 emissions from increased traffic in the village and on the A142; rising energy costs and concerns about security of supply. Higher Summer and Winter temperatures and dry Summers may also have a negative impact on biodiversity.'</i>	
Section 4 Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives Page 22	Paragraph 4.4 Change 'As part of the Climate Change SIR, the following objective is proposed to be added:' To 'As part of the Climate Change SIR, the following objective has been added:	
Section 4 Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives Page 22	Paragraph 4.6 Change the website address from www.witchfordpc.org/neighbourhoodplan to https://witchfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/	
Section 5.11, 3 rd paragraph page 77	Suggestion for plan edit. <i>To inform this SIR, the Working Group assessed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing Witchford when it comes to mitigating climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change - see Appendix 3. A range of issues and priorities were highlighted as part of this assessment and some of these were identified as areas that could be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan.</i>	Improve readability
Policy WNP - IC4 – Flooding Page 96	Add Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) to the supporting documents for the SIR.	This document is adopted by East Cambridgeshire and promotes the use of SuDS to mimic natural drainage within new

Page	Change	Reason
		developments.
Page 96	Add Cambridgeshire County Council’s Surface Water Planning Guidance to the supporting documents for the SIR.	This document provides technical guidance for developers.
Section 5.11, 4th paragraph page 77	Insert the word “weather” in second sentence <i>The Neighbourhood Plan has a role in seeking high sustainable design and construction standards from new build proposals that require planning permission. The intent here is to reduce the overall impact of new development on greenhouse gas emissions as well as making buildings more resilient to the extreme <u>weather</u> events resulting from climate change.</i>	Typographical error
Section 5.11 , last paragraph page 78	Remove paragraph immediately before the policy box for CC1 since it has already been said.	Improve readability
Policy CC1 Page 78 3rd paragraph from bottom of page	Amend clause as follows: <i>How water usage has been considered (including whether, for residential development, the design intends to voluntarily incorporate Part G of the Building Regulations option of estimated water consumption set at no more than 110 litres per person per day, rather than the standard 125 l/p/d stipulated in the 2010 Building Regulations)</i>	To make the intent of this part of Policy CC1 clearer in the text.
Policy CC1 Page 79 1 st paragraph (in box)	Amend last clause as follows: <i>Where a robust Sustainability Statement is not provided, or is provided but demonstrates that reasonable opportunities <u>measures</u> to achieve the expectations set out in this policy have not been taken, then the proposal should be refused.</i>	Clarify text
Section 5.11.2, 7 th	Insert missing hyperlink that is referenced in the following paragraph. Note to Alysoun. I recall that Richard Kay has commented in the past that hyperlinks should always be accompanied by	Typographical error

Page	Change	Reason
paragraph	<p>the actual web address. So if you choose to say “here” as the hyperlink that is ok so long as footnote provided that includes the full reference. Elsewhere in the NP we have used the full link address. So that might be the preferred approach?</p> <p><i>In terms of land use planning, ECDC adopted its Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in February 2021, available here. This focuses on providing additional guidance to Policy ENV 4 Energy and water efficiency and renewable energy in construction in the 2015 Local Plan. Policy ENV 4 states that all new development should aim for reduced or zero carbon development in accordance with the zero-carbon hierarchy: first maximising energy efficiency and then incorporating renewable or low carbon energy sources on-site as far as practicable.</i></p> <p>Here is the hyperlink: www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Climate%20Change%20SPD%20-%20Adoption%20versionAC.pdf</p>	
<p>Policy CC1</p> <p>Paragraph 5.11.2</p> <p>Final paragraph page 79 and first paragraph page 80</p>	<p>Planning and Building Regulations</p> <p><i>In 2019, the government announced the Future Homes Standard. This will be a set of standards that will complement Building Regulations to ensure an uplift in the energy performance of new homes. In January 2021, the government issued its response to a consultation which ran October 2019 to February 2020 where it confirmed that all new homes will be required to be equipped with low carbon heating and be zero carbon ready by 2025. It has since implemented an uplift to require significantly lower carbon emissions in buildings compared to those built to 2013 standards. It has also run consultations on its proposals to implement further changes so that all new homes and other buildings are required to be equipped with low carbon heating and be ‘zero carbon ready’ by 2025. This means no further work will be needed on these buildings for them to have zero carbon emissions once the electricity grid has fully decarbonised. The government’s latest proposals are set out in “The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023</i></p>	<p>To bring this paragraph up to date with new national guidance. in December 2023, the government published ‘The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation on changes to Part 6 (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for dwellings and non-domestic buildings and seeking</p>

Page	Change	Reason
	<u>consultation</u>	evidence on previous changes to Part O (overheating). This sets out government proposals and options for the implementation of the 2025 Future homes and Buildings Standards.
Policy CC1 Paragraph 5.11.2 Paragraph top of page 80	Amend the paragraph as follows: <i>The low carbon hierarchy set out Policy WNP CC1 is consistent with the Future Homes Standard initiative government’s proposed Future Homes and Buildings Standards. that is likely to require all new homes to be equipped with low carbon heating by 2025</i>	
Policy CC1 Paragraph 5.11.2 Paragraph page 81. Last line before sub heading “Non-residential development”	Amend as follows: <i>Please refer to the Net Zero Carbon Toolkit for further guidance, available here: https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/how-to-achieve-net-zero-carbon-homes/</i>	Clarify text
Policy CC2 Paragraph 5.11.4 Table Page 83 and 84	Table of existing sites of biodiversity value Add areas in hectares to column 2	Clarify text

Page	Change	Reason
Policy CC2 Paragraph 5.11.4 Table Page 84	Amend the 14 th row, first column in table so it just says “Victoria Green”	Clarify text
Policy CC2 First bullet point page 85	Pg 85 (top of) Amend the following supporting paragraph as follows: <i>Local Nature Recovery Toolkit. A toolkit to help support communities incorporate doubling nature in their neighbourhood plans and landscape assessment. It is anticipated the Parish Council will develop a Local Nature Recovery toolkit. In preparation for this, the Witchford Open Spaces group is organising has organised a number of wildlife surveys in 2023, and will continue to do so in 2024 and beyond involving professional biologists as well as knowledgeable amateurs and other volunteers.</i> <i>Results of this work can feed into a Local Nature Recovery Toolkit for Witchford.</i>	Clarify text with more up-to-date information
Policy CC3 Page 85	Amend clause a) in Policy CC3 to read as follows: <i>(a) <u>For all qualifying developments, applicants will be encouraged to achieve a 20% biodiversity net gain</u> The minimum biodiversity net gain for all qualifying developments shall be 20%, rather than the national mandatory minimum of 10%; and</i>	To bring up to date in light of BNG legislation coming into force and publication of planning practice guidance in February 2024
Policy CC3 Page 85	Policy CC3 In the second clause a) and second clause b) the map reference should be to Map 15	Clarify text
Policy CC3 Page 85	Amend clause b) in policy CC3 as follows: <i>For householder <u>and other proposals</u> which that are otherwise exempt from mandatory biodiversity net gain requirements, an element of biodiversity gain should nevertheless be incorporated into the proposal of a degree proportionate to the scale of the proposal. Measures</i>	Update policy text to reflect exemptions that now apply to BNG legislative requirements

Page	Change	Reason
	<p><i>could include bird boxes, swift bricks, insect ‘hotels’, bee blocks, bat boxes and/or hibernation holes winter roosts, the creation of new ponds for amphibians and invertebrates, making changes to garden fencing to allow access for small mammals, or other nature-friendly landscaping feature within the householder’s garden; and</i></p>	<p>and to be consistent with supporting text.</p> <p>Correct terminology</p>
<p>Policy CC3</p> <p>Paragraph 5.11.6</p> <p>Page 86</p>	<p>Amend as follows</p> <p><u>Biodiversity net gain is a way of recreating and improving biodiversity by requiring development to have a positive impact (net gain) on biodiversity.</u></p> <p><u>In England, biodiversity net gain (BNG) is required under a statutory framework introduced via the Environment Act 2021. The Environment Act has mandated minimum measurable BNG for all developments. This requires that the biodiversity value of the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the site by a minimum of 10%. Biodiversity value is measured using the statutory biodiversity metric a metric produced by Defra (the “Defra metric” http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720) (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides) and the baseline value is calculated from the condition of the site before any intervention has occurred.</u></p> <p><u>The requirement to achieve BNG applies to most types of development. Exemptions include householder development and development consisting exclusively self-build and custom build development less than 10 dwellings with a site area of no more than 0.5 hectares.</u></p> <p><u>BS 8683 is the British Standard that sets out a process for implementing BNG.</u></p> <p>How can sites achieve BNG in Witchford?</p> <p>Appropriate measures will depend on the context of each specific site and surroundings, together with the details of the development proposed. Subject to these details, measures should provide habitats, including ponds, wetlands, meadows, hedgerows and woodland, to</p>	<p>To bring up to date in light of BNG legislation coming into force and publication of planning practice guidance in February 2024</p>

Page	Change	Reason
	<p>support known species in the parish (see Appendix 5 for a list of species recorded in Witchford parish).</p> <p>The information provided above on known habitats and species in the parish and the opportunities identified so far to improve networks is intended to help and guide applicants in this regard. Existing records of protected and priority species can be obtained through a data search at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre www.CPERC.org.uk</p> <p>For major development, developers are expected to use the Defra Biodiversity Metric 4.0 or its successor for calculating the pre-development baseline and demonstrating a post development baseline.</p> <p>For small scale developments, (few than 10 residential units or an area of less than 0.5 hectares) and householder applications, the Defra “small sites” biodiversity metric should be used.</p> <p><u>The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have published statutory guidance on the statutory biodiversity metric and information on how it is to be used</u> https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-metric-calculate-the-biodiversity-net-gain-of-a-project-or-development</p> <p><u>Householder applications and other exempt proposals</u> There are a range of small-scale interventions that can make a difference to local wildlife and these should be considered as part of householder applications <u>as well as other proposals that are exempt from the mandatory BNG requirements.</u> Guidance is available at https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions.</p>	
CC4 5.11.8	Create sub-heading “The six Tree Planting Principles”	Clarify text

Page	Change	Reason
Page 88		
5.11.8 Page 88	Amend 5 th tree planting principle as follows: 5. Be of an appropriate species for the site <u>and be a native or climate resilient species that will benefit parish wildlife.</u>	Improve guidance
5.11.8 Page 88	Amend 1 st tree planting principle as follows: <i>1. Create habitat and, if possible, connect the development site to the <u>existing green infrastructure network in the parish (see Map 15).</u> Strategic Green Infrastructure Network,</i>	Improve guidance
5.11.8 Page 88	Amend 3 rd tree planting principle as follows: Assist in providing shade and shelter to address urban cooling, and in turn assist in mitigating against the effects of climate change. <u>Provide shade and shelter to assist with urban cooling, in turn mitigating against the effects of climate change.</u>	Improve guidance
CC5 Page 90	Amend text of Policy CC5 FROM: WNP CC5 Supporting renewable energy infrastructure Development proposals involving the creation of renewable energy infrastructure (such as wind turbines (domestic scale only) and solar panels), or low carbon energy infrastructure (e.g. heat pumps, ground source heating) will be supported subject to the following: Domestic Scale Where a householder is required to gain planning permission prior to installation of a domestic scale wind turbine, solar panels or low carbon energy infrastructure, then the presumption is in favour of such proposals unless the visual harm is so great as to outweigh the very significant	SEA/HRA screening advice from ECDC

Page	Change	Reason
	<p>weight applied to the principle of installing such infrastructure.</p> <p>Business-Use Scale</p> <p>Where a business or other non-domestic operation is required to gain planning permission prior to installation of solar panels or low carbon energy infrastructure (with such installations primarily designed to meet the energy demands of that business or other non-domestic operation, rather than primarily designed to export to the national grid), then the presumption is in favour of such proposals unless the harm (visual or otherwise) is so great as to outweigh the very significant weight applied to the principle of installing such infrastructure.</p> <p>Commercial Scale</p> <p>Excluding wind energy proposals, a proposal for renewable energy infrastructure or low carbon energy infrastructure outside of the above two classes (such as one which is primarily of a scale designed to export to the national grid rather than serve an existing building or operation), is supported in principle, subject to meeting all of the following requirements:</p> <p>(a) The impacts (during all phases including construction) of the proposal are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity (see special clause below); geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape (including Ely Cathedral); and highway safety; and</p> <p>(b) The impacts (during all phases including construction) are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and</p> <p>(c) The impacts (during all phases including construction) are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, air quality and traffic;</p>	

Page	Change	Reason
	<p>In order to test compliance with (a)-(d) will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of robust evidence.</p> <p>The establishment of some form of Community Benefit Fund (for spend on local community infrastructure projects) or other in-kind benefits package for the local community (such as discounted energy bills) associated with a commercial-scale renewable energy proposal is encouraged, but, in accordance with Planning Law, will not be a material factor in making a decision on the proposal.</p> <p>Biodiversity considerations – Habitats Regulation Assessment</p> <p>Most of Witchford parish falls within the ‘Swan and Goose’ Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), as identified on DEFRA’s ‘MAGIC’ website, this being land which may provide important functional habitat for qualifying bird species associated with the Ouse Washes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, particularly swans, for foraging and roosting. Since the IRZ area is considered to be potentially functionally linked to the European designated site, development in this area requires appropriate consideration under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p> <p>As such, any business-use scale or commercial scale renewable energy proposals within the IRZ must undertake a project-level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to demonstrate that proposed development will not have any adverse effect on Ouse Washes functional land in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations</p> <p>Such a project level HRA should initially commence with a robust HRA Screening, prepared by the applicant, to identify whether the land affected by the proposed development is regularly used by qualifying species (especially foraging and roosting swans) of the Ouse Washes SPA / Ramsar site and whether the proposal will have a likely significant effect. Where this identifies a likely significant effect (or the effect is unknown), applicants will be required to submit sufficient information for a project level Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken by the</p>	

Page	Change	Reason
	<p>District Council under the Habitats Regulation Assessment process to ensure there will be no adverse impacts on the Ouse Washes designated site.</p> <p>Wind Turbine Proposals</p> <p>For as long as national policy requires this Neighbourhood Plan to confirm as such, then it is confirmed that the whole of Witchford parish is deemed a broad area potentially suitable for wind turbine proposals. However, for the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean that an application for a wind turbine or turbines would automatically be approved in the parish. It is not possible to easily and comprehensively map qualitative considerations in order to define precise locations in this Neighbourhood Plan which are suitable for wind turbines, so such matters are to be considered at the point of application. All applications for wind turbines will be assessed against the detailed policy criteria set out in this policy, and all other relevant policies in the Development Plan, as well as any national policies.</p> <p>TO NEW TEXT OF POLICY CC5:</p> <p>WNP CC5 Supporting renewable energy infrastructure</p> <p>Development proposals involving the creation of renewable energy infrastructure (such as wind turbines (domestic scale only) and solar panels), or low carbon energy infrastructure (e.g. heat pumps, ground source heating) will be supported subject to the following:</p> <p>Domestic Scale</p> <p>Where a householder is required to gain planning permission prior to installation of a domestic scale wind turbine, solar panel or low carbon energy infrastructure, then the presumption is in favour of such proposals unless the visual harm is so great as to outweigh the very significant weight applied to the principle of installing such infrastructure.</p> <p>Business-Use Scale</p>	

Page	Change	Reason
	<p>Where a business or other non-domestic operation is required to gain planning permission prior to installation of solar panels or low carbon energy infrastructure (with such installations primarily designed to meet the energy demands of that business or other non-domestic operation, rather than primarily designed to export to the national grid), then the presumption is in favour of such proposals unless the harm (visual or otherwise) is so great as to outweigh the very significant weight applied to the principle of installing such infrastructure.</p> <p>Commercial Scale</p> <p>Excluding wind energy proposals, a proposal for renewable energy infrastructure or low carbon energy infrastructure outside of the above two classes (such as one which is primarily of a scale designed to export to the national grid rather than serve an existing building or operation), is supported in principle, subject to meeting all of the following requirements:</p> <p>(a) The impacts (during all phases including construction) of the proposal are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity (see special clause below); geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape (including Ely Cathedral); and highway safety; and</p> <p>(b) The impacts (during all phases including construction) are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and</p> <p>(c) The impacts (during all phases including construction) are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, air quality and traffic;</p> <p>In order to test compliance with (a)-(c) will require, for relevant proposals, the submission by the applicant of robust evidence.</p> <p>The establishment of some form of Community Benefit Fund (for spend on local community</p>	

Page	Change	Reason
	<p>infrastructure projects) or other in-kind benefits package for the local community (such as discounted energy bills) associated with a commercial-scale renewable energy proposal is encouraged, but, in accordance with Planning Law, will not be a material factor in making a decision on the proposal.</p> <p>Biodiversity considerations – Habitats Regulation Assessment</p> <p>The northern part of Witchford parish falls within the ‘Swan and Goose’ Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), as identified on DEFRA’s ‘MAGIC’ website, this being land which may provide important functional habitat for qualifying bird species associated with the Ouse Washes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, particularly swans, for foraging and roosting. Since the IRZ area is considered to be potentially functionally linked to the European designated site, development in this area requires appropriate consideration under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p> <p>As such, any business-use scale or commercial scale renewable energy proposals within the IRZ must undertake a project-level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to demonstrate that proposed development will not have any adverse effect on Ouse Washes functional land in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Such a project level HRA should initially commence with a robust HRA Screening, prepared by the applicant, to identify whether the land affected by the proposed development is regularly used by qualifying species (especially foraging and roosting swans) of the Ouse Washes SPA / Ramsar site and whether the proposal will have a likely significant effect. Where this identifies a likely significant effect (or the effect is unknown), applicants will be required to submit sufficient information for a project level Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken by the District Council under the Habitats Regulation Assessment process to ensure there will be no adverse impacts on the Ouse Washes designated site.</p>	
Policy CC5	Amend as follows:	SEA/HRA screening advice

Page	Change	Reason
<p>Para 5.11.8 Policy intent</p> <p>Page 91</p>	<p>To support proposals which deliver renewable or low carbon energy infrastructure that can help Witchford parish reduce its contribution to climate change. <u>In this respect, proposals that provide a source of low carbon or renewable energy that Witchford residents and businesses have the potential to connect with, will be particularly welcomed.</u> To be acceptable, proposals must help Witchford parishioners, either through supplying them with renewable or low carbon heat or energy source or through cash payments made by the operator of the generating infrastructure.</p> <p>Importantly, other policies such as adopted Policy WNP LC1 (Landscape and Settlement Character) and Policy WNP GI3 (Development and Biodiversity) will apply alongside this policy.</p>	<p>from ECDC</p>
<p>Policy CC5</p> <p>Para 5.11.9 Context and reasoned justification</p> <p>Page 91</p>	<p>Amend as follows:</p> <p>In the parish-wide survey undertaken in January 2023, and in response to a question asking whether people were in favour of renewable energy technology such as solar power, wind power or air/heat source pumps, 87.9% (of 116 responses) said yes.</p> <p>When asked whether people would support the provision of small-scale renewable energy scheme in the parish to generate energy specifically for Witchford, nearly 100% said yes to small scale solar array, and over 75% supported a small scale wind turbine or a community heat pump.</p> <p>ECDC have published the following supplementary planning documents which are applicable to development proposals relating to renewable energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Renewable Energy Development (Commercial Scale) SPD, October 2014 available here. As well as commercial schemes, this is also applicable to larger scale community led renewable energy schemes which are proposed by local communities and community organisations such as Community Land Trusts. 	<p>SEA/HRA screening advice from ECDC</p>

Page	Change	Reason
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District Design Guide SPD (2012) available here This contains advice on small scale schemes including turbines, solar panels <u>and</u> photovoltaic cells as well as wind turbines over 15 metres in height to the hub. 	
Appendix 2	<p>Update Appendix 2 with some of the ideas put forward at Regulation 14 consultation For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tree planting initiatives ● Creation of wildflower meadows ● Running climate change events for the community. E.g. with guest speaker to discuss householder measures such as rewilding your garden or improving home insulation. 	
Appendix 3 SWOT Page 98	<p>SWOT – Strengths</p> <p>Amend 6th row, second column as follows:</p> <p>✓ The NP has a role in ensuring wetlands and ponds are protected or enhanced so that habitats and species have a better chance of coping during heavy rainfall events and periods of drought. <u>Wetlands and ponds are also important for providing surface water storage for the attenuation of stormwater.</u> The management of wetland vegetation and ponds is more a matter for landowners and other stakeholders in the land.</p>	Clarify text
Appendix 3 SWOT Page 99	<p>SWOT – Strengths</p> <p>Amend 7th row, first column, item b) as follows:</p> <p>The accessible open spaces provide opportunities for residents to access shaded open spaces within walking distances. All green infrastructure in proximity to the built-up areas will manage <u>reduce</u> temperatures during periods of hot weather</p>	Clarify text

Page	Change	Reason
Appendix 3 SWOT Page 99	<p>SWOT – Weaknesses</p> <p>Amend second row, first column as follows:</p> <p>Existing building stock is thought to be generally poorly insulated, making residents and employees dependent on gas and electricity. High heating bills also put residents at risk during cold weather and hot weather. <u>Residents are put at risk during cold weather because of high fuel bills for heating, and similarly during hot weather to provide air conditioning for cooling.</u></p>	Clarify text
Appendix 3 SWOT Page 99	<p>SWOT – Weaknesses</p> <p>Amend second row, second column as follows:</p> <p>No. Planning policy cannot influence existing building stock, unless a planning application is involved. The Witchford Climate Action Group have made use of thermal imaging cameras <u>and a thermal camera has now been purchased by Witchford Parish Council, made available on loan by ECDC, to help</u> This helps residents understand heat loss from the existing building stock.</p>	Clarify text
Appendix 3 SWOT Page 100	<p>SWOT weaknesses</p> <p>Amend 6th row, first column</p> <p>Large areas of the parish are <u>close to</u> below sea level. This makes the parish vulnerable were there to be very extreme weather events</p>	Clarify text
Appendix 5 Page 107	<p>Amend the blue title as follows:</p> <p><i>Species recorded in Witchford Parish <u>include the following:</u></i></p>	Clarify text



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