

Tickhill Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Review

1. Climate change: widely regarded as the main threat to every community. What could the Town Council do to work towards a carbon neutral town?		
Do you agree to the following Questions 2 - 9? Place an X in either Yes or No then elaborate further with any comments		Yes
2. Should Tickhill have its own bi-diversity action plan?		No
Comments: -		
3. Defending existing employment sites?		
Comments: -		
4. Defending existing allotment sites?		
Comments: -		
5. Supporting the Green Belt (boundary as in the new Doncaster Local Plan)?		
Comments: -		
6. Proposal to have a roundabout at the Buttercross and how could this improve matters for pedestrians?		
Comments: -		
7. Proposal to have a mini roundabout at the Millstone junction?		
Comments: -		
8. Electric car charging point in the car park?		
Comments: -		
9. Special protection for limestone walls, distinctive of Tickhill?		
Comments: -		
10. New houses are proposed between A1(M) and Meadow Drive (in Doncaster Council Local Plan). Should they be 2 and 3-bedroom homes, suitable for young or smaller families or those wishing to downsize? Comments: -		
11. Pedestrian crossings - where do you think new refuges are needed on our main roads in Tickhill? Comments: -		

12. Tourism- There is now an Information Board and Leaflets 'This is Tickhill' What more could be done to promote Tickhill?

Comments: -

13. More bridleways for horse riders- where could they be created?

Comments: -

14. Cycling- are there places where cycle lanes could be created?

Comments: -

15. Can you suggest further measures to protect areas from flooding?

Comments: -

16. Revised parking restrictions in the Town centre- could they be improved?

Comments: -

17. Trees- Where could they be planted to increase our stock?

Comments: -

18. Journey to school- what measures could be taken to encourage more children to walk or cycle to our primary schools?

Comments: -

Tickhill Town Council has decided to review and update its Neighbourhood Plan, in line with Doncaster's new Local Plan, which has recently been made public. As our Plan was the first in the county, with few completed examples elsewhere in the country, we were in sense blazing a trail and learning as we went along. So we now have the opportunity to benefit from our experience, and that of other parishes, and to iron out any wrinkles. Our original plan was delayed when we were advised to split it into two parts and this division we will repeat, not least because the planning inspector who approves it only considers the policies which govern planning applications. Whether we will need to go through all the same hoops again will depend on his or her decision.

What have we achieved and will seek to build on? Parking was a major issue raised 6 years ago but we will only see the modification of controls on the street in providing short-term (1 hour), 2 hour and unlimited time in the town centre this year. We have set a 3-hour limit for the Council's own car park, so that it is clearly for shoppers, not for all-day parking. This will need monitoring to see what difference it makes, as parking must benefit local trade. Doncaster Council has reinforced the go slow markings on Northgate but we haven't so far conducted any further checks on speed or on heavy goods vehicles passing through the town; we are still looking for ways to get them to use the quicker new route to Bawtry from the M18 through the Great Yorkshire Way. It is a great disappointment that through traffic seems to increase when we hoped it would reduce; we will be taking traffic counts later in the year. The problem continues. We and Doncaster Council have opposed the substantial housing development proposed in Harworth which would add traffic to already busy main roads, and particularly aggravate the already hazardous Stripe Road junction.

On a more positive note, we have produced our promotional leaflet 'This is Tickhill' and the history board opposite Spar shows the main features of the town for visitors. We have sought protection for the allotments behind what was The Club, by designating them in the Neighbourhood Plan, so making it harder for anyone to close them. We are supporting the creation of a pocket park behind the Library where the old public toilets were, and are grateful that alternative facilities are now available in the Library, which is now run by volunteers. We have promoted the planting of colourful wild flowers on suitable roadside and open spaces and been actively involved in tree planting on Tickhill Spital. The flood protection work in Lindrick is complete at the time of writing and looking good. We have a lease on the wood we call 'Tickhill Wildwood', alongside the track parallel to the motorway, where a circular path is there to use at your own risk!

Planning applications come to the Council for comment and we generally try to support the views of residents. However, although Doncaster planners are obliged to take note of Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan, we do not always get our way! Building in gardens and the protection of limestone walls are two particular areas to watch. We have recently conducted surveys to indicate housing need; whether the town will be required to provide new housing land as a result of the new Doncaster Plan has yet to become clear.

Looking to the future, it is the second section of the plan which is most likely to see changes as it contains the aspirations of the town for its future; your views are vitally important. We are currently facing the challenge of empty business premises in the town centre; these we are determined to fill in as we possibly can – empty shops or closed pubs are a terrible advertisement for Tickhill. The issue of traffic and its speed remains unsolved; significant changes will cost money we do not have. Residents have raised questions about the safety of walkers and cyclists, especially in the context of children going to our schools; we shall look for proposals in this area. The Council has spent money on well-supported holiday activities for children and we shall continue to support those who serve our young people so well.

John Hoare

Tickhill Today November 2019

Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to all those who have assisted the Town Council in filling in our recent questionnaire. Please send in any further ideas you have to help us as we review and update the Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan at the same time as the new Doncaster Local Plan is going through the statutory processes. There were many positive remarks about the 'friendly community', 'good selection of shops', 'clubs and societies for everyone' and 'attractive countryside'. Many expressed appreciation at the tidiness of the centre as a result of our litter pickers' hard work.

However, it will not be a surprise to any readers of Tickhill Today that 80% of respondents commented adversely on something to do with traffic and highways. One person summed it up as 'the speed, noise and volume of traffic'. Parking continues to be an issue; hopefully the recent minor changes to timing rules in our town centre will help shoppers but parking on pavements and lack of enforcement are beyond the powers of the Town Council. The Council has already made a request for restrictions in Alderson Drive outside the Cricket Club. Mini-roundabouts at road junctions have been suggested, also the need for more pedestrian crossings and traffic calming. Road maintenance is inadequate on many roads. These are matters the Council will raise with the Borough Council. That heavy goods vehicles still come through Tickhill after the opening of the far better route off the M18 along Great Yorkshire Way and A638 is a major area of concern; signage to Bawtry still takes drivers off the M18 at Hellaby. This has been pointed out already to the highway authorities without any result. Stripe Road junction is probably the least satisfactory of all in the parish and will be even more of a problem if all the proposed Harworth developments take place.

Many of you expressed concern at the proposal for a supermarket at the Millstone. The Council has already objected to this, as contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan and damaging to the viability of the town centre. Having a statutory Neighbourhood Plan helps us in commenting on planning applications but we can't always promise to get the result wanted locally as Doncaster Planning Committee takes the final decision.

Some of the other areas you raised will be looked at and action taken or pressure put on the relevant authorities where possible. These include the inadequacy of the doctors' surgery, possible improvements to youth facilities and play areas, a lack of policing, preservation of open spaces and allotments and bus services to Maltby and Meadowhall.

Further ideas will be welcomed as we work on the revised Neighbourhood Plan. Please leave them at Castlegate Cards or through any councillor's letter box. If you wish to be kept up to date, leave your e mail address with the Clerk to the Council. One of the contents of the new Plan will be a list of structures/items of local historical interest not on the Listed Buildings register; suggestions for this will be welcome. We would also welcome volunteers to assist us when we do our first traffic survey on Tuesday 12 November; names to any of the above and thank you.

John Hoare

Tickhill Today May 2020

Our Neighbourhood Plan review has been thrown off its planned course by the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus crisis. However, the process will continue, with necessary modifications. Face-to-face meetings will be unavoidably delayed so it is likely that we will proceed with drafts in advance of any meeting and have to be prepared to make late amendments according to what transpires. The public meeting planned for May will not take place but will be postponed until later. Likewise our plans to meet local school children, Scouts and Guides, will hopefully take place while they can still influence the outcome. Please keep an eye open for revised dates and please keep sending in any suggestions for the new Neighbourhood Plan.

John Hoare

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

What follows is the list in the current Neighbourhood Plan, with some additions and alterations already suggested.

- 1 To promote policies which move Tickhill towards carbon neutrality
- 2 To conserve and enhance the character of the town, in particular with regard to its amenities and services, the built environment, open spaces and the surrounding Green Belt.
- 3 To enhance and promote local shops and businesses situated within the Core Business Area.
- 4 To encourage opportunities for local employment which will help sustain the local economy.
- 5 To promote and protect Tickhill's historic and architectural features and listed buildings, both within and outside the Conservation Area.
- 6 To support the construction of affordable housing and high quality infill, in the process advocating the use of local materials in their construction.
- 7 To identify unsatisfactory or vulnerable services and areas, including transport, where improvement would be beneficial and to suggest how this can be achieved.
- 8 To develop new facilities for all ages of the population, particularly young people, and to encourage and promotes healthy lifestyles.
- 9 To protect the Green Belt and support local farmers in promoting local produce.
- 10 To secure a safe environment for all, particularly with respect to road safety and flooding issues.
- 11 To encourage residents and visitors alike to share in the history, environment and shopping facilities of the town and to contribute to an inclusive and vibrant community.