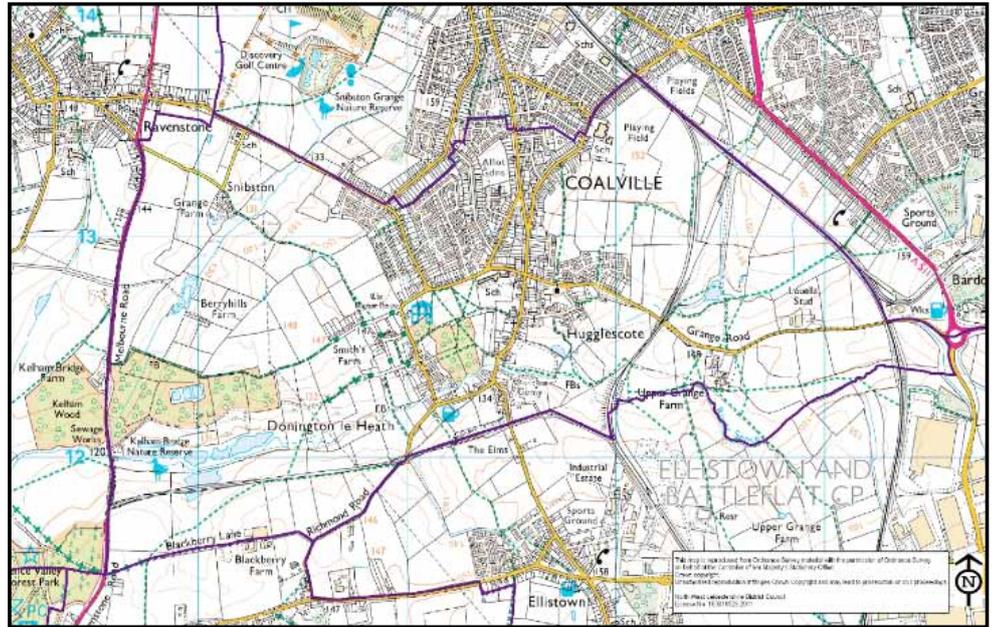


October 2021 Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document prepared by the local community to help it to plan and guide the future shape of development of the plan area. Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Government in 2011 with a view to offering communities the chance to take a greater degree of control of development in their area. Our Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside N.W. Leicestershire District Council's Local Plan. The District Council has agreed that our Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum to be confirmed.

The referendum date of **Thursday 21st October** has been set. The "Plan" as it is known by those of us who have worked on it over the last few years, started its journey in 2017 when the then Parish Council took the decision to produce a plan to support and reflect our residents' wishes and aspirations for their community. These community views were in response to the ever-increasing impacts of housing and employment developments which were gradually eroding the surrounding environment and the infrastructure of the Parish. We invited the local community to a roadshow held in the Community Centre where the maps of the Parish were on display so residents could pinpoint areas that would benefit from a degree of control over development and that needed to be protected.



We asked residents about their needs and aspirations; what type of housing would be of help to those looking to get onto the property ladder as well as those of us who are looking to downsize to smaller accommodation or needing bungalow-style properties.

We asked residents what places within the Parish are valuable for their recreation and well-being needs.

We highlighted our Parish heritage, the history of our Parish and those areas which are part of its fabric for example St. Mary's Church; the disappeared village of Snibston; the conservation area of Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath and its important buildings.

We responded to our residents' wishes by setting up themed groups to tackle the areas of housing, transport and environment. We produced a first Plan in 2017. Following comments and discussions with the District Council the Parish constructed a revised Plan in 2019. This Plan was accepted by the District Council and formal consultation took place with various statutory stakeholders. An independent examiner then reviewed the Plan its policies and objectives. All consultation and responses are on the website.

How will the Referendum work?

Poll cards will be posted to all residents in the Parish area. Voting will take place at polling stations within the Community Centre in Hugglescote. Postal votes will be issued in the usual way if requested. A simple YES or NO question will be asked as follows:

Do you want North West Leicestershire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath to decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?

Polling will be on a Thursday from 07.00 till 22.00hrs. The count will follow later, and the result will be published on the District and Parish Councils' websites.

We as a Parish Council hope you will support us in this important vote.

It's a vote for YOUR community and its future existence. Remember, voting NO for the Neighbourhood Plan does not mean a vote for no development, but a vote for NO CONTROL over development.

If the plan is successful at Referendum (that is, if the majority of those who turn out to vote choose to vote in favour of the Plan) NWLDC will adopt the Plan. It will then become part of the Development Plan for our area against which decisions on planning applications will be made.

If the Plan is not successful at referendum, NWLDC will not be able to adopt the Plan and the draft Plan will have no weight when determining planning applications. The groups that have worked on this along with the Parish Council will then decide whether or not they wish to continue to prepare a plan that does not get public support.

We are holding a number of Open Events at the Community Centre to discuss our Neighbourhood Plan and how we arrived at the final document. Please call in on Saturday 9 or the 16 October to find out more or contact any of our Parish Councillors or our Clerk for more information.