

# Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – FAQ sheet

## **What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**

A neighbourhood plan is a planning document prepared by the local community for the local community. It gives local people the chance to plan for their own area by developing policies that will guide and shape development in the Plan area for the future. 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 areas.

## **Who are the Fosse Villages?**

The Fosse Villages are a group of parishes in the southern part of Blaby District that are rural in nature and have a history of joint-working. The Fosse Villages consist of the parishes of: Aston Flamville, Croft, Huncote, Leicester Forest West, Sapcote, Potters Marston, Sharnford, Stoney Stanton, Thurlaston and Wigston Parva.

## **What is a 'Neighbourhood Area'?**

A Neighbourhood Area is the designated geographical area which a Neighbourhood Plan is being / has been prepared for. In the case of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan, the designated Neighbourhood Area is the entire area of the ten parishes listed above.

## **Who wrote the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan?**

Preparation of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan was led by a Joint Working Board consisting of representatives of each Parish Council, with support from local residents and Blaby District Council throughout the process.

## **Why have I not heard anything about the Plan before now?**

The Fosse Villages Joint Working Board has prepared the Plan and had responsibility for consulting on the Plan during its preparation and engaging with the community. Details of how they consulted on the Plan can be found in their 'Consultation Statement' available at [www.blaby.gov.uk/neighbourhood\\_planning](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/neighbourhood_planning).

## **Where can I find a copy of the Plan?**

The Plan can be accessed on the District Council website, using the following address – [www.blaby.gov.uk/fossevillages](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/fossevillages) . The document is called 'Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version 2020'.

The Plan is also available electronically on the Leicestershire Communities website, 'Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan' page: <https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/np/fosse-villages-np.html>.

Hard copies of the Plan are available to view at Blaby District Council Offices in Narborough.

### **Has the Plan been subject to any kind of scrutiny / testing up to this point?**

Yes. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant national legislation which sets out key, statutory stages in its preparation, including consultation. Various consultation exercises have been undertaken on the Plan, with people providing their views on it.

Furthermore, once the Joint Working Board prepared their final version of the Plan, in accordance with the legislation, the Plan was submitted for an Examination with an independent neighbourhood plan Examiner. The Examiner tested the Plan against something called the 'basic conditions' set out in the legislation. The Examiner published his report into the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan in November 2019, and concluded that subject to a number of modifications to ensure the Plan met the required 'basic conditions', the Plan could proceed to Referendum. The Examiner's Report can be found on the following webpage – [www.blaby.gov.uk/fossevillages](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/fossevillages) . Blaby District Council voted to accept all of the Examiner's recommended modifications. The final version of the Plan, with all of the Examiner's recommended modifications made, is now the subject of this Referendum.

### **How will the Plan be used to decide planning applications?**

If the Plan is successful at Referendum, it will then be 'made' (ie. adopted) by Blaby District Council, at which point it will become part of the development plan for this area, against which planning applications will be assessed. Therefore, when planning applications are submitted for sites within any of the ten listed parishes, planning officers will assess the proposals against not only the District Council's Local Plan, but also the policies within the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan, before arriving at a decision.

For clarity, the determination of planning applications will remain the responsibility of Blaby District Council (and Leicestershire County Council in special circumstances).

### **What happens after the Referendum?**

If the Plan is successful at Referendum (ie. the majority of the voting turnout, vote in favour of the Plan), Blaby District Council will then 'make' (adopt) the Plan, at which point it becomes part of the Development Plan for the area, against which decisions on planning applications will be made.

If the Plan is not successful at Referendum, Blaby District Council will not be able to 'make' (adopt) the Plan, and the draft Plan will be of no weight when determining planning applications. The Fosse Villages Joint Working Board will then decide whether or not they wish to continue to prepare a Plan that does get public support.