

Neighbourhood Plan Report – May 2026

We are required to monitor the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Plan and provide an annual report, as stated in section 1.3 of the Plan:

1.3.1. Grafham and Ellington Parish Councils, collectively as the ‘Qualifying Body’, will be responsible for maintaining and periodically revisiting the Plan to ensure relevance and to monitor delivery.

1.3.2. The Parish Councils will actively monitor how the policies within the neighbourhood plan are being implemented. This will be summarised in a report produced by the Parish Councils annually and published on the Parish Councils websites.

There have been relatively few Planning Applications in Grafham in the past year and all complied with the policy intentions of the NP. Whereas, in Ellington there is more development taking place, but this is being monitored by Ellington Parish Council.

Local Plan

HDC will be updating their Local Plan earlier than the original date of 2035 due to changes in the government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and are working towards a release date in 2028 for their “Local Plan to 2046”.

HDC's "call for sites" for possible inclusion in the revised Local Plan could potentially impact the NP.

Government Changes

There is a change of emphasis in keeping with the government’s desire to reduce Nimbyism. This will probably mean a more significant change in our NP will be required than previously suggested a couple of years back.

This will certainly require scrutiny by the Independent Examiner, and quite possibly a residents survey and referendum.

There is no longer any funding for NPs. We were granted £2,900 to cover our costs, which was a modest percentage of the £10,000 limit, but still a large sum to fund from a PC’s precept. It could stop a number of NPs going ahead.

County Council

CCC have aspirations for more wind/solar energy sites within Cambridgeshire, which can only proceed with approval from local communities under recent changes to the planning process. They would therefore like to see such projects appearing in NPs, where appropriate.

Conclusion

Once we become aware of the required changes and potential development sites, we should consider what changes to the NP might be appropriate, in discussion with Ellington PC.

Community Action Plan

The Community Action Plan consists of non-planning issues that the community raised as being important during the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan. They are not “planning policies”, so cannot be included in the Plan, but because they are important to the community, they have been captured so the Parish Councils can consider taking them forward.

The Community Action Plan will be reviewed at a forthcoming Parish Council meeting.