

LOCAL SERVICES (LOCAL CHALLENGES)

Car parking and electric vehicle car parking
Community facilities
Cemetery and burial space



***Oadby and Wigston
Borough Council
Leicestershire***

Car parking / electric vehicle car parking

What the government says:

- 4.1 NPPF states that transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making, so that patterns of movement, streets and parking contributes towards the provision of high quality spaces and places.
- 4.2 Further, NPPF states that *'in town centres, local authorities should seek to improve the quality of parking so that it is convenient, safe and secure, alongside measures to promote accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists'*.
- 4.3 NPPF suggests that in setting local parking standards, note should be taken of; accessibility; the type and mix of development proposed; availability of public transport; local car ownership; and the need for ultra-low emission vehicles.
- 4.4 Government is currently promoting the use of more electric vehicles and is planning to end the sale of higher emission producing vehicles by the year 2040.

What the Council says:

- 4.5 The Council is committed in ensuring that all new development is provided with the appropriate levels of vehicular parking spaces.
- 4.6 The Council currently utilises the local highway authority's highway standards, in relation to development and parking proposals. The Leicestershire Highway Design Guide is produced by Leicestershire County Council and is updated regularly to ensure that the guide remains up-to-date.
- 4.7 Current local planning policy set out in the Council's Local Plan requires all new development proposals to conform to the standards set out in the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide, unless robust evidence specifies a need to vary from these standards.
- 4.8 It is expected that the Council 'roles forward' the existing policy approach of the current Local Plan Policy 34 – Car Parking, into the new Local Plan.

Potential options:

- Continue with the existing policy approach set out within the current Local Plan as it has been successful in ensuring the appropriate parking levels are provided on all new developments.
- Require all new development to provide Electric Vehicle Charge points.
- Remove the policy approach and only apply the policy principles and guidance set at a national level through the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Planning Practice Guidance.

Questions:

- Should the Council 'roll forward' the current policy approach set out in current Local Plan Policy 34 – Car Parking, ensuring that it is up to date with current national planning policy and guidance?

- Should the Council be requiring all new development to provide Electric Vehicle Charge points, so that occupiers have the ability to utilise modern technologies?
- Should the Council be requiring provision of Electric Vehicle Charge points in all new homes that are delivered?
- Should the Council be requiring provision of enabling infrastructure for Electric Vehicle Charge points in all new homes that are delivered?
- Are any of the other options set out above appropriate?

Please explain your answer in a few words. Also, if there are other options that you feel are more appropriate please explain.



Community facilities

What the government says:

- 4.9 NPPF suggests that the provision of community facilities should be set at a local level and local authorities should *'plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments'*. Further it suggests that an integrated approach to the location of housing, employment and community facilities should be ensured, as it plays a key role in sustainable development.

What the Council says:

- 4.10 Community facilities are defined as buildings or spaces where community led activities for community benefit are the primary use and the facility is managed, occupied or used primarily by the voluntary and community sector. Community facilities can include purpose-built structures such as community halls and village halls, places of worship, health centres, schools and cultural facilities such as museums, libraries, theatres, post offices and public houses.
- 4.11 The Council will seek to ensure that local communities have access to community facilities. In recent years the Borough has seen significant investment within its community facilities, both from the private sector as well as the Council itself, for example the new community pavilion at Horsewell Lane park.
- 4.12 The Council will continually monitor and assess the local community's needs to ensure that provision of community facilities within the Borough is appropriate for local community needs.
- 4.13 The loss of community facilities can have a substantial impact on people's quality of life, wellbeing and overall viability of the local area. The Council will expect new development to at least retain, and where required, improve existing local community facilities. It is important that these are integrated into the design of new development.
- 4.14 Current local planning policy set out in the Council's Local Plan has been successful in ensuring the provision of community's facilities over the past few years. Due to this, it is expected that the Council 'roles forward' the existing policy approach of current Local Plan Policy 7 – Community facilities, into the new Local Plan.
- 4.15 In addition, the Council will continue to work closely with all relevant stakeholders, throughout both the Local Plan process and planning application process.

Potential options:

- Continue with the existing policy approach set out within the current Local Plan as it has been successful in ensuring the delivery of community facilities.
- Require all development, irrespective of size or type, to contribute towards community facility provision.
- Require only large scale development to contribute towards community facility provision.
- continue to work closely with all relevant stakeholders, throughout both the Local Plan process and planning application process



Questions:

- Should the Council 'roll forward' the current policy approach set out in Local Plan Policy 7 – Community Facilities, ensuring that it is up to date with current national planning policy and guidance?
- Should the Council require all development proposals, regardless of size, to contribute towards delivery of community facilities?
- Are any of the other options set out above appropriate?
- Which community facility is needed in your area to mitigate the impact of growth?

Please explain your answer in a few words. Also, if there are other options that you feel are more appropriate please explain.



Cemetery and burial space

What the government says:

4.16 In the context of ‘proposals affecting the Green Belt’, the NPPF suggests that certain land uses and forms of development, such as cemeteries and burial ground, would be deemed as acceptable, *‘provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it’*. Although the Borough does not have any Green Belt land, the surrounding countryside and green wedges play a similar role and therefore this Policy approach is relevant in this context.

What the Council says:

4.17 The Council’s current Local Plan states that *‘there is no quantity requirement for these types of open space [cemeteries and burial grounds]; however the Council has identified land south of Gartree Road in Oadby (as illustrated on the Adopted Policies Map) as appropriate for the provision of cemetery and burial grounds. This land will ensure the Council has sufficient land available to provide for the Borough’s cemetery and burial needs up to 2031’*.

4.18 In addition, Policy 18 - Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth Allocation and Oadby Cemetery Allocation, in the current Local Plan, allocates land to the north of Oadby for cemetery and burial uses. The Policy sets out that *‘any cemetery or burial proposal for the allocation site would need to be sufficiently evidenced and justified in terms of ground conditions and its size, scale, need, impact and use. The impact on the direct highway network would also need to be assessed against any proposal put forward’*.

4.19 With the Borough being relatively compact and urban in nature, it is recognised that Cemetery and Burial Space is scarce and therefore, of importance to the local community.

Potential options:

- Continue with existing approach to retain the Oadby Cemetery Allocation, as set out in the Council’s current Local Plan and its evidence base.
- Consider whether or not to retain the Oadby Cemetery Allocation and to undertake a review of the evidence base in order to establish whether or not to retain or amend the boundaries of the existing allocation in order to take account of the new Local Plan proposed levels of growth and any other factual updates.

Questions:

- Should the Council ‘roll forward’ the current Local Plan policy relating to the Oadby Cemetery Allocation with wording amendments to ensure that it is up-to-date with current national planning policy and guidance?
- Should the Council remove the current Local Plan policy relating to the Oadby Cemetery Allocation?
- Do you consider that the Council should be allocating land for cemetery and / or burial space in the new Local Plan?

Please explain your answer in a few words. Also if there are other options that you feel are more appropriate please explain.

