

Northamptonshire Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool for Planning (August 2019)

Introduction:

The design of new developments can have a significant impact on community health and wellbeing, through shaping the local environment and influencing the lives of people who live in, work in or visit those developments. This Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) tool has been produced to enable an assessment of the likely health impacts of spatial planning related proposals – including specific development proposals or planning applications. It should be used at the earliest practicable stage of the process in order to influence the proposals as they are being developed.

The tool focusses on the health and wellbeing impacts associated with built environment proposals, particularly those influenced by the planning process. **The purpose of systematically assessing these impacts is to develop the proposals in a way that minimises negative health and wellbeing impacts and maximises positive contributions to community wellbeing, including reducing health inequalities.** This will help achieve the objectives of local strategies and plans to improve health and wellbeing in Northamptonshire, including the Northamptonshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, thus contributing to sustainable communities. Where a health impact is identified, any actions that have been / will be undertaken to reduce a negative impact or maximise a positive impact should be identified and described. The completed HIA will help enable relevant organisations to judge whether the proposal effectively addresses health and wellbeing issues.

Further guidance is available to support the use of this tool. For more information and advice about using this tool, contact:

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Name of assessor and organisation:	Fisher German LLP
Name of project (plan or proposal):	Outline application for up to 69 dwellings, with associated access, landscaping, open space, and drainage infrastructure (all matters reserved other than access)
Planning reference (if applicable):	N/A
Location of project:	Land South of Blakesley Hill, Greens Norton
Date of assessment:	22 nd July 2020

Topic / Issue	Nature of Impact (Describe how the proposal affects this issue. Positive or negative? Identify supporting evidence)	Scale of impact (Who will be affected and to what extent?)	Timing/duration of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Actions taken or proposed to maximise positive and minimise negative impacts
<p>1. Physical activity – will the proposal create an environment that promotes or hinders physical activities such as active play, active travel formal or informal sport?</p>	<p>The development has been designed to create a safe and active environment for future and surrounding residents and include a number of features which help to promote such principles.</p> <p>The development seeks to encourage sustainable modes of travel, using a permeable hierarchy of streets to open up the recreational benefits of the site.</p> <p>A centrally located equipped play space is provided to act as a community focus. In addition, informal open space is providing with circular paths and areas of natural play.</p> <p>The combination of formal and informal open space provision at the site will promote physical activity and spending time outdoors.</p>	<p>All current and future residents will be positively impacted upon completion of the development.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Provision of public open space.</p>
<p>2. Food, Diet and Obesity – will the proposal support healthy food choices and local food growing opportunities?</p>	<p>The development is within walking distance of the Village Store which sells a variety of produce including fresh fruit, vegetables and bread. In addition, the village boasts a family run butchers,</p>	<p>The development will contribute towards sustaining and increasing the vitality and viability of the local services and facilities, thus</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>No additional action proposed.</p>

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	<p>freshly preparing quality meat onsite six days a week.</p> <p>There are no takeaways located in Greens Norton.</p> <p>The local public house/restaurant (The Butchers Arms) serves fresh, local and in-season produce.</p>	<p>contributing towards creating and maintaining a sustainable and balanced community.</p>		
<p>3.Green infrastructure – inclusion of multi-functional green infrastructure, providing benefits such as; access, play and recreation, attractive environments and wildlife habitat, flooding, climate and air quality management, relaxation and enhanced mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>The development has been ‘landscape-led’ from the outset.</p> <p>Natural assets of the site and its surroundings will be enhanced through the creation of a network of green corridors and spaces, forming an integral part of the scheme.</p> <p>The heart of the proposed development is defined by a Central Square, a formal area of Public Open Space for the use and recreation of residents. This will include a 100 sqm Local Area of Play (LAP) for use by parents and young children as well as managed grassed areas for the recreation of other residents. This area will be defined by formal tree and</p>	<p>All current and future residents will be positively impacted by the additional open space and green infrastructure network.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Provision of public open space and enhanced green infrastructure network.</p>

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	<p>boundary planting to help to create a sheltered and pleasant environment. Streets immediately adjacent to the Central Square should include traffic calming measures including shared surfaces to help reduce traffic speeds and create a more pleasant pedestrian environment.</p> <p>The development also accommodates a 500m circular walking, jogging and dog-walking route for residents. Located primarily along the periphery of the site the route is largely free from traffic to provide a safe, overlooked and car free route with an aim of encouraging outdoor exercise to all residents, regardless of age or mobility.</p> <p>The areas around the edge of the site will also be accessible to residents for more casual and relaxed recreational uses with naturalised planting and habitat creation. Attenuation measures in these areas will be naturalised where possible to allow for the creation of wetland habits. Meadow and grassland planting of native species are also proposed.</p>			

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<p>4.Transport & travel – how will the proposal affect participation in active travel (cycling / walking), access to services, road safety, congestion and pollution?</p>	<p>The site is located within walking and cycling distance of a variety of services and facilities.</p> <p>A range of aims and objectives are outlined as part of the accompanying Travel Plan which intends to encourage sustainable travel choices, particularly walking and cycling, and reduce the reliance on the private car, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing secure on-plot cycle storage ○ Providing a map of local walking routes from the site to key local facilities and the village centre ○ Promoting the health benefits of walking ○ Providing detailed public transport information, including timetables and fares, in Travel Packs provided to residents on occupation ○ Providing each dwelling with a 3-month ‘taster’ bus pass (‘Megarider Plus’) for unlimited travel across Northampton and the surrounding villages ○ Making residents aware of car club and car share schemes, eg liftshare.com ○ Raising awareness of car ownership costs through the Travel Packs 	<p>It is intended that both future and existing residents will benefit from the promoted sustainable transport modes and can be seen as a positive to the whole community.</p> <p>The relocated 30mph speed limit will reduce traffic into the village, which is a positive to all villagers.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Relocate the 30mph speed limit further along Blakesley Hill to reduce traffic speeds.</p>

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	<p>The layout itself promotes sustainable modes of transport, using a permeable hierarchy of streets to open up the recreational benefits of the site and placing an emphasis on walking and cycling over vehicle movements.</p> <p>The highway capacity survey demonstrates that the development will have a negligible impact on the local highway network through Greens Norton.</p> <p>As part of the access design, it is proposed that the existing 30mph speed limit is relocated further west, to a point just beyond the junction with Bury Hill; the 30mph speed limit will also be reinforced/supported with a new gateway entry feature and appropriate road markings to assist with traffic speed reduction on entry into the village, including white lining at the edge of the carriageway to (visually) narrow the width to 5.5m (from 5.9m).</p>			
<p>5.Streets / public spaces – which are safe, interesting and attractive, accessible and not polluted.</p>	<p>The development seeks to provide a legible route network, creating a number of benefits:</p>	<p>All current and future residents</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Providing a legible route network within the site.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creates a permeable layout, with fewer cul-de-sacs and a more continuous movement network of residential scaled streets ○ The creation of pedestrian friendly streets, pedestrian/cycle routes and shared surfaces providing high quality legible connections through the development. 			
<p>6.Social interaction & infrastructure – providing facilities and spaces that can be used for formal and informal social interaction and community activity. e.g. community facilities, informal meeting places</p>	<p>The combination of formal and informal open space provision at the site will promote physical activity. Spending time outdoors, in an attractive landscape led environment will also promote balanced mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>As well as the formal play spaces, the areas around the edge of the site will also be accessible to residents for more casual and relaxed recreational uses and meeting places.</p> <p>Located primarily along the periphery of the site on either dedicated footways or shared surface streets, the route is largely free from traffic to provide a safe, overlooked and car free route with an aim of encouraging outdoor exercise and</p>	<p>All current and future residents will be positively impacted by the open space provision.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Provision of public open space for both physical and mental wellbeing.</p>

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	social interaction to all residents, regardless of age or mobility.			
7. Healthcare infrastructure – providing suitable healthcare infrastructure to meet the needs of the new development and its occupiers.	The local healthcare infrastructure may require investment to support new residents.	Residents within the vicinity of Greens Norton	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Developer contribution through as S106 Agreement
8. Economy and employment – providing access to employment and learning opportunities and creating workplace environments which support employee health and wellbeing.	<p>Initially, the development will provide quality new employment opportunities for local people during construction.</p> <p>The development proposes to make a financial contribution towards the at risk No.87 bus service to Towcester and Northampton (£1,000 per dwelling). The contribution will be pooled with other development contributions along the route of the No.87 service and used to deliver enhancements to the daytime service, Monday to Saturday, between Northampton and Towcester. This will enable more sustainable commuting options for workers by increasing the longevity and frequency of the service.</p>	Existing and future residents of Greens Norton and the wider surrounding villages that are on the bus route will be positively impacted.	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Developer contribution through as S106 Agreement

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<p>9. Community safety and crime reduction - creating a safe and inclusive environment that acts to prevent accidents and discourage crime and antisocial behaviour.</p>	<p>The development has been designed to create a safe environment for future and surrounding residents.</p> <p>The layout provides well-located and surveilled, high quality, attractive public spaces that will support community cohesion and social interaction.</p>	<p>Current and future residents will be positively impacted.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Creating public spaces that are safe and encourage social interactions with limited dead spaces</p>
<p>10. Healthy homes – which support health and wellbeing, through providing adequate internal and external space, attractive, accessible design and are flexible to meet changing needs.</p>	<p>The proposed development represents a high quality sustainable development that responds positively to its built and natural setting. The development will provide an accommodation and tenure mix to meet the needs of the community, ranging from bungalows, flats, terraced units, semi-detached and detached family properties across 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.</p> <p>50% of dwellings are to be constructed to meet the optional accessibility standards set out in Part M of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>In terms of affordable housing, 10% of the 50% requirement will be constructed to meet the Building Regulations M4(3) standard for wheelchair user dwellings, with the remaining 40% constructed to</p>	<p>Current and future residents will be positively impacted.</p> <p>With approximately 6% bungalow provision, this will provide the opportunity for many older people to downsize, whilst remaining in their home village, freeing up larger family homes for those in need.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term</p>	<p>Provide a range of property types and tenures, with ranging accessible and adaptable designs for future needs.</p>

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	meet the M4(2) standard for accessible and adaptable dwellings.			
11. Health inequalities – will the proposals cause health inequalities or help to reduce them?	The proposal will help to reduce health inequalities by supporting local healthcare infrastructure through any requisite financial contributions, in addition to delivering new formal and informal open space and play facilities as well as enhancing natural assets and corridors within the site.	Current and future residents	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Financial contributions through S106 and delivering of open space and green infrastructure within the site.
12. Hazards to health – ensuring that hazards to health and wellbeing (such as pollution) have been designed out or minimised to an acceptable level.	<p>The development design allows for suitable provision to accommodate appropriate levels of on-site attenuation and suitable mitigation with regard to impacts of noise from adjacent roads.</p> <p>The construction phases will be guided and controlled by a Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). These will be prepared and subsequently approved by SNC (and any other relevant bodies) as part of a planning condition. These documents will ensure good working practices based on standard construction guidance.</p>	Current and future residents	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	<p>Appropriate scheme design and management.</p> <p>A series of overarching landscape objectives and design principles have been proposed to help reduce the impacts of the development.</p>

Summary and Recommendations:

(Please provide a summary of the key issues identified through the Health Impact Assessment process and identify key recommendations for addressing the issues assessed).

The development will enable the older generation to downsize through the provision of bungalows and other smaller dwellings. This simultaneously enables families and other younger people to move into the village thereby strengthening the viability and vitality of the settlement. Current and future residents will also benefit from healthcare and education facilities that have capacity and increased funding which is captured through the S106 financial contributions that this scheme can bring. Notably the financial contribution to the no.87 bus route will provide positive benefits for those within Greens Norton and beyond who wish to use public transport to commute to Towcester and the wider Northamptonshire area.

Key issues such as crime, quality of public space and the quality of green infrastructure are addressed through sustainable design, as outlined in further detail within the Design and Access Statement. A series of overarching landscape and open space objectives and design principles have been proposed to help reduce the impact of the development and positively integrate the proposals into the local environment. The combination of formal and informal open space provision at the site will promote both physical and mental health and wellbeing.