

Thornbury
Neighbourhood Plan
Sustainability Appraisal

October 2020



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Neighbourhood Plan

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1 Introduction

The Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared for submission as part of the Thornbury Neighbourhood Plan. Its purpose is to evaluate the Neighbourhood Plan against sustainability indicators to find out whether the Plan will have sustainable outcomes when implemented, or whether it should be improved to ensure better outcomes. The Plan has been developed with sustainability issues at its centre, with a clear awareness and understanding of higher-level planning policy informing each stage. It has also been advised by members of local sustainability groups who have supported its development.

2 Method

The Thornbury Neighbourhood Plan has been evaluated against the same sustainability indicators used by South Gloucestershire Council in their appraisal of the 2018 Local Plan Review. The reason for this is to provide a consistent baseline across which to evaluate policies. Clearly not all policy areas covered in the Local Plan Review will be relevant to a smaller scale Neighbourhood Plan, but wherever possible the same markers and measures have been used. Likewise, the same scoring system has been implemented here as was used on the Local Plan Review document, with the following notations giving high level indications, and an amount of narrative to reinforce this. The notations show how policies within the Neighbourhood Plan would lead to positive, negative or neutral effects on individual sustainability objectives. The notations and their meanings are shown below:

Symbol	Effect Type	Symbol	Effect Type
	significant positive effect		Mixed effect
	positive effect	N	Neutral effect
	Negative effect	N/A	Not relevant
	Significant Negative effect		

3 Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

3.1 Theme: Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of all

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
1a. Access to public open space	<p>Policy 1 – Rural Character and Landscape Setting</p> <p>Policy 2 – Neighbourhood Development Frameworks</p> <p>Policy 3 – High Quality Design</p> <p>Policy 17 - Planning for Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Food Production</p> <p>Policy 18 – Creating connections through Streamside Walks</p> <p>Policy 19 – Local Green Space</p>	<p>++</p> <p>Public open spaces were a key theme for the Plan, and they are supported by various policies across the Plan.</p>	
1b. Impact of noise	The impact of noise on sensitive receptors such as schools and housing is not considered an issue for this Neighbourhood Plan since it does not allocate industrial or infrastructure space which will have a significant noise impact. Noise and its impacts on	N/A	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
	surroundings would be evaluated on a case by case basis through the planning application system.		
1c. Air quality	Policy 20 – Highway Impact	 <p>The policy seeks to control air pollution associated with development, especially in the town centre, and sets measures to monitor and as necessary mitigate air quality problems.</p>	
1d. Sustainable access to healthcare	<p>Policy 2 – Neighbourhood Development Frameworks</p> <p>Policy 14 – Phasing of Community Infrastructure with Housing Development</p> <p>Supporting text to Policy 21- Walking and Cycling</p>	 <p>Sustainable access to adequate services and facilities is a significant theme in the Plan, and central to new development proposals.</p> <p>Making provision for more sustainable transport opportunities by encouraging safer walking and cycling is also key in the shift to more sustainable modes.</p>	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
1.e Public Transport access to hospitals	The Neighbourhood Plan does not have a policy on this objective, however, Southmead Hospital is located on a main bus route. The need for bus routes to serve the needs of residents is covered in Chapter 12 of the Neighbourhood Plan.	N	The Neighbourhood Plan could be more explicit about transport links to essential services beyond the designated area, recognising Thornbury's relationship with the wider Bristol area.

3.2 Theme: Support communities that meet people’s needs

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
2a. Deliver quantum of high quality non-strategic housing	Policy 3 – High Quality Design Policy 4 – Design Review Policy 5 – Sustainable Design and Construction Policy 8 – Mixed Development Policy 9 – Brownfield and Infill Sites	 The Neighbourhood Plan recognises the need for sustainable growth and seeks to ensure that housing needs are met through policies which will enable the delivery of high quality, accessible and affordable housing which complements the town.	
2b. Suitable mix of high-quality housing types and tenures	Policy 8 – Mixed Development	 The Neighbourhood Plan makes provision for housing development that meets all types of needs.	
2c. Sustainable access to community facilities	Policy 2 – Neighbourhood Development Frameworks Policy 3 – High Quality Design	 Sustainable access to adequate services and	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		facilities is a significant theme in the Plan, and central to new development proposals. It is made explicit through the vision, aims and objectives.	
2d. Sustainable access to educational facilities	Policy 2 – Neighbourhood Development Frameworks Policy 3 – High Quality Design	++ Sustainable access to adequate services and facilities is a significant theme in the Plan, and central to new development proposals. It is made explicit through the vision, aims and objectives.	
2e. Sustainable access to retail/food buying facilities	Policy 12 – Town Centre Vitality Policy 21 – Walking and Cycling	++ Sustainable access to adequate services and facilities is a significant theme in the Plan, and central to new development proposals. It is made explicit	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		through the vision, aims and objectives.	
2f. Reduce poverty and income inequality in Kingswood; Staple Hill and Yate	N/A	N/A	
2g. Access to high speed broadband	Chapter 12 – Matters Outside the Scope of the Neighbourhood Plan	N	N The Neighbourhood Plan could cover this theme, but it was felt to be largely outside the remit of a land use planning document, despite being a significant issue to the local community

3.3 Theme: Develop a diverse and thriving economy that meets people’s needs

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
3a. Deliver employment floor space	<p>Policy 12 – Town Centre Vitality</p> <p>Policy 13 – Provision of Office and Light Industrial Units</p>	<p>++</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to reinforce the protection of employment space set out in the Core Strategy and makes provision for additional B1 uses.</p> <p>It promotes the reuse of existing employment space and encourages employment uses on upper floors in the town centre, to support the redevelopment of land and buildings in preference to take up of greenfield sites for employment uses</p>	
3b. Sustainable access to major employment areas	Policy 21 – Walking and Cycling	<p>+</p> <p>Whilst Thornbury could not be said to have “major</p>	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		<p>employment areas” as stated in this objective, the Neighbourhood Plan emphasises the need to access jobs, services, facilities and leisure by sustainable modes and encourages safer and more attractive walking and cycling.</p>	

3.4 Theme: Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
4a. Designated Assets: heritage assets and their settings	<p>Policy 4 – Design Review</p> <p>Policy 10 – Town Centre Design Principles</p> <p>Policy 11 – Preserving Historic Identity</p>	<p></p> <p>The history and heritage of Thornbury is recognised as a significant feature of the town and several policies seek to ensure its protection and enhancement, especially focusing on the Conservation Area.</p>	<p>There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous Listed Buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan area and they are not impacted by the proposals of the Neighbourhood Plan however, they could be noted to reinforce their protection over and above that offered by statutory designation.</p>
4b. Undesignated Assets: heritage assets and their settings	<p>Policy 1 – Rural Character and Landscape Setting</p> <p>Policy 19 – Local Green Space</p>	<p></p> <p>The character and setting of Thornbury is significant in its identity and history as a locally important market town, and this identity, landscape and separation from other settlements is noted in Policy 1. The significance of green space</p>	<p>Locally listed buildings could be specifically highlighted for protection in the Neighbourhood Plan</p>

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		assets across the town is underlined in Policy 19.	
4c. Impact on Habitats and species	<p>Policy 14 – Phasing of Community Infrastructure with Housing Development</p> <p>Policy 18 – Creating Connections through Streamside Walks</p> <p>Policy 19 – Local Green Space</p>	<p>+</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan policies aim to safeguard and preserve existing local sites and habitats, and to ensure the connectivity of wildlife networks which exist on the Streamside Walks and in the linked local green spaces</p>	
4d. Impact on valued landscapes	Policy 1 – Rural Character and Landscape Setting	<p>+</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan avoids harm to the areas of designated Ancient Woodland, and recognises the value of the undesignated but important landscape setting of Thornbury</p>	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
<p>4e. Deliver a range and quality of, and increased access to new green infrastructure across South Gloucestershire and protect and enhance existing GI</p>	<p>Policy 2 – Neighbourhood Development Frameworks</p> <p>Policy 9 – Brownfield and Infill Sites</p> <p>Policy 17 - Planning for Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Food Production</p> <p>Policy 19 – Local Green Space</p> <p>Green Infrastructure mapped at Figure 8</p>	<p>++</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan enables the delivery of a range of new GI, as appropriate to the development being undertaken, especially focused on GI that is accessible to people and encourages recreation, food growing and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Plan also seeks to protect and enhance existing GI to maximise its environmental sustainability and community benefits.</p>	
<p>4f. Promote the conservation and wise use of land – brownfield/greenfield</p>	<p>Policy 9 – Brownfield and Infill Sites</p>	<p>++</p> <p>Policy 9 supports the redevelopment of previously developed land stressing the importance of accessibility,</p>	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		high quality design, green infrastructure and local green space.	
4g. Protect and enhance valuable Green Belt	The Neighbourhood Plan maps the Green Belt both locally and more widely and the narrative in Section 3.3 describes its significance and protection. The Neighbourhood Plan makes no designations or allocations on Green Belt land.	N The Neighbourhood Plan has a neutral impact on Green Belt, describing its significance and avoiding development proposals in this protected area.	
4h. Minimise loss of high-quality agricultural land	Development is guided towards previously developed land by the Neighbourhood Plan, and there is no specific policy on high quality agricultural land	N The Neighbourhood Plan proposes no loss of agricultural land of any quality	
4i. Minimise vulnerability to tidal/fluviial flooding	Policy 5 – Sustainable Design and Construction Policy 17 - Planning for Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Food Production	++ There are no development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan in areas of flood risk.	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		<p>The role of planting and open space in helping to prevent flooding is acknowledged and supported in the Plan.</p> <p>Measures are also proposed to contain, manage and recycle water within new development.</p>	
<p>4j. Minimise vulnerability to surface water flooding and other sources of flooding</p>	<p>Policy 5 – Sustainable Design and Construction</p> <p>Policy 17 - Planning for Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Food Production</p>	<p>++</p> <p>There are no development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan in areas of flood risk.</p> <p>The role of planting and open space in helping to prevent flooding is acknowledged and supported in the Plan.</p> <p>Measures are also proposed to contain, manage and</p>	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
		recycle water within new development.	
4k. Minimise harm to, water quality and quantity/availability	<p>Policy 2 – Neighbourhood Development Frameworks</p> <p>Policy 5 – Sustainable Design and Construction</p>	<p>++</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan proposes grey water recycling and water use reduction measures for new development.</p> <p>Whilst it is not possible for the Neighbourhood Plan to require these measures in all development, it goes as far as it can in supporting their implementation.</p>	

3.5 Theme: Use of Natural Resources:

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
<p>5a. Reduce non-renewable energy consumption and 'greenhouse' emissions</p>	<p>Policy 5 – Sustainable Design and Construction</p> <p>Policy 6 – Energy Efficiency</p> <p>Policy 7 – Renewable Energy</p>	<p>++</p> <p>The use of sustainable construction methods and materials is proposed in Policy 5 to improve the environmental standard of future development in Thornbury.</p> <p>Many aspects of energy efficiency and energy creation are covered within the Neighbourhood Plan, which supports locally generated renewable power, and encourages energy efficiency measures within new development to reduce the need for energy use throughout the lifespan of the building.</p>	

Sustainability Objective	How does the Neighbourhood Plan respond to this objective?	Positive Effect/score	Negative effect/score
5b. Reduce waste	Policy 5 – Sustainable Design and Construction	<p>+</p> <p>The reduction of waste and its efficient management are strongly supported by the Plan, and development is encouraged to follow local guidance: South Gloucestershire Waste Collection Guidance</p>	
5c Minimise consumption and extraction of minerals	Other than creating policy for new pathways for walking and cycling, the Neighbourhood Plan generates no demands for the extraction or consumption of minerals	<p>N</p> <p>The consumption and extraction of minerals is not a theme covered by the Neighbourhood Plan</p>	

4 Conclusions

The Thornbury Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with sustainability objectives at the heart of the process from the outset. It is therefore not necessary to make modifications to address sustainability issues. Across the majority of indicators, the impacts on sustainability are either “positive” or “significant positive”, with several indicators that the Neighbourhood Plan does not address because they are beyond its scope and remit (therefore scoring “neutral”)