

Our Vision and Objectives

The Vision derives from the key issues listed in the preceding section, which emerged from the consultation process. The Working Group developed this Vision for the future as the main statement of intent of this Plan.

Vision

Oakham will become Rutland's thriving and vibrant county town. Its rural location, rich history and culture make it a destination for all.

Our Neighbourhood Plan for the future of Oakham and Barleythorpe ensures that Rutland's county town, and its neighbouring community of Barleythorpe, are taken forward into the future as thriving, sustainable communities in an environment where people can live, work, play and flourish. Whilst recognising and retaining the essential rural and historic features which lie at the heart of these communities in England's smallest county, we see that it is vital also to create an environment which can adapt and embrace the changes necessary to meet the needs of future generations.

Residents cherish the close-knit, friendly, small market town character of Oakham and village life in Barleythorpe and appreciate the recreational activities available at nearby Rutland Water. This is our opportunity to preserve and enhance these qualities, at the same time allowing for imaginative and appropriate new housing and business opportunities which encourage positive economic growth. Alongside this, each and every resident of Oakham and Barleythorpe should have access to quality services which allow them to lead fulfilled lives in a safe and caring community of which they are proud.

Objectives

The following objectives are based on the Vision and they provide the context for the Neighbourhood Plan's Policies (in the next section).

Community

Objective 1: Make Oakham & Barleythorpe thriving, sustainable communities in an environment where people can live, work, and flourish.

Heritage

Objective 2: Retain and protect the essential rural and historic buildings and features.

Housing

Objective 3: Promote an imaginative mix of new housing design in keeping with the historic character of Rutland, and appropriate for future demands.

Objective 4: Ensure developers keep to the levels of affordable housing established by policies in this Neighbourhood Plan in any development.

Objective 5: Promote development of family houses with two or more bedrooms, starter homes, bungalows and supported housing/retirement houses.

Objective 6: Support small sites for housing development, spread across a variety of sites within Oakham and Barleythorpe, to accommodate any new houses.

Objective 7: Prioritise development of brownfield sites for housing.

Objective 8: Ensure new development proposals provide adequate off-street parking.

Objective 9: Ensure new development proposals provide infrastructure adequate in terms of number, size and capacity, proximity to users, and type (e.g. schools, healthcare, indoor community spaces, play areas, public transport).

Town Centre

Objective 10: Improve Oakham town centre as a welcoming place for pedestrians, through a greener street scene, more public seating, pedestrian and wheelchair friendly pavements.

Objective 11: Reduce impact of traffic and pollution in the town centre. Provide additional new long-term parking.

Business

Objective 12: Encourage imaginative and appropriate business opportunities which encourage positive economic growth.

Objective 13: Actively encourage local shops and businesses that support tourism, leisure and crafts.

Objective 14: Promote the availability of fibre optic broadband to encourage new businesses to locate to Oakham and Barleythorpe, along with better mobile telecommunications.

Services

Objective 15: Ensure everyone in Oakham and Barleythorpe has access to quality services, in line with housing development, which allow them to lead fulfilled lives in a safe and caring community of which they are proud.

Recreation

Objective 16: Development of a network of footpaths and cycleways from the outskirts of Oakham and Barleythorpe that provide signed access to the town centre shops and historic buildings.

Objective 17: Maintain and protect green spaces and sports and leisure facilities for recreation.

Objective 18: Provide ease of access to and from nearby Rutland Water for residents and visitors.

Objective 19: Promote the presence of indoor and outdoor cultural facilities, such as public art, sculpture trails, galleries, museums, and maintain and support the existing ones, including extending the hours of access.

Tourism

Objective 20: Take advantage of rural and historical features, together with nearby Rutland Water, to increase the number of visitors for the benefit of local businesses.

Green Spaces

Objective 21: Protect and enhance all current public green spaces.

Objective 22: Ensure new building development needs are matched by the creation of new public green spaces and allotments.

Monitoring and Implementation

This Plan operates until 2036, in parallel with the intended timescales of the Rutland County Council Local Plan. The Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis, every 5 years, or earlier if a review of the Local Plan is undertaken. Review of the Oakham and Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken in accordance with National Planning Guidance and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

The policies in this plan will be implemented by Rutland County Council as part of their development management process. Where applicable Oakham Town Council will also be actively involved, in line with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

Whilst Rutland County Council will be responsible for development management, the Oakham Town Council and Barleythorpe Parish Council will use this Neighbourhood Plan to frame their representations on submitted planning applications.

Oakham Town Council and Barleythorpe Parish Council will monitor how well the provisions in the Plan help to achieve the Vision and Objectives set out in this Plan. They will also monitor the evolution of social, economic, environmental and demographic dynamics within the Town and Parish, as well as changes at local and national levels, especially in terms of policies and legislations. Monitoring will also involve a critical review of the provisions in the plan, to establish how well they perform in such a changing environment.

It is anticipated that the need to review the Plan over this period will arise, for example if there are changes to national housing targets. The Oakham Town Council and the Barleythorpe Parish Council will consider at their annual meetings every year whether the Neighbourhood Plan remains appropriate or requires review. Such a review will need to go through the NP review process and through extensive consultation with residents.

In exceptional cases, the Oakham Town Council and the Barleythorpe Parish Council may agree at any other time to review the Neighbourhood Plan. If they agree at any time that the Neighbourhood Plan does need review, the Oakham Town Council and the Barleythorpe Parish Council will decide the manner in which the review will be undertaken and allocate resources for doing so.

Following review, the Oakham Town Council and the Barleythorpe Parish Council will agree, in conversation with Rutland County Council, any proposed changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Any review or proposed changes to the Neighbourhood Plan will be in accordance with legal requirements in force at that time.