

HEMINGTON,LUDDINGTON AND THURNING PARISH COUNCIL

29 June 2026

Chief Planning Officer
North Northamptonshire Council
By email to : planningpolicy@northnorthants.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Scoping documents for North Northamptonshire Local Plan – consultation response

This Parish Council represents three small villages in the heart of the rural north of the county. Having considered the documents issued for consultation we consider that many of the issues covered by the consultation questions (57 in number) are not relevant to our small communities. Rather than try and respond to these questions, therefore, we set out below the key issues which we believe should be considered in the development of the Local Plan and should feature in the resulting document.

Rural Context

We welcome the Settlement Hierarchy approach and are content that the three villages we represent – Hemington, Luddington-in-the-Brook and Thurning – are correctly classified as Villages. We note that there is no expectation that such villages will be required to contribute to housing targets. Whilst small scale or infill development (particularly where it leads to more sustainable communities) may be considered, each application would be considered on its merits with full consultation with the local council to ensure that nuances of local conditions are taken into consideration. Luddington village does not believe infill to be appropriate for them.

The reasoning behind supporting such an approach is a need to maintain the character and nature of the rural landscape in the former East Northamptonshire area (particularly the area to the north of the A14) and some others in the NNC area. Making a clear distinction between urban areas and rural areas is essential – the rural areas providing foodstuffs for the nation, habitats that support biodiversity, and opportunities for recreation with a view to maintaining or improving the well-being of residents.

To this end we believe that settlement boundaries should be established for Thrapston and Oundle, and the Upper Nene Valley Area should receive its National Landscape designation.

This Parish Council has a policy for the Management of Light Pollution (Dark Skies) which is entirely in line with guidelines from national government. The policy is for the benefit of wildlife in the rural area, for safety adjacent to roads, and to allow residents to enjoy the experience of ‘star-gazing’. Such a policy may also be suitable for some other very rural villages and so the management of light pollution is an issue that should be addressed in the Local Plan. This Parish Council has requested a planning condition in relation to light pollution 18 times since 2022, but it has only been included in Approvals on 7 occasions. We believe this should be improved upon.

Hemington Luddington and Thurning Parish Council

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Infrastructure and Traffic

The documents indicate the major arterial routes of A14, A43 and A45. We cannot see any reference to the A605 which in many ways can be seen as an extension of the A45 corridor leading to the A1 at Peterborough. This road will be carrying ever increasing traffic volumes arising from the recently approved warehousing outside Thrapston (which we did not support) and other developments. We believe that at peak times this road is at or in excess of capacity and as such should be considered in the Local Plan. Allied to this, consideration must be given to the dualling of the A45 from the A14 junction through to Stanwick lakes – there are already considerable hold-ups which will impact economic activity and reduce the attractiveness of the area for inward investment.

Traffic safety is an issue for rural villages and is currently satisfactorily handled at local level with access to grant funding and advice from the police and highways departments. Should the Local Plan consider more widespread 20mph limits, this would not be welcomed except against specific local circumstances. As farm and commercial vehicles become larger, rural roads become less able to withstand the weights and widths of such vehicles. Whilst accepting that road funding is limited, developments considered in the Local Plan should not exacerbate these issues unless managed through developer contributions.

We note suggested plans to create greenways in the former East Northants area and that funding may be available. However, would such funding (accepting that it may be hypothecated at national level) be better applied to roads improvements that would also benefit cyclists (e.g. passing places on narrow roads).

We support the inclusion of examination of the adequacy of water supplies, and work to protect against flooding.

We do not see any plans to consider the adequacy of electricity supplies – as the country is moving towards de-carbonisation we see this as a key factor to include. In order to protect the Rural Context (as above) farmland should be preserved for the growing of food and not given over to solar electricity generation. Solar power is an essential generating tool, but the Local Plan should seek to make this an integral part of developments (e.g. panels on all warehouse roofs) rather than stand alone developments.

Rural Isolation

The above issues will contribute to improving rural isolation, but clear consideration needs to be given to the adequacy of accommodation, access to facilities and emergency call out facilities (joined up issues re the roll out of broadband and the demise of the older telephone network) as it affects the aging population.

Medium sized settlements should have more facilities for Primary Care, and potentially for simple secondary care – too many instances require travel of 20 to 50 miles to access current facilities. The adequacy of bus routes to support new developments needs to be factored in.

Trusting that these comments will be helpful as you go forward to develop the Plan,

for and on behalf of
Hemington, Luddington and Thurning Parish Council



R G Allinson
Clerk