Dear Mr Whitehead,

APPLEBY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Appleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan (APNP/the Plan) for examination, I would like to thank you for clarifying several initial procedural matters in your letter dated 23 November 2018.

1. **Examination Documentation**

Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of a Policies Map (‘Appendix 6 North Lincolnshire Planning Policies’) as requested in Question 2 of the Annex to your letter in order to enable you to undertake the examination.

2. **Site Visit**

We have noted that the site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. We will ensure as far as is possible that you will not be approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice your independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

3. **Written Representations**

We have noted that, at this stage, you consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing.

4. **Further Clarification**

Please refer to the Annex to this letter for responses to your initial questions seeking further clarification from Appleby Parish Council (the Parish Council) and from North Lincolnshire Council (NLC).

5. **Examination Timetable**

We understand that the examination timetable will be extended beyond the initial 4-6 weeks in order for us to reply to the questions you have raised.
In the interests of transparency, a copy of your letter dated 23 November 2018 has been placed on the Appleby Parish Council website and the North Lincolnshire Council website, as requested.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Dave Lofts
Senior Planning Specialist
Place Planning & Housing
North Lincolnshire Council

[Signature]

Ivor Keyes
Appleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group
1. **Can the Parish Council please clarify the period covered by the Plan?** There is no indication of the Plan period on the cover and, whilst paragraph 3.1 indicates that the Plan covers the period up to 2030, the Vision, at paragraph 4.1, refers to the lifetime of the Plan being “for the next 15 years”, i.e. 2033. (I have noted that NLC’s Core Strategy covers the period to 2026, as does the Housing and Land Allocations Development Plan Document.

**Response:**
It is intended that the Neighbourhood Plan should cover the period up to 2030 (i.e. 15 years from when work first commenced on preparing the Plan). However, changes in planning legislation and national policy will be monitored as these may have implications for the policies in the plan. Similarly, changes in local plan policy will be monitored, especially in the unlikely event that conflicts arise with the policies of the neighbourhood plan.

2. **There does not appear to be a policies map to accompany the Plan – only a Plan showing the Designated Area, although Policy AP14 refers to specific areas “as shown on the Policies Map”. Is the absence an omission from the documentation?**

**Response:**
Please find attached a re-named ‘Appendix 6 North Lincolnshire Planning Policies’ which includes the Appleby inset and associated Santon inset. These inset maps feature in the Housing & Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document Adoption (March 2016) and reference the relevant saved North Lincolnshire Local Plan 2003 Policies. A full version of the H&ELA DPD key can be found at:

[http://maps.northlincs.gov.uk/planningreports/HEDPD_Adoption_2016/Insets%20Key.pdf](http://maps.northlincs.gov.uk/planningreports/HEDPD_Adoption_2016/Insets%20Key.pdf)

I have also attached a copy of the ‘Designated Sites’ map which includes all the designated nature conservation/geological sites in the Parish together with the Areas Considered Important For Nature Conservation as referred to in Policy AP14.

3. **It is necessary for the Policies Map to identify a settlement boundary or boundaries for the purposes of policies AP3, AP4, AP5, AP6, AP7 and AP9, and the Conservation Area boundary for the purposes of Policy AP15. Can these boundaries be set out in the Policies Map please?**

**Response:**
Please refer to attached ‘Appendix 6 North Lincolnshire Planning Policies’ insets for Appleby and Santon which identify the settlement boundaries for both settlements and the Conservation Area boundary for Appleby.

4. **The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) at paragraph 184 indicates that the neighbourhood plan should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area, and that it should not promote less development than set out in the local plan. References to the strategic plans of NLC, so far as the overall housing need and the spatial strategy to meet the requirement, appear to be limited to paragraphs 5.24-5.27. Given the draft Plan must have regard to national policy, is NLC satisfied that this forms a basis for alignment of the NP policies with the strategic framework?**

**Response:**
North Lincolnshire Council is currently preparing a new, single Local Plan. Once adopted, it will replace the current North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003), the Core Strategy DPD (2011), and the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (2016). However, as it is still in preparation (having completed its initial issues and options consultation) limited weight can be afforded to it at this stage as no policies have as yet been formulated and published for comment. It is expected that the council will consult on the preferred policies and site allocations/designations at Preferred Options stage during June 2019. Once the Local Plan has progressed through the plan making process and has been independently examined and adopted, it may be necessary to conduct a review of the NP to ensure that it is in general conformity with the policies of the new Local Plan.

The neighbourhood plan supports the current position of Appleby in the Core Strategy Settlement Hierarchy where it is defined as a Rural Settlement. Policy CS3: Development Limits explains that limits will be applied to the Scunthorpe urban area, the Market Towns and Rural Settlements. Development limits are used to identify the areas within which development may be appropriate, including infilling, but they do not necessarily cover all existing developed areas.

In terms of National Planning Policy Framework (2012) at paragraph 184, North Lincolnshire Council is satisfied that the neighbourhood plan is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

Similarly, in terms of National Planning Policy Framework (2018) at paragraph 28, North Lincolnshire Council is satisfied that non-strategic policies are proposed as part of the neighbourhood plan to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development.

In terms of National Planning Policy Framework (2018) at paragraph 29 the Neighbourhood plan does not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area.

5. **The hard copy of the Appendices provided is dated February 2018, whilst the one shown on the Parish Council’s website is dated May 2018. There are significant differences, for example in Appendix 5 and 6. If, as I assume, the version shown on the website is the correct version, where is the evidence to support the two LGS areas shown at Appendix 5? Can the two sites be identified by name please?**

**Response:**

Please accept the Council’s apologies for sending the February version of the Appendices which was updated with ‘Appendices May 2018’; a hard copy of the May version was subsequently sent to you on Tues 27 November.

Attached is an updated version of ‘Appendix 5 Local Green Space Application’ which names both ‘The Paddock’ and ‘The Playing Field’ in the key. Please also refer to attached documents ‘The Paddock Local Green Space Assessment’ and ‘The Playing Field Local Green Space Assessment’ which present the Parish Council’s evidence in promoting the two sites as LGSs.

Please refer to attached ‘Visioning Day Final Summary June 2016’ document which emphasises the community’s support for retaining The Paddock as a space deserving extra protection.

In terms of the proposals for sites to be designated as Local Green Space, the Council is currently assessing all LGS proposals. It is expected that the preferred sites, with assessments, will be released at the Preferred Options Stage which is expected to be June 2019.
At present, The Paddock is identified as an Area of Amenity Importance under Policy LC11 in the adopted North Lincolnshire Local Plan (NLLP) 2003. These areas should be protected from development which would adversely affect them. It is, therefore, essential that such areas are retained and enhanced, wherever possible.

Similarly, The Playing Field is identified as a Protected Playing Field under Policy R1 in the adopted NLLP. The policy justification states that the use of land as recreational open space is no less important than other uses and once built upon recreational open space is likely to be lost to the community forever. Consideration will be given to the long-term impact of the loss of recreational open space, which will be protected from development if it serves an important recreational need.

The adopted NLLP can be accessed at: 
https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-policy/north-lincolnshire-local-plan/#1537781501236-2d5ca41c-0c05

6. **Messrs Savills has included, as an appendix to its Reg 16 representation, its submission in response to the Local Plan for North Lincolnshire: Initial Consultation and Call for Sites. It proposed a total of four sites in Appleby, including Site 3 (the Paddock) which the APNP proposes as LGS. Is there a NLC response to the submission?**

**Response:**
Through the new Local Plan ‘Call for Sites’ process a number of housing sites were submitted for consideration, including some in Appleby. All the sites are currently being assessed through the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) which will determine if they are suitable for development or not. The SHELAA will also list sites which have been discounted, including the reasons why. The Council is expecting to finalise and publish the document in 2019.

Similarly, in terms of sites to be designated as Local Green Space, the Council is currently assessing all proposals that came forward through the ‘Call for Sites’ process. It is expected that the preferred LGS sites, with assessments, will be released at the Preferred Options Stage which is expected to be in June 2019.

The attached ‘Sites Flyer June 2017’ highlights the exercise whereby residents were provided with the opportunity to give their views on the potential development of housing sites that were proposed through the new Local Plan ‘Call for Sites’ process. The Parish Council stressed that opinions given as part of the Neighbourhood Plan related only to that Plan and should not be considered to be part of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Consultation. The outcome of the survey can be viewed on the attached ‘Survey Monkey - Appleby NP Possible Housing Sites’, with only 1.41% of respondents showing a preference for housing on The Paddock.

Please also refer to the attached ‘Visioning Day Final Summary June 2016’ document which emphasises the community’s support for retaining The Paddock as a space deserving extra protection.