Parish Council Policy: Implementing Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The Blofield parish Neighbourhood Plan [ the NP ] was approved at referendum, and subsequently adopted, in July 2016. It is now part of the local planning policy framework and the policies within the NP relate to issues of land-use. To help implement the NP policies, and to aid transparency and openness, the parish council has adopted the following governance policies:

1.1 All parish councillors, current and future, will familiarise themselves with the NP policies and this is part of the induction procedure for new councillors.

1.2 When taking any decision the parish council considers whether the proposed course of action supports a NP policy, or conflicts with a NP policy or the NP policies are not relevant to the issue.

1.3 The parish council includes the consideration of the relevance of the NP policies when recording the decision reached.

1.4 The parish council should comment on the how the NP policies have been applied each year in its report to the Annual Parish Meeting, starting in 2017, and over time should consider in the light of experience whether the council needs to review its governance procedures and/or councillors' awareness of them.

1.5 There is no statutory process for reviewing/updating a NP. The Blofield parish NP covers the 20 years until 2036 and circumstances will change over this period. So the parish council will undertake a formal review of the NP policies looking at their continued relevance and effectiveness and at how the parish council is applying the policies, every 5 years, say in 2021/22 and again in 2026/27. Ideally the review will be conducted by an independent outside body/person but should be a brief and succinct process. If significant revisions to the NP are thought to be required advice should be sought from BDC in the first instance.

Policy last reviewed: and the next review is due: March 2018.