Response ID ANON-MWX6-MJZT-Q

Submitted to Melton Local Plan Update: Issues and Options Consultation
Submitted on 2024-01-05 16:58:38

About you

What is your name?

Name:
Wendy Bannerman

What is your organisation? (if relevant)

Organisation:
The British Horse Society

What is your Job Title/Role (if relevant)

Job title/role:
Access Field Officer East and West Midlands

What is your email address?

Email:
█████████████████████

Are you making a submission on behalf of someone else?

No

If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, please provide details:

Name (on behalf of):

Organisation (on behalf of):
The British Horse Society

About you (equalities questions)

Please provide the first 5 digits of your Postcode (for example LE13 1).

Enter the first 5 digits of your postcode:

Gender: How do you identify?

████████

If self-describe, please state :

Would you describe yourself as transgender?

███

What is your sexual orientation?

█████████████

If other, please state:

What is your age?

██████

Do you consider yourself to have a health problem or a disability which has lasted, or is expected to last at least 12 months?

███

If you selected other, please state:

What is your ethnic origin?

Please describe your ethnicity and race:
██████████

What is your religion?

███████

Please state your religion:

Vision and objectives

Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 1: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 1 - Option 1: No change:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 1 - Option 2: Refocused and simplified version [preferred option]:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 2: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this section

Please, provide further context:

Question 3: What do you think are the most important objectives to be covered by our Vision? Please select your top 3

Question 3 - Improving facilities for all of the community and providing the new infrastructure needed to support our growing population:

Question 3 - Addressing the causes and effects of climate change:

Question 3 - Ensure local housing meets the local communities current and future needs:

Question 3 - Supporting a diverse, competitive and innovative rural economy:
2

Question 3 - Enhancing Melton Mowbray's town centre:

Question 3 - Promoting high quality and well-designed development to help create healthy, sustainable and safe communities:
1

Question 3 - Enhancing nature and minimising harm to the natural environment:
3

Question 3 - Other (please specify below):

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS1. Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

Policy SS1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 4: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 4 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Strongly agree

Question 4 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:
Strongly agree

Question 5: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

The NPPF para 100 states: Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks. therefore the BHS is in support of the policy openly adhering to the NPPF.

Policy SS3. Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites)

Policy SS3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 6: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 6 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 6 - Option 2: Review the policy to better define meeting local need:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 6 - Option 3: Review the policy to enhance wider sustainability [preferred option]:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 7: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 8: Under what circumstances do you think new homes in the borough's smallest and least sustainable settlements are justified?

Please, provide further context:

Question 9: Do you think criteria should be introduced to require homes built in the borough's smallest and least sustainable settlements to be built to the highest sustainability standards? If yes, what types of criteria do you think the policy should consider?

Please, provide further context:

Policy C7. Rural Services

Policy C7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 22: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 22 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 22 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 23: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy C9. Healthy Communities

Policy C9: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 26: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 26 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 26 - Option 2: Revise the policy but also make health and wellbeing a key thread that runs throughout the entire plan [preferred option]:
Somewhat agree

Question 27: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Heath and wellbeing is part of the rationale for our access work in the British Horse Society. Equestrian activity is considered moderate intensity exercise as cited in p.33 Health and Social Care Information Centre (2017) Health Survey for England 2016 Physical activity in adults. According to BETA two-thirds of equestrians are women and Church et al (2010) found 37% of women who are horse riders are over 45 years of age and over a third would pursue no other physical activity. 'Horse riding induces physiologically positive effects such as muscle strength, balance…and psychologically positive changes' (Sung et al, 2015). The therapeutic and physical benefits of horse riding and carriage driving have been proven for people with disabilities (Favali and Milton, 2010).

Question 28: Do you think the Local Plan should require Health Impact Assessments for large scale developments?

Unsure

Question 29: If you answered 'yes' to question 28, what size and types of development do you think should require them and why?

Please, provide further context:

Policy EC1. Employment Growth in Melton Mowbray

Policy EC1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 30: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 30 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 30 - Option 2: Amendments to reflect Use Class Order, new evidence and National Planning Policy Framework:

Question 30 - Option 3: Create separate policies for employment allocations and employment development in Melton Mowbray:

Question 31: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 32: Unless submitted already as part of the Employment-only Call for Sites (June-July 2023), is there any employment site you want us to consider as a potential allocation? If there is, please submit the details, including a location plan showing the boundaries to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk and add a note in this section

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC2. Employment Growth in the Rural Area (Outside Melton Mowbray)

Policy EC2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 33: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 33 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 33 - Option 2: Policy Wording Amendments [preferred option]:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 34: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

The equestrian industry generates over £5 billion of consumer spending, £6,887 per horse per annum (BETA, 2019) to the economy, benefitting local economies where equestrian activities thrive. Rural industry in this context includes providers of feed and bedding, vets, farriers, builders (stables, maneges, fencing, etc), riding schools, livery yards, instructors. Protecting, extending and enhancing provision such as off-road riding for equestrians will sustain the contribution to the rural economy.

Policy EC8. Sustainable Tourism

Policy EC8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 47: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 47 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 47 - Option 2: Clarify the policy to focus on socio-economic benefits:
Somewhat disagree

Question 47 - Option 3: Amend the Policy to define sustainable tourism:
Somewhat agree

Question 48: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Option 2: specifies provision for walking and cycling at the exclusion of equestrians.

The equestrian industry generates over £5 billion of consumer spending, £6,887 per horse per annum (BETA, 2019) to the economy, benefitting local economies where equestrian activities thrive.

Several categories of public rights of way (bridleways, restricted byways and byways) and minor public roads are already shared by cyclists and other user groups. Thus, as a general principle, we believe that, for maximum public benefit and fairness, the reciprocal approach should be implemented, i.e. that new cycle paths should be shared with other user groups unless there is a specific, unresolvable reason not to do so. Designing equestrians into development plans will enhance equestrian access and activity, reaping benefits for safety, health and wellbeing. Research shows that 'activity with horses …. in nature environments is a source of wellbeing, enjoyment, self-confidence and social contacts (Schwarzmuller-Erber et al, 2020).

Equestrian tourism (bring your horse on holiday) is an increasingly popular and lucrative business. With the recognition of the decline in the farming economy, models such as https://www.cholseyfarmriding.co.uk/ enable landowners to diversify.

Definitions

Policy EN3. The Melton Green Infrastructure Network

Policy EN3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 51: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 51 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Somewhat disagree

Question 51 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:
Somewhat agree

Question 52: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

A commitment to include all vulnerable road users in designing new green infrastructure would be welcome.

The NPPF para 100 states: Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks.

Policy EN5. Local Green Spaces

Policy EN5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 53: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 53 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 53 - Option 2: Incorporate Green Belt criteria:

Question 53 - Option 3: Designate additional Local Green Spaces:

Question 54: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 55: If you wish to propose a new area for Local Green Space, please send a map and supporting information to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk and add a note in this section

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN7. Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Policy EN7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 56: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 56 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 56 - Option 2: Update the policy, particularly the standards [preferred option]:
Somewhat agree

Question 57: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Parks and open spaces should be inclusive of all to enjoy exercise in the outdoors. There are many good examples of country parks which include access for equestrians which MMC could replicate. Derbyshire County Council country parks and trails are an illustration of this: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/search.aspx?search_keywords=horse%20riding&contentTypes=

Policy EN11. Minimising the Risk of Flooding

Policy EN11: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 64: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 64 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 64 - Option 2: Add new elements of national policy:
Somewhat agree

Question 64 - Option 3: Restrict policy to strategic overview and local matters:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 65: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Green infrastructure (PRoW and other off-road routes) is increasingly impacted by run-off from developments and should be considered in line with the national policy.

Definitions

Policy EN12. Sustainable Drainage Systems

Policy EN12: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 66: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 66 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 66 - Option 2: Incorporate additional requirements:
Somewhat agree

Question 67: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Green infrastructure (PRoW and other off-road routes) is increasingly impacted by run-off from developments and should be considered in line with the national policy.

Policy IN1. Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy

Policy IN1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 68: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 68 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 68 - Option 2: Reflect the latest position in the policy [preferred option]:
Somewhat agree

Question 69: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Interface between PRoW, Highways, Active Travel/LCWIP, Sustrans/NCN is needed to ensure as the road infrastructure develops, so does a connected network of off-road routes which are inclusive of all vulnerable road users, including equestrians.

Definitions

Policy IN2. Transport, Accessibility and Parking

Policy IN2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 70: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 70 - Option 1: Delete the policy:
Neither agree nor disagree

Question 70 - Option 2: Amend policy wording to align with national and local guidance [preferred option]:
Somewhat disagree

Question 71: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Again, walking and cycling has been specified as modes of travel without consideration for other wheelers and equestrians.

The Society seeks assurance that Melton Mowbray Council recognises the inclusivity of active travel in terms of movement for all vulnerable road users. Jesse Norman MP, Parliamentary Under –Secretary of State for Transport in a House of Commons debate on Road Safety, 5 November 2018 (1) stated: "We should be clear that the cycling and walking strategy may have that name but is absolutely targeted at vulnerable road users, including horse-riders......Horse riders are vulnerable road users—there is no doubt about that, and there never has been—and they have been included in the work we are doing."

Several categories of public rights of way (bridleways, restricted byways and byways) and minor public roads are already shared by cyclists and other user groups. Thus, as a general principle, we believe that, for maximum public benefit and fairness, the reciprocal approach should be implemented, i.e. that new cycle paths should be shared with other user groups unless there is a specific, unresolvable reason not to do so.

Whilst most often equestrians will be active for leisure, there are many examples of utility journeys being undertaken. According to BETA two-thirds of equestrians are women and Church et al (2010) found 37% of women who are horse riders are over 45 years of age and over a third would pursue no other physical activity. (Conversely, the majority of cyclists are male.)

Including all vulnerable road users in urban areas should also be an aspiration: an excellent example is the impressive network of bridleways and multi-user routes in Milton Keynes for leisure and travel.

Policy D1. Raising the Standard of Design

Policy D1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 74: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 74 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 74 - Option 2: Review and strengthen policy so it sets out strategic principles for high quality new development [preferred option]:

Question 75: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 76: Do you think the current design policy criteria covers all design issues adequately, that the current policy works well? Would you like to suggest any criteria to be added or removed from the policy?

Please, provide further context:

Question 77: How important do you think each of the following design considerations are for a new development?

Question 77 - Attractiveness: creating a pleasant environment to live and work:

Question 77 - Sensitive to context: responds well to its surroundings:

Question 77 - Distinctiveness: builds upon the unique characteristics of its surroundings and creates a sense of place in itself (design features such as scale, massing, materials, landscaping and architectural detailing).:

Question 77 - Neighbour amenity: does not adversely affect neighbours and nearby uses:

Question 77 - Legible places: places that are easily understood by their users, particularly when moving around.:

Question 77 - Connectedness: created new and weaves into existing networks:

Question 77 - Comprehensive: ensuring development is designed and delivered in a coordinated way, and avoiding piecemeal schemes:

Question 77 - Safe and attractive streets and spaces: create spaces and environment that feels safe and secure to be in.:

Question 77 - Environmental sustainability and adapting to climate change:

Question 77 - Mix of uses: the right range of uses and densities:

Question 77 - Protecting and enhancing heritage assets:

Question 77 - Car parking:

Question 77 - Community consultation: opportunities for community to get involved and help shape development proposals:

Question 77 - Other: please state below any other key deign considerations not highlighted above:

Please, provide further context:

Question 78: Do you think there is a need for specific policy guidance about the use of design coding within the local plan?

Not Answered

Question 79: If you responded 'yes' to question 78, please provide reasons?

Please, provide further context: