

Thurleigh Neighbourhood Development Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

January 2020

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1. Introduction

1.1. This statement has been prepared by Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Thurleigh Parish Council to accompany the submission of the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan to Bedford Borough Council.

1.2. Under Regulation 15(1)(d) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority, it must include a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of The Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA)1990 (as amended).

1.3. Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B of The TCPA 1990 requires the independent examiner to consider -

(a) whether the draft neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions (see sub-paragraph (2)),

(b) whether the draft plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 61E(2), 61J and 61L,

(c) whether any period specified under section 61L(2)(b) or (5) is appropriate,

(d) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft plan relates, and

(e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

1.4. Paragraph 8(2) Schedule 4B of The TCPA 1990 states that a draft neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions if –

(a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the order,

(b) having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order,

(c) having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order,

(d) the making of the order contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

(e) the making of the order is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),

(f) the making of the order does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and

(g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the order and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order.

1.5. Section 2 of this statement deals with the legal requirements of paragraph 8(1)(b)-(e): Section 3 sets out how the draft plan meets the basic conditions as required by paragraphs 8(1)(a) and 8(2).

2. Legal Requirements

2.1. This part of the statement confirms Thurleigh Parish Council's view that the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version) complies with the requirements of Paragraph 8(1)(b)-(e) of Schedule 4B of the TCPA.

2.2. Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Thurleigh Parish Council, the relevant qualifying body for the relevant designated neighbourhood area.

2.3. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the neighbourhood area and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the TCPA 1990 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

2.4. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan will be valid between the periods 2020-2030.

2.5. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with 'county matters' (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the TCPA 1990.

2.6. The designated neighbourhood area was approved by Bedford Borough Council on 1 July 2013. The Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

2.7. In relation to paragraph 8(1)(c), it is not considered that there is any benefit or reason for extending the area for the referendum beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

2.8. In relation to paragraph 8(1)(d), there are no other prescribed matters.

3. Basic Conditions

3.1. This part of the statement confirms Thurleigh Parish Council's view that the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version) meets all of the basic conditions required for a Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019, sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The overarching principle of the NPPF is the ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development.’ This requires local planning authorities to “positively seek” development opportunities.

3.3. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which supports the NPPF, describes basic conditions that a draft neighbourhood development plan (and/or development order) must meet if it is to proceed to referendum. The basic conditions that apply solely to neighbourhood development plans are, that -

- 1. having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan.*
- 2. the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.*
- 3. the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).*
- 4. the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.*
- 5. prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan.*

3.4. The proposed neighbourhood plan has been developed to reflect the NPPF and Planning Policy Guidance. Table 1 sets out those neighbourhood plan policies which relate to planning issues and which aspects of NPPF and PPG requirements they are intended to reflect.

3.5. The proposed Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in general conformity with the Bedford Borough strategic policies of the Development Plan which includes saved policies of the Bedford Borough Local Plan (2002), and the Bedford Allocations and Designations Local Plan (2013). It also conforms to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.

3.6. Table 1 provides a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with both the National Planning Policy Framework and the saved and emerging strategic policies of Bedford Borough’s Development Plan.

3.7. The Neighbourhood Plan was developed so as to reflect the NPPF’s presumption in favour of sustainable development, with its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

3.8. The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to achieving sustainable development by seeking positive improvements to the quality of the natural, built and historic environment, as well as in people’s quality of life, including:

- *Housing - delivering housing which both sustains the current and meets the future needs of the community;*

- *Infrastructure needs - managing both existing and future infrastructure requirements encouraging safe and sustainable movement;*
 - *Green spaces - protecting and enhancing our existing and future open spaces*
 - *Village facilities - ensuring that the village benefits from sufficient facilities and services;*
 - *Business & employment - identifying development opportunities to provide further employment within the village whilst safeguarding existing employment provision for the community;*
 - *Young people - ensuring that the village benefits from sufficient facilities and services for young people;*
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- *Local distinctiveness - encouraging and supporting our distinctive landscape which contributes to a sense of place and community, including natural features such as small woodlands, in-field trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams which distinguish the parish;*
 - *Heritage - protecting and enhancing our listed buildings and our scheduled ancient monuments such as the mound at Bury Hill Camp.*

4. EU Obligations

(a) Strategic Environmental Assessment

4.1. The Planning Practice Guidance on strategic environmental assessments suggests that, such an assessment is usually only required where either the neighbourhood plan or supplementary planning documents could have significant environmental effects.

4.2 A screening opinion was issued by AECOM which determined that a full SEA would not be required. The statutory consultees concurred with this conclusion.

(b) Habitats Directive

4.3. Any development that has the potential to have an impact upon a European protected site may be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) submitted by a competent public body, for example the local planning authority. Thurleigh commissioned an HRA undertaken by a professional ecologist (Bodsey Ecology Ltd) and its recommendations were incorporated into the proposed neighbourhood plan. A copy of the HRA is also presented as a supporting document to the plan.

(c) Convention on Human Rights

4.4. The proposed Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Statement of Consultation. Considerable care was taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were taken into account to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups.

4.5 There was extensive consultation and engagement in identifying issues and objectives and the community has been consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Responses have been recorded and changes have been made where appropriate as set out in the consultation statement

4.6 The Statement of Consultation was prepared by the Steering Committee and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the TCPA 1990 (as amended) are considered to have been met by the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan.

5.2. The Plan has regard to national policy, will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development, is in general conformity with the saved strategic policies in the Bedford Borough Councils current planning documents and the relevant strategies of the Bedford Local Plan 2030 and meets relevant EU obligations.

Table 1 – Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan policies and related provision in the NPPF and Bedford Borough Development Plan

Policy No	Policy title/objective	NPPF para	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework	Conformation with local development plan
HS1	New Housing Mix – this policy seeks to broaden housing choice, provide opportunities to live in the village for a wide range of people, restrict building heights to reflect existing character, provide development at both an appropriate density and size.	11, 59, 61, 127	The policy will have regard to sustainable development principles, have regard for housing land supply and need and be of a sympathetic scale and of an appropriate density (11, 59, 61 and 127).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 7S (development in the countryside), 28S (Place making), Design quality and principles (29).
HS2	Land at the Beeches, High Street, Thurleigh – this policy seeks to allocate land for 10 dwellings subject to appropriate design, mix, tenure, scale, car parking, amenity space, access and landscaping. It also seeks to provide an element of affordable housing.	61, 62, 67, 68, 69, 84, 124 & 127	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as – the development is of an appropriate size (61); it provides an element of affordable housing to meet specific local need (62); it has identified appropriate housing land (67); it acknowledges the importance of delivering development on small sites (68 and 69); it will support the rural economy (84); it expects the development to be of a good design meeting specific design expectations (124 and 127).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 7S (Development in the countryside), 28S (Place making), 29 (design quality and principles), 31 (The impact of development – access impacts), 38 (Landscape in new development), 53 (Development layout and accessibility), 58S (Affordable Housing), 59S (Housing mix) Also it complies with Supplementary Planning Document ‘Planning Obligations’ adopted July 2013.
HS3	Land at Hayle Field, High Street, Thurleigh this seeks to allocate land for 20 dwellings subject to appropriate design, mix, tenure, scale, car parking, amenity space, access and landscaping. It also	61, 62, 67, 68, 69, 77, 78, 84,	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as – the development is of an appropriate size (61); it provides an element of affordable housing to meet specific local need (62); it has	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 7S (Development in the countryside), 28S (Place making), 29 (design quality and principles), 31 (The impact of development – access impacts), 38 (Landscape in new

	seeks to provide an element of affordable housing.	124 & 127	identified appropriate housing land (67); it acknowledges the importance of delivering development on small sites (68 and 69); it will support the rural economy (84); it expects the development to be of a good design meeting specific design expectations (124 and 127).	development), 53 (Development layout and accessibility), 58S (Affordable Housing), 59S (Housing mix) Also it complies with Supplementary Planning Document 'Planning Obligations' adopted July 2013.
HS4	Thurleigh Village Design Statement – this policy sets out a number of design criteria that new development in the village should adhere to – appropriate design, scale, layout, materials, soft and hard landscaping, life time homes, boundary details, heritage setting, car parking and residential amenity.	124, 125, 126 & 130	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as –it expects the development to be of a good design meeting specific design expectations (124 and 127). Poor design is to be avoided and resisted (130).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 28S (Place making), 29 (design quality and principles), 31 (The impact of development – access impacts), 38 (Landscape in new development), 39(Retention of trees), 40 (Hedgerows), 41S (Historic environment and heritage assets), 53 (Development layout and accessibility), 59S (Housing mix)
HS5	Affordable Housing Occupation – this policy seeks to ensure that affordable homes are allocated to qualifying candidates first priority is given to people with a familial or work connection to Thurleigh Parish and second priority is given to those with connections to surrounding Parishes and third priority to all other qualifying candidates.	62, 63	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as – the development is of an appropriate size to include affordable housing (61); it provides an element of affordable housing to meet specific local need (62). It would be normal procedure to control the allocation of affordable units in accordance with local circumstances.	The Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 sets out its requirements for percentages, tenures and size-mix of affordable housing in policy 58S. These neighbourhood plan policies cite the Local Plan affordable housing policy as underpinning the requirement.

IF1	Provision of Services – this policy seeks to ensure that new development includes sewerage, water supply, electricity, telephone land line and broadband service.	81, 112 &122	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as – it supports the inclusion of policies to deliver infrastructure and services (81 &122); the provision of telecommunications and broadband is specifically mentioned as important (112).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 86S (Delivering infrastructure), 94 (Broadband policy and 96 (Communications Infrastructure)
IF2	Traffic Management – this policy seeks to understand and mitigate the traffic and transport impacts of new developments on the parish with particular regard for pedestrians, cyclists, road safety, parking and congestion. Generally development should not have have a detrimental impact on road safety.	102, 103, 104 & 127	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as it - confirms that transport issues and impacts should be considered, opportunities for improvements taken, promotion and integration of sustainable transport modes (102, 103, 104 and 127).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 28S (Place making), 29 (design quality and principles), 31 (The impact of development – access impacts), 53 (Development layout and accessibility)
GS1	Protection of Green Space – this policy seeks to protect designated Village Open Spaces and proposed Local Green Space from inappropriate new development by the use of Policy AD40 in the Allocation and Designations Local Plan for Village Open Spaces and the proposed policy 46 in the emerging Local Plan 2030.	91, 99, 100, 118 &171	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as it – supports the designation of green infrastructure (91) and the designation of local green space (99 &100), the creation of habitat and green infrastructure (118) and the maintenance and enhancement of natural capital (171).	
GS2	Renewable Energy – this policy seeks to support renewable energy where it does not compromise issues relating to heritage assets, residential	149, 150, 151 & 154	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as it – seeks to ensure that the impacts of climate change is mitigated (149), avoid increased vulnerability and the	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 29 (Design quality and impacts), 51S (Climate change strategic solution), 54 (Energy efficiency), 55 (District heating), 57

	amenity, landscape character, visual amenity, highway safety, wildlife and habitats, environmental assets or any other relevant material considerations.		reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (150), support the provision of appropriate renewable and low carbon technologies (151) and supporting renewable and low carbon developments where their impacts can be made acceptable (154).	(Renewable energy – general impact), 29 (Design quality and principles), 31 (Impact of development – access impacts) Also conforms to saved policy AD28 (Provision of Open Space and Built facilities in association with new development) from the Allocations and Designations Plan.
RYS1	This policy seeks to protect local facilities and services. It identifies specific assets which would be protected against detrimental development - The Jackal Public House, the Village Hall, the village Sports and Social Club, the playing fields, the Church, the War Memorial, the Memorial Garden and the Village Garden.	83, 91, 92 & 97	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as it – seeks to protect and provide local rural community facilities including local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship (83), the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, allotments (91), to provide and protect the social, recreational and cultural facilities including the use of shared spaces, community facilities (shops, public houses and churches) (92), and the protection of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields (97).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 84 (All shop units) to control changes of use and 99 (Loss of existing leisure and sports facilities) in the emerging.
RYS2	New Local Facilities – this policy seeks to support proposals for new local services including a village shop, medical and dental care facility where they are	83, 92	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as it – seeks to provide local rural community facilities including local shops, meeting places, sports venues,	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 81 (New local shops in local centres) and 98 (New community facilities)

	appropriately located and do not cause harm or where the harm caused is outweighed by other benefits		open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship (83), to provide a range of social, recreational and cultural facilities including the use of shared spaces, community facilities (shops, public houses and churches) (92).	
RYS3	New and Improvements to Recreational Facilities – this policy supports the provision of new or improved recreational facilities provided that their design and scale are in keeping with the local character and that there is no adverse impact on the amenity of surrounding residential properties.	91, 92 & 97	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as it – seeks the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, allotments (91), to provide and protect the social, recreational and cultural facilities including the use of shared spaces, community facilities (shops, public houses and churches) (92), and the protection of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields (97).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policy 97 (New sports and leisure facilities).
EM1	Officers Mess Site – this policy seeks the re-use of the site providing it is sensitive to the remaining historic buildings and structures, avoids significant effects on water quality or wildlife and is not reliant on the regular use of commercial traffic movements.		This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as – the reduction of congestion and emissions, and improvement of air quality and public health (103), the re-use of under-utilised land and buildings (118), the use of brownfield land (119), the efficient use of land and the promotion of regeneration and change (122), the protection of natural resources and biodiversity (170) and the protection of historic	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 41S (Historic environment and heritage assets), 42S (Protection of biodiversity and geodiversity), 47S (Pollution, disturbance and contaminated land), 50S (Water resources), and 75 (New employment development in the countryside).

			environments and the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (185).	
LPA1	Public Rights of Way and Accessibility – this policy seeks to protect and enhance the existing network of Public Rights of Way.	98	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as - 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 including National Trails (98).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policy 91 (Access to the countryside).
LPA2	Public Rights of Way Improvements – this policy seeks to develop improved access and linkages for Public Rights of Way connecting to neighbouring parishes in order to support and enhance health and wellbeing beyond Thurleigh Parish.	98	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as - 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 including National Trails (98).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policy 91 (Access to the countryside).
LPA3	New Development and Connectivity – this policy requires new developments to demonstrate connectivity to existing Public Rights of Way network and provide new footpaths and cycle paths (where appropriate), allowing improved access to the local	98, 102, 104	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as - 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	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policy 91 (Access to the countryside).

	amenities and services, to green spaces and to the open countryside.		existing rights of way networks including National Trails (98) and the promotion of sustainable modes of transport (102 & 104).	
LPA4	Protection and Replacement of Existing Landscape – this policy requires development proposals to be designed to retain wherever possible established healthy trees and hedgerows, trees of good arboricultural and amenity value and hedgerows. Proposals which either result in the loss of or affect existing trees or hedgerows should be accompanied by the relevant supporting surveys and reports as set out in the Bedford Borough Council’s application Validation List.	127, 170 & 175	This policy has regard for the NPPF insofar as - new developments should be visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping (127), planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment (170) and biodiversity and habitat protection and improvements (175).	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 policies 38 (Landscaping in new development), 39 (Retention of trees) and 40 (Hedgerows).

Appendix 1- Equality Impact Assessment

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Equality Act 2010 section 149 places a duty on all public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Protected characteristics are defined as: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 1.2 This Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared by Thurleigh Neighbourhood Development Plan working group on behalf of Thurleigh Parish Council. It is an analysis of the policies within the Neighbourhood Development Plan to scrutinise for the potential for an adverse impact on any persons or group, and in particular those people/groups with a protected characteristic.
- 1.3 An assessment has been made on the impact of the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Development plan on each of the protected characteristics.

2. Aims and Policies of the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Vision of Thurleigh Neighbourhood plan is:

We passionately believe that Thurleigh is a special, quiet village with a real sense of community. Any future developments should, therefore, be sustainable and sensitive, respecting the character of our Village and protecting its beauty, vitality and the natural environment. Thurleigh must retain its distinctive characteristics and continue to grow as a strong, thriving and vibrant place in which to live, work and visit

- 2.2 The Objectives of the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Development Plan are:

- Housing:
 - delivering housing which both sustains the current and meets the future needs of the community;

- Infrastructure needs:
 - managing both existing and future infrastructure requirements
 - encouraging safe and sustainable movement;
- Green spaces:
 - protecting and enhancing our existing and future open spaces;
- Village facilities:
 - ensuring that the village benefits from sufficient facilities and services;
- Business & employment:
 - identifying development opportunities to provide further employment within the village whilst safeguarding existing employment provision for the community;
- Young people:
 - ensuring that the village benefits from sufficient facilities and services for young people;
- Local distinctiveness:
 - encouraging and supporting our distinctive landscape which contributes to a sense of place and community, including natural features such as small woodlands, in-field trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams which distinguish the parish;
- Heritage:
 - Preserving the special interest of our listed buildings and their settings; preserve or enhance the special interest of the conservation area and protecting the scheduled (ancient) Monument of Bury Hill Camp as well as other archaeological sites within the parish.
- Wider Environment:
 - The plan will ensure that there are no negative likely significant effects relating to the Water Framework Directive nor to European sites designated under European Directive (92/43/EEC).

2.3 The policies are:

- HS1 New Housing Mix
- HS2 Land at The Beeches, High Street, Thurleigh

HS3 Land at Hayle Filed, High Street, Thurleigh
HS4 Thurleigh Village Design Statement
HS5 Affordable Housing Allocation
IF1 The Provision of Services
IF2 Traffic Management
GS1 Protection of Green Spaces
GS2 Renewable Energy
RYS1 Local Facilities and Services
RYS2 New Local Services
RYS3 New and Improvements to Recreation Facilities
LPA1 Public Rights of Way and Accessibility
LPA2 Public Rights of Way Improvements
LPA3 New Development Connectivity
LPA4 Protection and Replacement of Existing Landscape

There are also various non land use actions listed.

NLU Action 1 Traffic, Transport and Accessibility
NLU Action 2 Twin Reservoirs
NLU Action 3 Allotment Provision
NLU Action 4 Thurleigh Tree Planting Plan
NLU Action 5 Local information signage
NLU Action 6 Protection of buildings of Local Interest
NLU Action 7 Public Access to Bury Hill Monument
NLU Action 8 Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy

3. Profile of Thurleigh

- 3.1 Census data from 2011 has been used to provide information on the following protected characteristics: age, disability, race, and religious belief. Data relating to sex and sexual orientations, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity is unavailable at Parish level.

3.2 Age Profile

In 2011 the population stood at 694. The table below shows that the parish has a broadly similar age profile to the Borough, but with a high proportion of its population being between 40 to 74 (50%)

Age	Parish		Borough
	No	%	%
0-4	30	4.3	6.4
5-15	88	12.7	13.7
16-17	22	3.2	2.7
18-29	99	14.3	15.1
30-39	60	8.6	13.3
40-49	119	17.1	14.9
50-64	160	23.1	18.1
65-74	71	10.2	8.1
75-84	39	5.6	5.5
85+	6	0.9	2.2
Total	694	100	100

3.3 Gender

49.4% are male, 50.6% are female.

Gender		
	Male%	Female %
Thurleigh	49.4	50.6
Borough	49	51

3.4 Disability

Within the parish 12.5% of the population has a long-term illness or disability that limits activity a lot (5.0%) or a little (7.5%). The figures for limiting activity a lot or a little is lower than the Borough which is 7.1% and 8.9% respectively.

Population with a long term illness or a disability that limits daily activity			
	Thurleigh	%	Borough %
Daily activity limited a lot	35	5.0	7.2
Daily activity limited a little	52	7.5	8.9
Daily activity not limited	607	87.5	84

3.5 Ethnic Group

Most of the population in the Parish (97.1%) identifies as white British or white other, which is higher than the Borough figure of 80.6%. the percentage of the population which is non white (2.8%) is significantly lower than the Borough which is 19.4%.

Ethnic Groups (%)						
	White British	White- other	Mixed Multiple	Asian/Asian British	Black/ Black British	Other
Thurleigh	94.5	2.6	1.4	0.7	0.6	0.1
Borough	71.5	9.1	3.4	11.4	3.9	0.7

3.6 Religion

The dominant faith is Christian (63.1%) which is higher than the Borough which is 59.3%. 1.2% follow a different religion which is much lower than the Borough figure of 10.5%. Within the parish 35.7% of the population have no religion or have not stated a religion which is higher than the Borough figures of 30.2%

Religion (%)				
	Christian	Other	No Religion	Not Stated
Thurleigh	63.1	1.2	30.7	5.0
Borough	59.3	10.5	23.6	6.6

4.0 Impact on Protected Characteristics

4.1 Age

Policy HS1 New Housing Mix, along with policies HS2 Land at the Beeches, and HS 3 land at Hayle Field detail that provision should be made for a mix and range of house types and tenures to allow for growth within the village, and ensure housing caters for all ages, including provision of affordable homes, homes for younger people purchasing for the first time, and for the elderly who may wish to downsize.

Policy HS4 provides required design standards and policies HS1, HS2 and HS3 advise that the properties being built must be of a mix and tenure from an identified local need, such as starter homes, bungalows for the elderly.

The impact on all ages will be positive

4.2 *Disability*

The needs of the disabled, including those with limited mobility, are addressed in Policies HS1, HS2 and HS3 which look for housing to meet local identified needs including the disabled. Policies RSY1 and RSY2 look to improve local services, and Policy LPA1 looks to improve accessibility and use of footpaths and public rights of way.

NLU Action 1 looks to create a safer environment for all road and pavement users, and NLU Action 8 considers the use of CIL funding to improve infrastructure and facilities.

The impact on people with disabilities will be positive

4.3 *Maternity and Pregnancy*

Key issues for women who are pregnant or have small children are access to appropriate housing, flexible employment and community facilities.

Policies HS1, HS2 and HS3 covers housing requirements. HS5 covers affordable housing, and policies IF1, RYS1, RYS2 and RYS3 cover the protection and improvement of local services..

The impact on pregnant women will be positive

4.4 *Race*

2.8% of the population of Thurleigh are from non- white ethnic groups. The plan will have the same impact on the local population regardless of race. Policies HS1, HS2, HS3 and HS4 seek to create well designed development, including safety considerations to reduce any possible hate crime. (There is no evidence that any takes place in Thurleigh)

The impact will be positive on people of all races

4.5 *Religion*

Most of the population in Thurleigh is Christian, with a third stating they are other/none/not stated. Community facilities are currently used by all faiths and none. Policies within the plan do not consider any form of religion, and simply provide a safe environment for all to live in

The impact will be positive on people regardless of religion

4.6 *Sex (gender), Gender Reassignment and Sexual Orientation*

The neighbourhood plan proposals and policies have been written to provide the same opportunities to both sexes, with neither sex disadvantaged, and to provide the same opportunities to all residents regardless of sexual Orientation or if they are undergoing Gender Reassignment.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot address social attitudes that may result in transphobia or discrimination policies have been written to ensure that there is a safe built environment for all to enjoy.

The impact will be positive on all people regardless of Sex, Gender Reassignment or Sexual Orientation

4.7 *Conclusion*

Thurleigh Neighbourhood Development Plan provides a range of proposals and policies which will result in positive benefits for all members of the community, including those with protected characteristics. The Plan makes equal provision for all housing, employment and community facilities which will benefit all those living there