

Desborough Town Council - Neighbourhood Plan: Opportunities & Threats

- Taking a Positive View While Recognising the Reality.





Vision & Purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan

- Neighbourhood planning enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work and in supporting or opposing onerous new development proposals
- Ensure sustainable growth of housing, services and infrastructure in Desborough
- Protect and celebrate local heritage and natural spaces (e.g. The Plens, The Hawthorns, Tailby Meadows)
- Improve transport links, amenities, recreation, green space
- Foster local economy & community involvement

Key Positives & Opportunities

- Desborough is a community with a rich heritage a neighbourhood plan could enhance local pride
- We have a wealth of natural spaces which enhance the quality of Life in the town. – It is well known that green spaces enhance wellbeing and biodiversity
- We have a major strategic location – close to Kettering and Market Harborough, with strong connectivity
- The right plan would increase the potential for local growth – new housing, in the correct area, and business could attract investment





Current Challenges

- We do not currently have a planner/consultant onboard – this will significantly slow progress, it also limits technical planning capacity as the Town Council are not technically qualified – we are seeking alternative quotes
- Loss of Government funding – funding for neighbourhood plans were withdrawn this year, the cost will have to be funded via reserves or additional precept
- Risk of delay & missed opportunities – may stall local growth and infrastructure improvements
- Balancing growth vs preserving character – protect heritage and nature amid development

Community

- Desborough has a wonderful community spirit
- The council wants to enhance this
- People are what makes this town and we want your support



Moving Forward — Recommendations & Optimism

- We will engage the local community – via local workshops, surveys, and collaboration. At all times we inform residents of the progress.
- We will seek new funding sources – via grants, partnerships, community-led initiatives
- We intend to engage with a consultant with expertise in Neighbourhood plans – This is currently proving challenging
- Prioritise quick wins – visible projects to build momentum
- Ensure heritage and nature are central – use assets to define Desborough's future

