



Easingwold Town Council

A Vision for Easingwold
2017 - 2035



A Great EASINGWOLD Future

Easingwold Town Council will encourage the positive development of Easingwold over the coming decades as a thriving town. A great place to grow up in, live in, visit, access services in, work in and grow old in. We wish Easingwold to be a prosperous community that has a clear and distinctive character, one that delivers a high quality of life for all its citizens and users.

Easingwold will grow by some 1,000 – 1,500 people during the period 2017 – 2035. Easingwold Town Council wishes this larger community to retain its essential character, but to upgrade with the times, capturing the benefits and opportunities that modernisation can deliver; conserving the best and improving the rest.

Achieving this objective means supporting measured, proportionate, timely and sustainable development to meet local requirements. This development and the management of the town will be supported by policies (see Appendix) having a positive effect on the locality, maintaining and improving the quality of the natural and built-up environments, whilst providing a positive social environment in which citizens can thrive.

This vision is based on two equal, interlinked and mutually supportive aspects; namely the town's physical infrastructure and its social infrastructure.

With regard to *Physical Easingwold* the Town Council wishes to influence and manage through its policies and activities the appearance and nature of the town right from the bypass and all routes into the town until its focal point in the marketplace. This should reflect its status as a market town and local service centre.

Effective and clear signage should inform travellers of Easingwold's presence, nature and services; continuing with clearly signed routes to all parts of a modern, yet traditional market town. Thus making the town not only more welcoming for visitors, but more importantly a nicer place for living and working in. To this end, the Council will use some resources and work with other stakeholders to achieve a well-maintained, clean and verdant feel to the town. We wish to see a judicious use of parking controls and street furniture/architecture to assure that traffic can flow properly and safely, whilst keeping vehicles off the pavements and verges.

There should be controlled growth in housing and commercial/industrial building over the period in selected sites developed in conjunction with the Hambleton District

Council Local Plan. The Town Council will work to assure that this is compatible with the setting of the town and provides a balance of accommodation according to the population's needs. This will place emphasis on the need for affordable home ownership, especially to enable our younger people and families to continue to develop their lives within the town. The Council wishes to see small, characterful developments that reflect the town's visual appeal and are built to high quality design standards.

As the town expands, the Town Council the development should include strong provisions for accessibility by cyclists, pedestrians, the less able and disabled. Alongside this the Town Council will promote the maintenance of public footpaths and rights of way to assure that the pedestrian and cycle ways have good accessibility and safe use.

The Town Council will continue the enhancement of the adopted green spaces throughout the town for which it has responsibility. This is especially true for the facilities in Millfields, Claypenny, Chase Garth, the Memorial Park and the Town Greens. The Town Council will encourage the establishment and/or continuation of green corridors into the town as further development occurs.

Long Street is an important axis both into and through the town. Easingwold Town Council will work positively to promote a good level of visual amenity along its length. This may include judicious cleaning and planting as well as the appropriate use of bollards, yellow lines, parking zones to keep the traffic flows fluid.

Easingwold Town Council views the whole Town Centre and especially the Market Place to be a 'jewel in the crown' of the community. The Council is keen to conserve this area, its feel and visual impact at a high level to retain its overall attractiveness.

To emphasise this, the Council wishes to retain the Easingwold Conservation Area within its currently defined space. However, the Town Council is concerned that the Easingwold Conservation Area be operated flexibly enough to assure the conservation of the best, whilst positively encouraging the enhancement and improvement of the rest. We are not seeking to freeze the Town Centre in time, but conserve its essential visual appeal, whilst enabling it to develop and modernise as needs develop, technologies evolve and social changes occur.

Within agreed constraints, the Council would like to see an approach to the conservation area with emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of landowners for the proper maintenance of their buildings, gardens and open spaces in keeping with the area. This should be backed up by planning and legal action only where these rights and responsibilities are not fulfilled or reach their limits.

The Council will encourage a positive and full use of the town's central spaces; and will support the Town Centre's continuation as a strong retailing, hostelry and commercial centre. It also wishes to see all the properties within the town centre continuously maintained to a high standard.

To retain its inherent attractiveness and importance to the town, the Council will invest considerable effort in its support of the town centre, its infrastructure, and its key assets. It will continue with its progressive programmes of planting; grass, bush and tree care; line renewal; public toilets and facilities; markets; traffic management and car parking etc. This is seen as fundamental to the future attractiveness and economy of the town.

The Old Health Centre on Crabmill Lane is falling into lower use by the NHS. Should this

space become available, Easingwold Town Council wishes to see it be developed with an additional long stay car park to relieve the parking pressure in the town centre. The current central parking arrangements are widely recognised to be inadequate and this is the only space available where a further parking provision could be made.

With regard to the existent car parking and car parks, the Town Council would like to see them evolve to provide the best possible arrangements for their diverse users. Some provision of shorter and longer stay areas; wider spaces for larger vehicles; better facilities for bicycles and motorcycles; and the introduction of facilities for electric car re-charging are likely to be needed.

Whilst the cobbles are an attractive centre feature, the way they are currently installed causes significant inconvenience and safety issues for foot traffic as well as excessive maintenance. The Council will seek to implement a progressive programme where cobbles are fixed in such a way that they retain their essential attractiveness, whilst becoming much more practical and suitable for modern life. Completing a non-cobbled pedestrian footpath around the town centre is envisaged to enable the elderly, disabled or infants to avoid walking on the cobbles or being forced to walk in the street.

Within the town there are many public buildings, facilities and services that are vital to the wellbeing of the town and its population. Excellent Health and Educational facilities are particularly important for the town and the Town Council wishes to see them grow with the town and develop with its population's needs. Should there be an opportunity for any re-building in the future, then the Town Council would like to see a concentrated Health Campus such that all like, and mutually supportive services are conveniently located in close proximity to each other.

This approach clearly leads into the lifestyle and social needs of the town's population. With regard to *Social Easingwold* the Town Council wishes to influence and partially manage through its policies and activities the social feel of the town, such that is considered as highly desirable place in which to grow up, work, visit and live.

In line with this Easingwold Town Council wishes to see Easingwold continue to be (and improve as) an attractive destination for visitors and service centre for its surrounding villages. To help this ETC will encourage the retention and development of the public transport system serving both the town and its surrounding area, improving our connectivity and accessibility for townspeople and visitors alike. This includes aiming to have the services provided cover the new areas of the town as they develop.

There are multiple building assets that contribute strongly to Easingwold's life. They include the Galtres Centre, the Town Library, St. Monica's, COZIE, Tourist Information Centre, Sports Clubs, Parish Rooms etc. They are seen as important social facilities for Easingwold, and whilst not operated by the Council, Easingwold Town Council will continuously provide support and help for their continued operation and success.

In the same vein, Easingwold Town Council is keen to ensure the town's footpaths, cycleways, bridleways, open spaces and recreational areas be maintained and evolve with our changing needs. ETC wishes to see them used as much as possible by the population for the greatest possible range of activities. Helping our citizens stay active, healthy and interact with each other in the outside space.

The Town Council wishes to retain the social character of the town as being a good place to live. Easingwold should remain a town that is small enough to be friendly and in which you can 'know people'; whilst having a good range of facilities and services that

support their lives. In this regard Easingwold Town Council intend to be active and proactive in using the mechanisms and tools available to it build a strong social character and caring culture within the town.

The Council will promote the retention and enhancement of facilities and services with the town. Some of these are private (Dentists, Solicitors, Banks/Building Societies, Retailers and Hostelrys etc.); some are public (Health and Social Care, Schools, Churches etc.); and yet others are collective (Football & Cricket Clubs, Galtres Centre, COZIE etc.) The Town Council wishes to facilitate and enable the Easingwold townspeople themselves to create, maintain and operate a whole range of facilities, clubs and events that enhance the quality and variety of life within the town.

Easingwold Town Council will ensure that it has a suitable structure and budget to enable it promote and facilitate *Social Easingwold*. This will include co-ordination of activities where needed to maximise their impact for the town. Local individuals, organisations and groups will be encouraged to engage with ETC and its committees and seek their help in keeping the town's social programmes and activities vibrant and plentiful. The Council would like to see a full programme of interesting and exciting events throughout the year and across the town, such that it is always attractive to visit and stay within Easingwold.

Easingwold Town Council very much values and wishes to facilitate and promote the wide range of social clubs, associations and groups within the town. This includes its many sports clubs; youth groups; social support and networking groups; religious and secular groups; educational and training groups; environmental, rural and agricultural groups; and many, many more.

Easingwold Town Council would also like to promote and support the use of local resources, markets, enterprises and artisans by the townspeople so that as much as is possible Easingwold can fulfil the needs of our people. To this end, Easingwold Town Council will use its communications and capabilities to help the people of Easingwold to access local activities, services, artisans and resources.

Easingwold Town Council will also sponsor actions that can benefit specific groups in our population that require our support. This includes working continuously on accessibility and opportunity for the disadvantaged and the less able or disabled. Also ensuring that a good and interesting range of facilities and resources are available to our young people so that they can thrive as they grow in the town.

Easingwold Town Council commends its vision for the evolution of the town to its citizens and trusts that they will support it and work with them to enable it to become a reality.

Appendix: Potential Policies

Development:

- *Prospective developers must demonstrate how proposals will support the local needs; can be accommodated within the look and feel of the community via a design quality review; and within the capacity of existing and planned physical infrastructure: or, how they will meet any identified shortfall.*
- *New housing in Long Street and the central area is not anticipated, but only in-fill building will be supported within these areas. Should the site of the old health centre be available for development, it must include additional public car parking.*
- *New housing must compliment the townscape and will be required to provide adequate off-street parking to assure that resident use of on-street parking is discouraged and minimised.*

Management and Maintenance:

- *The Town Council in conjunction with HDC and NYCC will seek to support the infrastructure and open areas to retain the town's visual identity at a high standard. Clear and effective signage will guide visitors clearly to their destinations.*
- *The Town Council in conjunction with HDC and NYCC will manage and maintain the town's central infrastructure and facilities to retain the town's visual identity at a high standard but assure that it fits fully with modern lifestyle needs.*

Social:

- *Easingwold Town Council will facilitate, promote and coordinate as needed associations, sports clubs, social groups and clubs, social activities and events throughout the town.*
- *Easingwold Town Council will maintain its events, communications and support for other local communications tools as an information source and social hub for the town.*