

Your Ref: The Walpole's NP Consultation
Reg 16 Draft April 2025

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care
System
ICS Estates Department

Email: [REDACTED]

1st May 2025

By email: planning.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Walpole's Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2038 (Reg 16)

Introduction

Thank you for consulting the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS) strategic estates workstream on the neighbourhood development plan. The following comments are on behalf of the Norfolk and Waveney ICS, incorporating Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB), Norfolk Community Health and Care (NCHC), The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust.

Existing Healthcare Position Proximate to the Proposed Development Plan Area

The local Primary Care Network (PCN) that covers the health needs of the Walpole's Neighbourhood area residents, is the Fens and Brecks PCN, this is a collaboration between primary, secondary, community, social, voluntary, and mental health care providers to form an integrated health and social care service to patients.

Alongside the service providers listed in the introduction, and in terms of physical infrastructure local to the Walpole's residents, this is covered by St Johns Surgery in Terrington St John and their Branch Surgery in Terrington St Clement and St Clements Surgery as the three GP practices with catchments covering this area.

Demand and capacity data indicates that both of the St Johns Surgeries are currently in floorspace deficit for the amount of registered patients, with St Clements Surgery having some capacity. It is the choice of the resident as to where they register and any further housing growth could potentially add to the already constrained surgeries.

Review and Assessment of the Proposed Development Plan

Vision Statement - The Walpole's retains its rural identity and ensures that any development coming forward in future years will strengthen the community by achieving a good balance of housing stock to meet local need, achieve high quality design whilst respecting our local character, strives to improve current local wildlife connectivity, will protect, and enhance our local environment including our natural, historical, and built assets such as trees, hedgerows, and community buildings.

The King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan has 2 site allocations for housing within the Walpole's neighbourhood plan boundary. These 2 sites equate to a total of 20 dwellings. The new residents to these dwellings would likely register at either St Johns Surgery (including its Branch), both of which as mentioned above are running at a deficit of floorspace, therefore any further registrations would place more pressure on the GP practices and this would become unsustainable and potentially impact demand and capacity further, especially when taking into account any future housing growth outside of the neighbourhood plan area but still within the catchment of those GP practices. Or the residents would register at St Clements Surgery, which does currently have capacity, however again with further housing growth closer to this practice any capacity may be absorbed quickly.

The ICS would like the neighbourhood plan to include support towards health infrastructure in the nearby area by way of Community Infrastructure Levy as and when required.

With the addition of proposed new developments planned in the Walpole's and other developments around the area in the near future, capacity issues do have potential to arise. The PCN are also looking at ways to better integrate the community teams with Primary care provision to allow care closer to home, however this will require the physical space within local GP practices to run these services from.

One of the outcomes in the residents survey that was raised related to strategic issues with infrastructure such as healthcare provision and in paragraph 94 of the community services and facilities section there is comment regarding lack of core services including medical facilities. The neighbourhood plan could show support towards healthcare by use of community infrastructure levy funding for healthcare infrastructure outside of the plan area but where residents will be using services.

Transport links are also a concern as access to healthcare service would rely on public transport or a private vehicle. For those that do not drive or own a vehicle this could have a negative effect on their health and result in an increase in ambulance call outs.

Conclusion

The ICS would welcome the Walpole Parish Councils support in ensuring suitable and sustainable provision of healthcare services across all health sectors for the residents in the plan area, by supporting healthcare in the neighbouring parishes, through the utilisation of local CIL (community infrastructure levy) developer contributions as and when improvements to healthcare capacity are required.

There is currently limited infrastructure capacity at the local GP practice to absorb the population growth expected from the allocated development sites in the neighbourhood plan and surrounding area, however if further housing development was to be allocated in the Walpole's and surrounding areas this could place further pressure on the local GP services and if unmitigated the impact of future development on healthcare would be unsustainable including that of Primary care, Community care, Mental Health care, Acute care and the Ambulance service.

Yours faithfully,

NHS Norfolk & Waveney - Strategic Estates