

Your Ref: Walpole Cross Keys 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,

Walpole Cross Keys 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 Cross Keys 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 Cross Keys 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 - Walpole Cross Keys will continue to thrive as a small rural community where new development in keeping with the village is supported, comprising mixed residential development, further employment uses, new community facilities and improvements to infrastructure.

The King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan has not allocated any housing within the Walpole Cross Keys neighbourhood plan boundary, although it has indicated that a modest 5 dwellings could be accommodated, however there is no suitable site currently identified.

Residents to Walpole Cross Keys and any potential new 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 which 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 due to the cumulative effect of all local new dwellings.

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 a potential cumulative effect of dwelling numbers around the Walpole Cross Keys area, 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 around infrastructure which included healthcare provision. 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 Cross Keys 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 Walpole Cross Keys 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