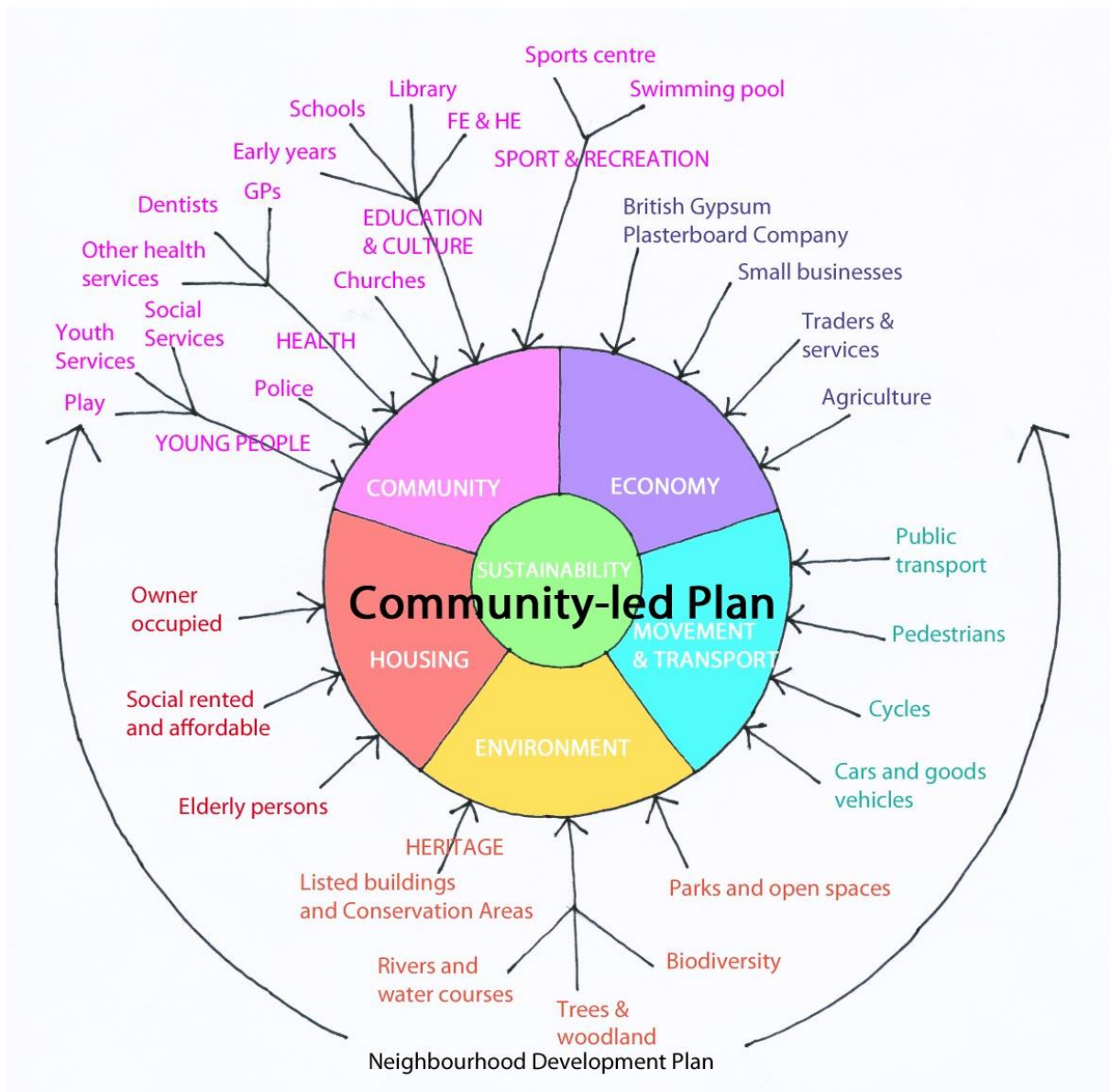


East Leake Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Possible structure of the Community-led and Neighbourhood Development Plans

- The overarching plan for East Leake is the Community-led Plan, which will cover the full range of social, economic and environmental issues facing the village. These can be grouped under the headings *Environment, Movement and transport, Housing, Economy and Community* (see diagram below).



- The Community Plan will need to harmonise with, and ideally influence, policies developed by other agencies with responsibilities towards people and activities within East Leake. For example, Rushcliffe District Council has responsibility for housing and planning, Nottinghamshire County Council for education and social services, and the NHS for health services. It also needs to take account of the aspirations of private sector companies, including British Gypsum, the major employer in the village. The diagram above demonstrates this. The Community-led Plan group will therefore need to maintain a dialogue with all the relevant agencies. Neighbourhood Development Plans can be as simple or detailed as local people chose. The Government says simply that they will 'establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a

neighbourhood'.

For East Leake it is suggested that the Neighbourhood Development Plan should focus on the Environment, Movement and transport, and Housing aspects of the community plan, and will be primarily a 'spatial' plan. The range of issues that might be covered by the plan are allocation of housing sites; identifying land for employment and leisure uses; retail needs in the village centre; community facilities; open space and green infrastructure; roads and transport; and design quality.

3. When the Neighbourhood Development Plan is complete, an independent examiner appointed by the local authority has to check that it meets the right basic standards. These will include checking that it complies with the relevant guidance of the Secretary of State, that it conforms with the strategic policies in the Rushcliffe 'core strategy', and that it does not breach EU obligations. Normally this will not involve a public hearing.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan must be supported by a majority of those voting in a referendum in order for it to become the statutory development plan – ie for it to become the basis for planning decisions in East Leake.
5. Many of the community and economic policies contained in the Community Plan will have land use implications for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. For example, if the NHS decides to build a new health centre in East Leake, it needs to be located such that it is convenient for all the residents of the village, and supports the village centre. For this reason, the two plans will need to be developed in parallel.
6. Sustainability, in all senses of the word, should be at the heart of the Community Plan. For example, it should support the economic sustainability of the village by making provision for businesses and buildings needed for employment; for social sustainability, it needs to ensure adequate facilities for education, social care and so on, so that people are not forced to travel elsewhere unnecessarily; and in environmental terms, it should support energy conservation, renewable energy production, enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity.

Andrew Beard
Design Council CABE enabler
February 2012