

Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

May 2018

Introduction

This is a 'Basic Conditions Statement', prepared to accompany the submission of the Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan. This plan is being submitted by Stoke-upon-Tern Parish Council, the qualifying body.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal contains policies relating to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal states the period for which it is to have effect. This is a period until the end of 2033.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal does not deal with excluded development (mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal relates to the *Stoke-upon-Tern* Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. There are no other Neighbourhood Plans relating to that Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal meets the basic conditions set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is covered in more detail in the next part of this statement.

The Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions that Neighbourhood Plans must meet are as follows:

- They must have appropriate regard to national policy;
- They must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- They must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and
- They must be compatible with EU obligations.

In order to consider the requirements to be compatible with EU obligations, two further basic conditions are set out in regulations. They are that a plan or order must not have a significant adverse effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site and where a Neighbourhood Development Order proposes certain types of development, an assessment of the effects of the order on the environment must be undertaken and its findings taken into account. These additional basic conditions do not apply to the Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition, Neighbourhood Plans must be compatible with human rights law.

The outcome of the referendum on membership of the EU makes no immediate difference to the requirement on EU obligations, until such a time as Parliament passes relevant legislation.

Regard to National Policy

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) has been prepared against the context of national policy, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

The central theme of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainable development is described as having three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

NPPF Core Principles

There are 12 core principles put forward in the NPPF (Paragraph 17). The following table lists these core principles, against the SuTNP Key Aims.

NPPF Core Principle	SuTNP Aims	Policies
... be genuinely planned, empowering local people to shape their surroundings ...	All aims apply.	The Plan has been developed to provide a vision, framework and policies to guide development in the parish.
... creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live ...	All aims apply.	The Plan seeks to accommodate housing growth in a sustainable manner (Policies H1, H2 and H3), ensure good design (Policy D1), and improve green infrastructure and community facilities (Policies NE1, CAF1 and CAF2).
... proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs ...	All aims apply.	The Plan seeks to accommodate housing growth (Policies H1, H2 and H3), address appropriately scaled economic growth (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3) and improve infrastructure and community facilities (Policies CAF1 and CAF2).
... take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and	To preserve the high quality natural environment, to protect nature and wildlife interests and green spaces supporting sport and recreation.	The Plan seeks to accommodate growth in a sensitive manner (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3), address local housing needs across the Parish (Policies H1, H2 and H3), while addressing local infrastructure and the local environment (Policies CAF1, CAF2 and NE1).

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beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it ...		
... take account of the different roles and character of different areas ... recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it ...	To preserve the high quality natural environment, to protect nature and wildlife interests and green spaces supporting sport and recreation.	The Plan seeks to encourage high quality development (Policy D1), and seeks to protect and enhance local green space and deliver and enhance green infrastructure (Policy NE1).
... support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk ...	<p>To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous parish that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst retaining its current characteristics and maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors.</p> <p>To ensure the area is safe from flood risk, adaptable to climate change and has the lowest carbon dependence possible.</p>	The Plan seeks to accommodate growth in a sustainable manner (Policies H1, H2, H3, BE1, BE2 and BE3), whilst addressing a range of environmental factors (Policy NE1).
... conserving and enhancing the natural environment ...	To preserve the high quality natural environment, to protect nature and wildlife interests and green spaces supporting sport and recreation.	The Plan seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment (Policy NE1).
... promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation,	All aims apply.	The Plan recognises the need to provide for growth in a sustainable manner (Policies H1, H2, H3, BE1, BE2 and BE3), whilst providing and improving a range of community infrastructure (Policies CAF1 and CAF2), and protecting and enhancing the natural environment (Policy NE1).

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flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production) ...		
... conserve heritage assets ...	To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous parish that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst retaining its current characteristics and maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors.	The Plan seeks to ensure that natural and heritage assets are preserved and enhanced, and high standards of design are achieved (Policy D1).
... actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling ...	To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous parish that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst retaining its current characteristics and maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors.	The plan seeks to accommodate growth in a sustainable manner (Policies H1, H2, H3, BE1, BE2 and BE3).
... to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all ...	All aims apply.	Collectively, the policies cater for growth and encourage a balanced mix of uses. At the same time, they address character and environmental quality. In addition, they address connectivity, which is essential for both domestic and employment users.

NPPF Policies

1. Building a strong, competitive economy

NPPF Para. 19: The Government is committed to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth. Planning should operate to encourage and not act as an impediment to sustainable growth. Therefore significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system.

Policies H1, H2, H3, BE1, BE2 and BE3 cater for growth.

3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy

NPPF Para. 28: Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- *support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;*
- *promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;*
- *support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres; and*
- *promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.*

Policies H1, H2 and H3 cater for growth and identified local housing needs, Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3 address economic growth and connectivity, and Policies CAF1 and CAF2 address a range of infrastructure issues.

4. Promoting sustainable transport

NPPF Para 29: Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. Smarter use of technologies can reduce the need to travel. The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes, giving people a real choice about how they travel. However, the Government recognises that different policies and measures will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas.

Policy BE2 seeks to encourage homeworking and businesses, which can help to minimise issues associated with car usage.

6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.

NPPF Para. 55: To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.

Policies H1, H2 and H3 seek to accommodate housing growth in a sustainable manner, through promoting sustainable patterns of development, and addressing identified local housing needs.

7. Requiring good design.

NPPF Para 56: Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people.

NPPF Para 57: It is important to plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes.

NPPF Para 64: Permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Policy D1 responds to these paragraphs by setting out clear expectations for new development to ensure that it is sustainable, responsive to its context, creates a clear sense of place and provides for the needs of the community.

8. Promoting healthy communities

NPPF Para. 69: The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Local planning authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see.

Policy NE1 addresses a range of environmental factors which are key to enhancing the parish's rural context, which will be vitally important to enabling recreational activities, and Policy D1 is designed to ensure that new development can enhance the local environment and ensure that it is responsive to the needs of the community. Policies CAF1 and CAF2 are designed to enable the provision and enhancement of community assets and facilities, and local infrastructure improvements.

9. Protecting Green Belt land

The Neighbourhood Area does not include any designated Green Belt.

10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

The NPPF states:

NPPF Para 93: Planning plays a key role in helping shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. This is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Climate change is addressed through Policy D1 which seeks to achieve good design, and Policy NE1 which seeks to conserve and enhance the local environment.

11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

NPPF Para. 111: Planning policies and decisions should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.

The plan looks to encourage sustainable patterns of development (Policies H2, H3, BE1, BE2, and BE3).

Policy NE1 addresses impacts on wildlife habitats, and the local environment generally.

12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Policy D1 contains design requirements which will help to ensure that new development enhances the character and appearance of the parish.

13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Mineral extraction is excluded development for Neighbourhood Plans.

Achievement of Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework states a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The term is defined in the Ministerial Forward as:

Sustainable means ensuring that better lives for ourselves don't mean worse lives for future generations.

Development means growth. We must accommodate the new ways by which we will earn our living in a competitive world. We must house a rising population, which is living longer and wants to make new choices. We must respond to the changes that new technologies offer us. Our lives, and the places in which we live them, can be better, but they will certainly be worse if things stagnate.

In addition, the NPPF states:

International and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development. Resolution 24/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the Future* set out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

Growth

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan delivers growth by:

- Addressing identified local housing needs (Policies H1, H2 and H3);
- Encouraging sustainable economic growth (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3);
- Ensuring a high-quality, well designed environment, which is essential to attracting investment and population (Policy D1); and
- Protecting and enhancing the local environment (Policy NE1).

Sustainability

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan will address sustainability in various ways. The plan goals and aims include:

Activity	Comment	Policy Ref.
Encourage the development of sustainable sites within the parish.	The policies address the need for housing growth.	Policies H1, H2 and H3
Rural character and context.	A range of environmental issues are addressed.	Policy NE1
Provision of additional community facilities, and enhancement of existing.	Helps to reduce car journeys by expanding local facilities.	Policies CAF1 and CAF2
Opportunities for sustainable economic growth.	Opportunities for sustainable economic growth are encouraged, alongside supporting infrastructure improvements.	Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3
Securing good design and sustainable development.	Aspects of design that will secure sustainable development are encouraged.	Policy D1
Landscape and wildlife habitats.	New development must respond to landscape, trees and plants, and consider impact on wildlife habitats.	Policy NE1

General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

The Neighbourhood Plan will be tested against adopted strategic local policies.

Strategic local policy is contained within:

- Shropshire Core Strategy (March 2011); and
- Shropshire Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan (December 2015).

Strategic local policies relevant to the Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan are as follows.

Shropshire Core Strategy

Policy CS4: Community Hubs and Community Clusters

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS4 by providing for new homes (Policies H1, H2 and H3), sustainable local economic development (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3), encouraging the improvement and enhancement of local services and facilities (Policies CAF1 and CAF2), and by encouraging the improvement and enhancement of natural assets and the local environment (Policy NE1).

Policy CS6: Sustainable Design and Development Principles

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS6 by encouraging high-quality design (Policy D1).

Policy CS8: Facilities, Services and Infrastructure Provision

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS8 by seeking to improve and enhance local services and facilities (Policies CAF1 and CAF2).

Policy CS11: Type and Affordability of Housing

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS11 by seeking to ensure that local housing needs are addressed (Policy H1).

Policy CS12: Gypsies and Traveller Provision

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS12 by looking to address the needs of the local gypsy and traveller community (Policy H3).

Policy CS13: Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS13 through encouraging rural diversification, home-based working and businesses, and the development of existing industrial estates (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3).

Policy CS16: Tourism, Culture and Leisure

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS16 through encouraging rural diversification (Policy BE1).

Policy CS17: Environmental Networks

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy CS17 through encouraging the improvement and enhancement of natural assets and the local environment.

Shropshire Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan***MD2: Sustainable Design***

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD2 by encouraging high-quality design (Policy D1).

MD3: Delivery of Housing Development

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD2 by seeking to ensure that local housing needs are addressed (Policies H1 and H3).

MD4: Managing Employment Development

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD4 through encouraging rural diversification, home-based working and businesses, and the development of existing industrial estates (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3).

MD7a: Managing Housing Development in the Countryside

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD7a by seeking to ensure that local housing needs are addressed (Policies H1 and H3).

MD9: Protecting Employment Areas

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD9 through encouraging rural diversification, home-based working and businesses, and the development of existing industrial estates (Policies BE1, BE2 and BE3).

MD11: Tourism Facilities and Visitor Accommodation

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD4 through encouraging rural diversification (Policy BE1).

MD12: Natural Environment

The Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy MD12 through encouraging the improvement and enhancement of natural assets and the local environment.

Compatible with EU Obligations

The Neighbourhood Plan was screened by Shropshire County Council, and received a negative outcome, therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required. A copy of the screening letter is included at Appendix 1.

There are no European sites within the Neighbourhood Area.

Human Rights

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and this is included at Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 – Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion

Hannah Barter
Urban Vision

31 May 2018

Dear Hannah

Stoke Upon Tern Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion

This letter provides a ‘screening’ opinion on whether the proposed Stoke Upon Tern Neighbourhood Plan falls within the scope of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and therefore whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. In providing this ‘screening’ opinion, the Council has received advice from each of the SEA bodies – Environment Agency; Historic England; and Natural England. The scope and content of the draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan (March 2017) has also been taken into account, as well as the extent of the environmental assessment already undertaken as part of Shropshire Council’s Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan.

NPPG provides guidance on the requirements of Neighbourhood Plans in relation to meeting Environmental Assessment requirements. Specifically the guidance states *“In some limited circumstances, where a [neighbourhood plan](#) is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment.”* The requirements of the Screening opinion are established in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. A basic condition for Neighbourhood Plans is that they are compatible with European Union obligations, including the SEA Directive, and this has been taken into account in this ‘screening’ opinion.

‘Screening’ Opinion

The NPPG (Paragraph: 046 Ref ID: 11-046-20150209) states that “whether a neighbourhood plan proposal requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed. An SEA may be required, for example, where:

- A neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
- The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;

- The neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been dealt with through a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan

Whilst it is recognised this list is not exhaustive, this guidance has been used as a basis for this screening opinion.

Shropshire's current Development Plan consists of the adopted Core Strategy (2011) and SAMDev Plans (2015). Both have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal that have incorporated the requirements of the SEA Directive. The current Development Plan runs between 2006 and 2026.

The Core Strategy provides strategic policy and identifies a need for around 35% of development to take place in the rural area, predominantly in community hubs and community clusters. The Core Strategy also provides strategic policy promoting sustainable development across all development proposals.

The SAMDev Plan provides a further layer of detail to the Local Plan, and importantly for the rural area identifies Community Hubs and Community Clusters and development guidelines for these areas. For the parish of Stoke Upon Tern the SAMDev identifies the settlement of Stoke Heath as a Community Hub to accommodate approximately 20-25 dwellings over the Plan period. To deliver this guideline the SAMDev allocates land at Sutton Close (STH002).

Importantly both the SAMDev and the Core Strategy were subject to SEA as part of their Sustainability Appraisals (SA). Whilst the plan period proposed in the Stoke Upon Tern NP extends seven years beyond the Local Plan period to 2033, it is important to acknowledge the scope and remit of the proposed NP. With this in mind it is noted:

- The draft plan does not identify any further housing or employment allocations beyond that already proposed in the SAMDev Plan;
- The draft plan aims to address housing need established in Housing Needs Surveys from 2013 and 2016. This seeks to give more detail to SAMDev policy MD3 which has already been subject to SA/SEA.
- There appears to be some confusion as to the status of the Warrant Camp and Clive Barracks sites in the Local Plan. For clarity, neither of these sites are allocated for development for residential purposes. It is noted the NP does not seek to allocate these sites.
- The draft NP sets out a policy approach setting out in principle support for the development of new or extensions to existing caravan sites. This gives more detail to Local Plan policies CS16 and MD11 which have been subject to SA/SEA.
- The NP focusses on a range of thematic policies such as design and rural diversification.
- The Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) into the SAMDev Plan has 'screened' out potential significant adverse impacts of development from planned development in Shifnal on European protected species

In taking these considerations into account, and having taken into account the comments of each of the SEA bodies, it is considered the Stoke Upon Tern Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to lead to any significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed through the environmental assessments into the SAMDev Plan. In line with regulation 9 (3) of the

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Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, it is therefore considered that an environmental assessment is not required.

In providing this opinion it is considered the Stoke Upon Tern Neighbourhood Plan would not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU and Human Rights obligations. If the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan subsequently changes, the LPA reserves the right to reassess this screening opinion.

It continues to be a requirement of Neighbourhood Plans to promote sustainable development, and to demonstrate how this has been achieved. To this end it continues to be considered worthwhile for the Stoke Upon Tern Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal process to support the justification of its policies. The Council can advise further on this if required.

Yours sincerely,

Eddie West
Principal Policy Officer
Shropshire Council



Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Legal Requirements

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or policies in order to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic.

An assessment has been made on whether the Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. If the impact is negative, this is given a high, medium or low assessment. The following table describes these:

Impact	Description
High	A significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.
Medium	Some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.
Low	Almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Stoke-upon-Tern – General Population Characteristics

Stoke-upon-Tern’s population structure is generally quite young, though this is heavily skewed by the presence of the Tern Hill Airfield and the associated residential accommodation. The number of residents aged 45+ is much lower than the Shropshire-wide population.

Age	SuT.	Shrop.
0-15	13.5%	17.4%
16-24	38.1%	10.4%
25-44	21.0%	23.2%
45-64	19.1%	28.4%
65-84	7.7%	18.0%
85+	0.5%	2.7%

By ethnic origin, the following table compares Stoke-upon-Tern to the wider Shropshire County.

	SuT.	Shrop.
White British	88.2%	95.4%
Other White	6.0%	2.6%
Other Ethnic Groups	5.8%	2.0%

There are no statistics available on other protected characteristics.

Aims and Policies of the Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan

The aims of the Stoke-upon-Tern Neighbourhood Plan are:

- To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous parish that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst retaining the current characteristics and maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors;
- To ensure the area is safe from flood risk, is adaptable to climate change and has the lowest carbon dependence possible;
- To preserve the high quality natural environment, to protect nature and wildlife interests and green spaces supporting sports and recreation; and
- To promote the parish of Stoke-upon-Tern as a long-term living and working settlement that meets the needs of all ages of residents and encourages business and employment opportunities.

The policies are:

H1: Addressing Identified Local Housing Needs
H2: Caravan Sites
H3: Homes for Gypsies and Travellers
D1: Design of New Development
BE1: Rural Diversification
BE2: Home Based Business
BE3: Rosehill Road and Warrant Road Industrial Estates
CAF1: Local Play, Sports and Recreational Facilities
CAF2: Community Assets, Facilities and Services
NE1: Key Environmental Assets

Impact on Protected Characteristics

Age

The plan seeks to accommodate local housing need (H1 and H3). This will help to ensure that housing provision caters for all ages, including younger people seeking housing for the first time, and older people looking to downsize by requiring that housing proposals properly address identified local needs, and the needs of the gypsy and traveller community.

Policy BE2 seeks encourage home-based business and home-working opportunities for people of working age, which will help to create choice and opportunity for people who have restrictions on their mobility (including the young and the old).

Policy D1 requires good design, including for people of a range of mobilities.

The impact on all ages will be positive.

Disability

The needs of persons who are disabled or who have limited mobility are addressed in Policy D1, which seeks to create a well-designed and accessible environment.

Policies H1 and H3 requires new housing to meet local needs, Policies BE1, BE2 and BE8 will help to enable local employment, and Policies CAF1 and CAF2 enable the improvement and enhancement of community facilities in the parish.

The impact on people with disabilities will be positive.

Maternity and Pregnancy

Key issues for women who are pregnant or who have young children are access to appropriate housing, flexible employment, and access to community facilities. Policies H1, H3, BE1, BE2, BE3, CAF1 and CAF2 all enable this.

The impact on pregnant women will be positive.

Race

Non-white ethnic groups are a small proportion of the population of Stoke-upon-Tern.

For the most part, the plan will have an equal impact on the local population regardless of race. A public realm designed with safety in mind will minimise opportunities for hate crime (there is no evidence that this is a problem in Stoke-upon-Tern). Policy D1 seeks to create well designed development, which includes safety considerations.

The impact will be positive on people of all races.

Sex (Gender)

The Neighbourhood Plan contains no specific policies or proposals for any particular gender. The policies have been written to provide equal opportunity to both sexes in respect of the provision of development and access to facilities.

Neither sex is disadvantaged by any of the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan. Both sexes will benefit equally from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This includes men or women with prams or pushchairs.

The impact will be positive on both sexes.

Religion, Gender Re-assignment, Sexual orientation

Key issues for religious groups are discrimination relating to employment, housing and the provision of services, and their portrayal in the media.

Key issues for gender re-assigned people, gays and lesbians are personal relationships, transphobia and/or discrimination, and hate crime.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not and cannot directly address the social attitudes that are involved in these problems. However, it does seek to provide a built environment, that is open to all, with a safe public realm which all social groups can access and use equally.

The impact will be positive on all people, regardless of religion or LGBT plus status.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan provides a strategy for the development of the village, and a range of policies and proposals, which will result in positive benefits for many parts of the local community with protected characteristics: older people, young people and young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility, and maternity and pregnancy.

Whilst not explicitly addressing the needs of racial or religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or women, the Neighbourhood Plan does make equal provision for housing and seeks to provide community facilities which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a safer environment, particularly a safer public realm.

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