

# **Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan**

## **Basic Conditions Statement**

**August 2022**

## **Introduction**

This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to explain how the proposed Pontesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood planning Regulations General Regulations 2012 (as amended) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been considered to have been met.

Only a draft neighbourhood Plan or Order that meets each of a set of basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The basic conditions are as follows:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation, it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
- Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been compiled with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan<sup>1</sup>.

## **Supporting documents and evidence**

The PNDP is supported by this Basic Conditions Statement, a Consultation Statement and an extensive evidence base. Other supporting documents include screening statements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

## **Key Statements**

Pontesbury Parish Council is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a neighbourhood Plan for its own parish. The PNDP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the neighbourhood area.

The neighbourhood area is contiguous with the parish boundary, as shown in the map accompanying the neighbourhood area designation application.

The PNDP covers the period from 2016 to 2038.

No provision for excluding development such as national infrastructure is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Neighbourhood Plan require screening statements regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment under the EU habitats Regulations.

THE PNDP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the area of Pontesbury as designated by Shropshire Council.

There are no other Neighbourhood Development Plans in place for the Pontesbury neighbourhood area.

### **Conformity with National Planning Policy**

It is required that the PNDP has appropriate regard to national planning policy. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The NPPF in sections 28-30 states that Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than set out in strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies<sup>2</sup>.

This section demonstrates that the PNDP has regard to relevant policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes;
- Building a strong, competitive economy;
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres;
- Promoting healthy and safe communities;
- Promoting sustainable transport;
- Supporting high quality communications;
- Making effective use of land;
- Achieving well-designed places;
- Protecting Green Belt land;
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change;
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment;
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment; and
- Facilitating the sustainable use of materials.

The PNDP has 6 main and 16 sub objectives. These are summarised in Table 1 below together with the NPPF goals each objective seeks to address.

Table 2 on Page XX provides a summary of how each policy in the PNDP conforms specifically to the NPPF.

**Table 1 Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and NPPF Goals.**

<b>PNDP Objective</b>	<b>Relevant NPPF Goal</b>
<i>Protecting and developing Community Amenities</i>	
To enhance facilities and services for a vibrant community	Promoting healthy and safe communities. Achieving well-designed places
<i>Landscape and Local Character</i>	
To conserve the character and beauty of the rural landscape of the parish	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
To conserve the historic heritage of the parish	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

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<sup>2</sup> Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development that covers their area.

To safeguard the setting and character of AONB and conservation areas of Plealey and Habberley	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
To safeguard amenity views	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
Maintain gaps between settlements	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
Conserve the character of the land adjacent to the A488	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
<i>Provision of adequate and well-designed housing</i>	
Housing in Pontesbury village which respects variety of styles and materials and existing character	Achieving well-designed places
Provision of small sized homes and affordable homes	Delivering a sufficient supply of homes Achieving well-designed places
<i>Movement and Transport</i>	
To support safe, accessible network of roads, cycle ways and footpaths to promote healthier lifestyles and access to the countryside and improve active travel between homes and amenities	Achieving well-designed places Promoting sustainable travel
To improve car parking in Pontesbury	Promoting sustainable transport
<i>Employment and business Opportunities</i>	
To support small scale economic development including farm diversification which brings landscape developments	Building a strong, competitive economy
<i>Green Environment</i>	
To protect Local green spaces	Promoting healthy and safe communities Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
To protect and enhance natural habitats and wildlife and increase biodiversity	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
To reduce pollution	Promoting healthy and safe communities Promoting sustainable transport Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
Carbon reduction	Promoting healthy and safe communities Promoting sustainable transport Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

**Table 2: Conformity of the Pontesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies with the NPPF**

<b>Policy Reference</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>NPPF Paragraph</b>	<b>Comments</b>
COM1	Community amenities	8b, 9, 16, 20, 28, 70, 84d and 187	Seeks to enhance and protect existing community amenities, whilst providing new community facilities in acceptable locations.
LAN1	Landscape character	8c, 20d, 130c, 149, 174, 175 and 180	Seeks to maintain and where possible enhance the landscape character of the parish.
LAN2	Conservation of the parish's historic heritage	8c, 20d, 28, 189, 190 and 194 – 198	Seeks to conserve and enhance the significance and setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets.
LAN3	Conservation areas	8c, 20d, 28, 144 and 207	Seeks to support developments which conserve and enhance the character and setting of Plealey and Habberley Conservation Area.
LAN4	Safeguard amenity views	8c, 20d, 130f, 149, 174, 175 and 180	Seeks to support development which respects highly valued amenity views.
LAN5	Maintain gaps between settlements	7, 20d and 185c	Seeks to maintain the landscape character and separate identity of settlements within the neighbourhood area.
LAN6	Conserve character of the land adjacent to the A488	8c, 20d and 185c	Seeks to maintain or enhance development along the land adjacent to the A488.
HOU1	Housing design	8b, 28, 79, 126 – 130.	Promotes the needs for new housing design to maintain and enhance the character/appearance, beauty and historic interest of the village.
HOU2	To enable the provision of small sized and affordable homes	8b, 60 – 64, 70 and 124.	Acknowledges the need for small infill development which are suited to the needs of younger or older generations subject to clear local evidence of housing need.
MOV1	Highway links and connections	7, 92, 104 – 106 and 110	Seeks to enhance/improve public rights of way, including pedestrian and cycle links.
MOV2	Parking	107 and 108.	Seeks to maintain existing off street parking as well as maximising off street parking in all new development. It also seeks to provide adequate parking for retail, commercial, as well providing opportunities for electric vehicle charging facilities.
EMP1	Small scale employment and farm diversification	8a, 20, 84 and 85	Provides opportunities to support small scale employment and farm diversification where appropriate.
GRE1	Local green spaces	8c, 20, and 101 – 103	Supports the designation and protection of local green spaces.

GRE2	Protection and enhancement of biodiversity	8c, 20, 153, 174, 179 and 180	Provides opportunities for development if they are planned and designed to protect and enhance local wildlife species and habitats.
GRE3	Pollution	8c, 20, 174e and 183 – 188	Supports the transition to a zero-carbon economy, seeking development to include effective measures to minimise pollution.
GRE4	Carbon reduction	8c, 20, 152, 155, 156 and 158	Supports the transition to a zero-carbon economy by measures to meet a high level of sustainability and energy efficiency.

## Contribution towards Sustainable Development

The NPPF states in paragraph 7 that ‘The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs<sup>3</sup>’.

Table 3 below summarises how the objectives and policies in the PNDP contribute towards the three sustainable development objectives as defined in Paragraph 8 of the NPPF.

**Table 3: Assessment of PNDP Objectives and Policies in Terms of Sustainable Development**

<b>Economic Objective</b>	
<b>NPPF Definition – ‘To help build a strong, responsive, competitive economy’</b>	
PNDP Objectives	A1. To enhance facilities and services for a vibrant community E1. To support small scale economic development including farm diversification which bring landscape developments
PNDP Policies	COM1: Community Amenities EMP1: Small-Scale employment and farm diversification
Comments	<p>The PNDP seeks to support opportunities for local small scale employment development uses. New industrial activity will be supported within the Malehursts Industrial Estate. Development that improves the character through the re-use of redundant or disused buildings, the diversification of farm and rural businesses and the redevelopment, alteration and extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals for the enhancement or protection of community amenities will be supported, alongside new community facilities if located in appropriate locations. Changes of use and the redevelopment of community amenities will also be supported if they are considered to be accessible or provide equal or greater benefits to the community.</p>

<b>Social Objective</b>	
<b>NPPF Definition – ‘Support strong vibrant and healthy communities’</b>	
PNDP Objectives	A1. To enhance facilities and services for a vibrant community C2. Provision small sized homes and affordable homes D1. To support safe, accessible network of roads, cycle ways and footpaths to promote healthier lifestyles and access to the countryside and improve active travel between homes and amenities F1. To protect local green spaces
PNDP Policies	COM1: Community Amenities HOU2: Provision of small sized homes and affordable homes MOV1: Highway Links and Connections EMP1: Small-Scale Development and farm diversification GRE1: Local Green Spaces GRE2: Protection and enhancement of biodiversity

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly

Comments	<p>The PNDP seeks to protect and enhance relevant community facilities in the Parish to keep a viable and active community. The need for a range of housing, including small sized homes and affordable homes, with access to suitable small-scale employment opportunities in the area.</p> <p>The health of the local community is strongly supported encouraging walking and cycling providing accessible traffic-free routes whilst upgrading pathways to allow access to the countryside.</p> <p>The PDNP also looks to maintain existing local green spaces for continued use as well as protecting enhancing local wildlife species and habitats in the area.</p>
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<b>Environmental Objective</b>	
<b>NPPF Definition – ‘ To contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment’</b>	
PNDP Objectives	<p>B1. To conserve the character and beauty of the rural landscape of the parish</p> <p>B2. To conserve the historic heritage of the parish</p> <p>B3. To safeguard the setting and character of AONB and conservation areas of Plealey and Habberley</p> <p>B4. To safeguard amenity views</p> <p>B5. Maintain gaps between settlements</p> <p>B6. Conserve the character of the land adjacent to the A488</p> <p>C1. Housing Pontesbury village which respects variety of styles and materials and existing character</p> <p>F1. To protect local green spaces</p> <p>F2. To protect and enhance natural habitats and wildlife and increase biodiversity</p> <p>F3. To reduce pollution</p> <p>F4. Carbon Reduction</p>
PNDP Policies	<p>LAN1: Conservation of Pontesbury’s Rural Character</p> <p>LAN2: Conservation of Pontesbury’s Historic Character</p> <p>LAN3: Protection Plealey and Habberley Conservation Areas</p> <p>LAN4: Visual Amenity</p> <p>LAN5: Separate Identities of Settlements</p> <p>LAN6: A488 Development</p> <p>HOU1: Housing design</p> <p>MOV1: Highway links and connections</p> <p>GRE1: Local Green Spaces</p> <p>GRE2: Protection and enhancement of biodiversity</p> <p>GRE3: Pollution</p> <p>GRE4: Carbon Reduction</p>
Comments	<p>The PNDP strongly supports measures which recognise and protect the distinctive character and historic nature of the Parish by requiring high quality design of new housing developments that are in keeping with scale and character of the surrounding area.</p>



	<p>The PNDP also seeks to protect local green spaces whilst enhancing and protecting local wildlife species and habitats. With the main purpose of protecting the rural character of the parish.</p> <p>Furthermore the PNDP looks to support the transition to a zero-carbon economy with proposals looking to include effective measures to minimise pollution. This is alongside measures to meet a high level of sustainability and energy efficiency.</p> <p>THE PNDP also looks to enhance and improve PROW including pedestrian and cycling links. Development in proximity of an existing PROW must include access points for all forms of active traveller to the rights of way.</p>
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As demonstrated in Table 3, the strategic objectives of the Pontesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways.

Shropshire Council considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required because the PNDP is not likely to have a significant impact upon the environment.

### **General Conformity with the Shropshire Council Emerging Local Plan 2016 – 2038**

Shropshire Council’s strategic planning policy is contained in the Shropshire Core Strategy and the Site Allocations & Management of Development, which makes up the Development Plan.

However, the current development plan is out now out of date and therefore the existing documents are under review. Shropshire have now reached the examination stage of the Local Plan Review, an appropriate and sensible approach from this point is to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan on the basis of the merging strategy and policies, working closely with Shropshire Council during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting documents.

The PNDP has been prepared to be in ‘general conformity with Shropshire Council’s emerging Local Plan Review policies and is aligned closely with the core objectives which underpin the review submitted for examination in September 2021.

The policies of relevance are shown in Table 4 below, along with consideration of whether they represent the strategic policies of the development plan. Where they do, consideration is made of whether the PNDP is in general conformity with them.

Any policy that is not identified in table 4 is not considered to be relevant to the PNDP because the PNDP does not have any policies that directly relate to it.

Table 4: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan Policies with Shropshire Council Local Plan Review 2016 – 2038

<b>Shropshire Council Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Pontesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy</b>
SP1: The Shropshire Test	<p>COM1: Community Amenities            LAN1: Landscape Character            LAN2: Conservation of the Parish’s Historic Heritage            HOU1: Housing Design            MOV1: Highway Links and Connections            GRE2: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity            GRE3: Pollution            GRE4: Carbon Reduction</p> <p>The PNDP is in conformity with and helps deliver the Shropshire Local Plan Reviews Policy SP1 by protecting, enhancing and supporting new community facilities in appropriate locations support cohesive communities. Seeks to enhance and improve PROW, and protect and enhance biodiversity and the surrounding landscape, supporting health and well-being and protecting and enhancing the high quality natural and historic environment.</p>
SP3: Climate Change	<p>MOV1: Highway Links and Connections            GRE3: Pollution            GRE4: Carbon Reduction</p> <p>Policy SP3 supports the transition to zero carbon economy looking to reduce carbon emissions, integrating renewable and low carbon energy with both GRE3 and GRE4 aligned with the Local Plan in reducing the effects of pollution and encouraging carbon reduction measures in new development. Policy MOV1 looks to promote active modes of travel by enhancing existing PROW and creating further opportunities for travel by foot or cycle. It is therefore considered that the polices within the PNDP are in conformity with Policy SP3 of the Local Plan Review.</p>
SP4: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	<p>COM1: Community Amenities            MOV1: Highway Links and Connections            GRE2: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity</p> <p>Policy SP4 of the Shropshire Local Plan Review sets out three main objectives that contribute to sustainable development, in addition to other national policies. The PNDP is the conformity with the relevant principles of these objectives, supporting appropriately located, suitable and well-designed new development. It also emphasises the need for the enhancement and</p>

	<p>protection of the natural and historic environment. Protect and improve community facilities and increase active travel in the parish.</p>
SP5: High Quality Design	<p>HOU1: Housing Design</p> <p>In line with Policy SP5 new development within the parish will be supported which demonstrates high quality design by maintaining and enhancing the character/appearance, beauty and historic interest of Pontesbury.</p>
SP6: Health and Well-Being	<p>COM1: Community Amenities  HOU1: Housing Design  MOV1: Highway Links and Connections  MOV2: Parking  GRE2: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity  GRE3: Pollution  GRE4: Carbon Reduction</p> <p>Policy SP6 considers that new development should ensure the health and well-being of individuals, communities and places. This will be achieved by ensuring the quality of life and delivery of community well-being, through the use of land; type of development; the safeguarding, maintenance and improvement of community facilities and services; and by ensuring that form, design, location and layout of new development enhances community well-being. It is considered that the policies listed above all comply with the requirements of Policy SP6.</p>
SP10: Managing Development in the Countryside	<p>COM1: Community Amenities  LAN5: Maintain Gaps Between Settlements  LAN6: Conserve Character of the Land Adjacent to the A488  EMP1: Small Scale Employment and Farm Diversification</p> <p>The policies listed above whilst supporting development in appropriate locations all look to conserve and enhance the surround character/appearance of the area. Policy LAN5 looks to maintain the current gaps between settlements whilst LAN6 looks to maintain and enhance the landscape character of the land bordering the road, respecting the sporadic distributions of buildings. Policy EMP1 promotes the development and enhancement of small scale employment whilst also promoting farm diversification in line with Policy SP10 of the Local Plan Review, with COM1 looking to maintain and improve community facilities, which is also considered to be in compliance.</p>
SP12: Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy	<p>COM1: Community Amenities  EMP1: Small Scale Employment and Farm Diversification  MOV1: Highway Links and Connections</p>

	<p>GRE3: Pollution GRE4: Carbon Reduction</p> <p>Policy S12 of the Local Plan Review seeks for Shropshire to be the best place to do business. The County will promote its economic potential by positively supporting enterprise, developing and diversifying the local economy, targeting growing and under-represented sectors and by using its high quality assets and special environment. It will increase its productivity by improving digital and transport connectivity, making productive use of low carbon energy sources, meeting skills need, and by using the benefits of its local talent and business expertise. In support of improving and maintaining community facilities in the parish as well as promoting small employment and farm diversification the PNDP looks to further enhance the economic opportunities in the Parish, whilst also allowing opportunities to connect through active travel and reducing the effects of pollution and increasing carbon reduction in new developments.</p>
SP13.7: Delivering Sustainable Growth and Enterprise	<p>COM1: Community Amenities</p> <p>SP13.7 looks to support strategic and local employers, falling in line with COM1 of the PNDP which supports proposals for the enhancement or protection of community amenities.</p>
DP1: Residential Mix	<p>HOU2: To Enable the Provision of Small Sized and Affordable Homes</p> <p>HOU2 of the PNDP looks to support a small infill development of between 2 and 4 houses within the village of Pontesbury if one or more houses are suited to the needs of younger or older generations subject to clear local evidence of housing need and in conformity with other relevant policies. This is in line with Policy DP1 which expects development to provide a mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures in order to meet the identified of local communities and more specifically families with children, older people and people with disabilities and special needs.</p>
DP3: Affordable Housing Provision	<p>HOU2: To Enable the Provision of Small Sized and Affordable Homes</p> <p>The PNDP recognises the need for affordable homes and looks to provide appropriate small infill development.</p>
DP9.8 and .9: Managing and Supporting Town Centres	<p>COM1: Community Amenities MOV1: Highway Links and Connections</p> <p>It is considered that Policy COM1 Complies in line with DP9 Managing and Supporting Town Centres through the support of new community facilities and the aim of improving existing amenities. The policy also seeks for new development to be accessible on either foot or cycle for the majority of the local population in line with PNDP MOV1.</p>
DP10: Tourism, Culture and Leisure	<p>COM1: Community Amenities LAN1: Landscape Character</p>

	<p>LAN2: Conservation of the Parish's Historic Heritage EMP1: Small Scale Employment and Farm Diversification</p> <p>Policy DP10 looks to deliver high quality, sustainable tourism, and cultural and leisure development, which enhances the vital role that these sectors plan for the local economy, benefits local communities and visitors, and is sensitive to Shropshire intrinsic natural and built environment qualities. It is considered that the policies listed are in conformity with the Shropshire Local Plan Review policy with community amenities and facilities being conserved and improved, with additional facilities considered acceptable in the appropriate locations. Furthermore Policy EMP1 supports the farm diversification which further promotes tourism within the neighbourhood area. Policies LAN1 and LAN2 look to conserve and enhance the landscape of the area as well as the historic assets that fall within Pontesbury.</p>
DP11: Minimising Carbon Emissions	<p>GRE3: Pollution GRE4: Carbon Reduction</p> <p>Policy DP11 looks to reduce the impact of climate change by reducing carbon emissions, GRE3 and GRE4 are aligned with the Local Plan in looking to reduce the effects of pollution and encouraging carbon reduction measures in new development.</p>
DP12: The Natural Environment	<p>GRE1: Local Green Spaces GRE2: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity</p> <p>Policy GRE1 looks to designate areas of Local Green Space with the aim of further protecting these areas from development, unless in very special circumstances. Policy GRE2 states that developments may be considered if they are planned and designed to protect and enhance local wildlife species and habitats including those that are undesignated. In line with Policy DP12 of the Local Plan Review development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how these will achieve at least a 10% net gain for biodiversity.</p>
DP14: Green Infrastructure	<p>GRE1: Local Green Spaces GRE2: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity</p> <p>The policy seeks development in Shropshire to be accompanied by an improved and expanded green infrastructure network as an integral part of open space provision. Policy GRE1 aims to further protect local green spaces limited development. GRE2 looks to preserve and enhance local wildlife species and habitats and is both are considered to be in line with the objectives of Local Plan Review policy DP14.</p>
DP15: Open Space and Recreation	<p>MOV1: Highways Links and Connections GRE1: Local Green Spaces</p>

	<p>The aim of this policy is to ensure people have sufficient opportunities to play, walk and generally stay healthy, the delivery of good quality, accessible and well maintained open space as an essential part of development. Policy MOV1 looks to promote active modes of travel helping people maintain healthy lifestyles and policy GRE1 looks to further protect open spaces within the neighbourhood boundary, limiting development in favour of preserving and sustaining these areas.</p>
DP16: Landscaping of New Developments	<p>LAN1: Landscape Character</p> <p>The policy looks to create and maintain an attractive and well-designed environment, Policy LAN1 seeks for development to meet the requirements set out with Local Plan Review SP10 and seeks for development where possible to enhance the landscape character of the parish, and it is considered this is in conformity with the Shropshire Local Plan Review policy.</p>
DP17: Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>LAN4: Safeguard Amenity Views</p> <p>In line with the Local Plan the PNDP policy seeks developments to respect the listed highly valued amenity views. The policy requires this to be done by proposals demonstrating how they key features of the view have been safeguarded so that the view can continue to be enjoyed. This aligns with the aims of the Shropshire Local Plan policy.</p>
DP18: Pollution and Public Amenity	<p>GRE3: Pollution</p> <p>The purpose of policy GRE3 is to set a requirement for proposals to include effective measures to minimise pollution, this aligns with the aims of the Local Plan that requires development to comply with existing pollution control regimes and national objectives for pollutants.</p>
DP23: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment	<p>LAN2: Conservation of the Parish's Historic Heritage</p> <p>Shropshire heritage assets will be protected, conserved and sympathetically enhanced. The purpose of the LAN2 is to conserve and enhance the significance and setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets in the parish. It is considered that the policy aligns with the Shropshire Local Plan Review.</p>
DP28: Communications and Transport	<p>MOV1: Highway Links and Connections</p> <p>The purpose of the PNDP is to reduce the amount of reliability on car travel and looks to promote active modes of travel via both foot and cycle. This includes improving PROW and improving access to them from new developments. This aligns with the Policy DP28 which looks to reduce car dependent and widen travel and transport choices. Furthermore the policy also looks to protect and extend footway, cycle ways, PROW and bridleways for active travel.</p>

## **Compatibility with EU Obligations and Human Rights Requirements**

The Pontesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan has regard to fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.

In August 2022, screening statements of the draft PNDP were produced regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations. These screening statement concluded that neither an SEA nor an HRA ('Appropriate Assessment') were required and they have been forwarded to Shropshire Council, natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England for comment. These Screening Statements are included as part of the PNDP submission.

Based on the screening statements, the Parish Council considers that the PNDP does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment under the SEA Directive and the Environmental assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations (2004) nor a Habitats Regulations Assessment under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). This is because there will be no significant environmental effects arising from its implementation and that it supplements national guidance whilst, for HRA purposes, none of the proposed policies within the PNDP can be 'screened out' of the HRA process and an 'Appropriate Assessment' is not required.