

Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 16 Consultation

The Climate Change Task Force at Shropshire Council welcome and support the ambitions of the PPNDP in supporting the local area to transition to a zero-carbon economy.

We have assessed how the carbon and climate policies of the draft Shropshire Local Plan (SLP) support the policies set out in the PPNDP. Overall, policies GRE3 (Pollution) and GRE4 (Carbon Reduction) of the PPNDP are considered to conform with SP3 (Climate Change) and DP11 (Minimising Carbon Emissions) of the draft Shropshire Council Local Plan. However, in some areas the level of detail is less in the PPNDP, which might provide greater flexibility for future developers.

Although the carbon and climate policies between the two plans conform in general, the following two policy areas from SP3 of the SLP are not currently considered fully within the PPNDP:

- Carbon sequestration: The PPNDP sets out ambitions for biodiversity but does not set out specific ambitions related to carbon sequestration. The draft SLP commits to the following that would be replicable in the Pontesbury area:
 - a. Encouraging development to offset its carbon emissions through investment in carbon capture and storage, informed by the Shropshire Climate Change Strategy;
 - b. Seeking opportunities to restore wetlands; and
 - c. Significantly increasing the number of hedgerows, trees and extent of woodland in accordance with the Shropshire Tree and Woodland Strategy.
- The PPNDP does not set out how it will mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Shropshire Councils Climate Change Task Force welcomes the inclusion of support for community renewable energy generation in the PPNDP. However, specific details on the type of renewable energy generation that the community would welcome and suitable locations for these developments would be beneficial and help secure their development. The criteria for community renewable energy generation set out in the PPNDP are generally reasonable, although some criteria would benefit from further detail to remove ambiguity.

The draft Shropshire Local Plan states:

“applications for new wind energy development involving one or more turbines should not be considered acceptable unless they are in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in the development plan (this can be either the Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan). This Local Plan does not identify such areas, but Neighbourhood Plans are encouraged to do so.”

The PPNDP does not identify any areas for onshore wind turbines, which under current policy would restrict Pontesbury Parish with their ambitions to transition to a zero-carbon economy.