**Three Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**Regulation 15 Consultation Statement**

**March 2023**

This Consultation Statement supports the Three Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 15 Submission Document in compliance with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. This Statement includes:

* Details of the persons and bodies that were consulted about the Three Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan
* An explanation of how the general public, organisations, agencies and stakeholders were consulted
* A summary of the main matters and concerns that arose through the consultation process
* A description of how the matters raised and representations received have been considered and where relevant addressed in the Plan

**Neighbourhood Planning**

Neighbourhood Planning is a community right introduced under the Localism Act of 2011 and guidance on its implementation is included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations 2012 (Localism Act 2011) require the preparation of a consultation Statement to set out and describe the consultation undertaken. In compliance with these regulations and with the advice of the Local Planning Authority the Three Parishes has engaged with and involved residents, local community groups and other organisations with an interest in the Parishes and the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan).

This Statement summarises the contents of that report and sets out the stages of consultation and engagement undertaken by the Parish Council in which local people and interested parties have been involved. The aim of the consultation has been to ensure that from the outset there was as much understanding as possible about the preparation of the Plan and its Policies. This Statement explains the approach used to gather information and secure people’s views. The Statement sets out how this information and representations has been used to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan to guide future development in the Three Parishes and conserve the qualities and character of the Neighbourhood Area valued by the local community.

**Three Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Three Parishes of Adderley, Norton-In-Hales and Morton Say submitted its application to Shropshire Council for designation of its Neighbourhood Area in 2018. Between September and October Shropshire Council consulted on the proposed area. In advertising this, information comments were invited through the ‘Get Involved’ section of the Shropshire Council website and e-mails circulated to all statutory consultees, as well as to adjoining Parish and Town Council areas. Shropshire Council received three responses to this consultation, none of which objected to the principle of the proposed Neighbourhood Area.

In response, at Cabinet it was agreed that the Three Parishes Plan Area was an appropriate basis for the development of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and notified them accordingly. A formal notice confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan area was acceptable and was published on 12th December 2018.

The Three Parishes Neighbourhood Plan is a community led plan that derives from the vision and objectives of people who live within the Neighbourhood Area. From the outset the Three Parishes were determined that residents be kept informed and have an opportunity to inform the content of the Plan. Communication and consultation in a variety of forms have played a major part in developing the Three Parishes Neighbourhood Plan.

The Three Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan is based around a number of objectives that cover the following themes, these are as follows:

* Provision of Adequate Housing
* Employment Opportunities
* Natural Environment
* Transport and Movement
* Built Environment and Heritage
* Community Facilities

These themes and the related issues have informed the preparation of 14 planning objectives that in turn led to the development of draft planning policies.

These Policy Objectives form the basis of the detailed policies that comprise the Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be the subject of public consultation, Independent Examination and Public Referendum prior to being “made” by Shropshire Council.

**Consultation Statement**

This Statement demonstrates that there has been extensive and successful community engagement and that the information gathered and representations received have been openly shared with local people and consultees. The Three Parishes has achieved this openness and transparency throughout the consultation process and the preparation of the Plan by:

* Making information available to the community online and in paper format;
* Gathering and assessing the views expressed by individuals and interested parties responding to the matters raised;
* Obtaining information on current or proposed development in the Neighbourhood Area;
* Making sure that all information, views and comment have been made readily available to the public through online and paper means;
* Gathering a comprehensive range of baseline evidence using a range of consultation methods including distribution to households by post, exhibitions and local events, group discussions and presentations, advertisements in the local media and letters to individuals and consultees; and
* Being able to demonstrate in evidence that from the outset of the Plan’s preparation the Parish Council has engaged fully with its local community and given local people the opportunity to influence the contents of the Plan and its Policies prior to Independent Examination.

**Early Consultation and Engagement**

In January and February 2018 (prior to the formation of the Steering Group) posters were produced explaining what a Neighbourhood Plan was, as well as asking for volunteers to form a Steering Group. Subsequently the Three Parishes website was created which included regular updates on Neighbourhood Planning in the area.

Prior to designation a number of events took place throughout the Three Parishes as well as promoting the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan in local articles. This included the following:

* Article in the Adderley Voice, promoting the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan;
* Councillor gave presentation to Adderley Parish Council’s Annual Parish Meeting about the upcoming Neighbourhood Plan.
* Branding, large pop up banners and A5 promotional material was produced for each of the Three Parishes along with display holders to be put in prominent places in the area.
* Councillor gave presentation to Norton in Hales’ Annual Garden Award Presentation evening.
* A further meeting was held at Adderley Parish Council with an update to the Neighbourhood Plan, with questionnaires being given to residents.
* Article in the Market Drayton Gossip explaining the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Following designation of the Neighbourhood Area in December 2018. The following also took place:

* A communications strategy was held.
* Article in AMICA church magazine which covers the areas of Adderley and Morton Say.
* An online questionnaire was made available on the website.
* Coffee morning were held in February 2019 at each of the Three Parishes to promote the Neighbourhood Plan and get feedback from completed questionnaires.

Following the approval of the designated area, the Steering Group held a number of Open Forums during March 2019. A forum was held in all three of the parishes where participants were able to enter their comments directly into a survey online or fill in a paper form. The comments from the paper forms were then transcribed by staff at Shropshire RCC and analysed. Participation from the public was broken down as follows:

* **37 Adderley Residents filled in the survey, 2 completed this online;**
* **30 Moreton Say residents filled in the survey, 12 online, the rest via paper form; and**
* **33 Norton-In-Hales residents filled in a survey, 2 online, the rest via paper form.**

In May 2019, the Steering Group went into local primary schools to gather the pupils’ opinions on their parishes. This includes a number of multiple choice questions which considered the following subjects:

* **Use of Community Facilities;**
* **Mode of travel;**
* **Walking & Cycling;**
* **Likes and Dislikes of Areas;**
* **Play Areas; and**
* **Additions to their area.**

In July 2019, Teenagers/Young People in Adderley were asked to get their views of the area including likes, dislikes and need in the area. This also include what their future vision was (to attract or retain future generations) in Adderley.

In October 2020 the Steering Group designed a resident’s survey and organised distribution of these to each household. A total of 685 forms were distributed. 291 forms for Norton-In-Hales were distributed by hand and the forms for Adderley (198) and Moreton Say (196) were posted by Shropshire RCC on 2nd October 2020.

The survey was intended to be a household one, where the views of everyone in that household were combined into one response but extra submissions could be made by going online. With the on-line system, the answers were not ‘locked in’ until the respondents clicked ‘Submit’ at the very end of the survey. A ‘Back’ button allowed people to return to earlier sections to make changes. The online survey also offered a ‘Restart’ button to discard all previous answers and start again.

The deadline to complete the survey was 31st October but it stayed open until the end of November whilst the paper forms were being processed by Shropshire RCC and to encourage further response.

A total of 56 questions were included within the survey covering a number of key themes, the first two questions were a quick analysis on the draft vision statement, published by the Steering Group before covering the following themes:

* **About your household;**
* **Housing & Development;**
* **Your household’s housing need;**
* **Jobs and the Local Economy;**
* **Transport;**
* **Environment;**
* **Countryside and green spaces; and**
* **Facilities.**

In summary overall:

* **A total of 160 responses were received of which 43 were submitted online (about 27%);**
* **116 responses were transcribed and added to the online responses into specialist software for analysis;**
* **Of the survey forms distributed by post, 1 came back as undeliverable, one came back entirely empty (this was not counted as a response) and one had a comment on the front to state that people in the household were with the status quo and was not filled in any further (this was not counted in the figures of respondents); and**
* **The overall response rate was 23.6%.**

Following the research undertaken by the Three Parishes, the aim was for the Neighbourhood Plan to be focused and concise as well as concentrate on the issues that can be influenced by town and country planning legislation.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the consultation process was taken online, as publication events could not take place due to associated rules which included the exclusion of large gatherings. The Steering Group have looked to reach out to all residents and the policies set out within this Neighbourhood Plan reflect the views of the community.

**Regulation 14 Consultation**

The Regulation 14 public consultation was held between 30th November 2022 and 9th January 2023. Summary documents of the Regulation 14 consultation were either posted or delivered to all residents in each of the Three Parishes, with two full copies of the plan put in display for people to read in each parish equating to six overall.

The summary document was sent out to residents to give some further context to the Regulation 14 consultation outside of displaying this in various locations and notifying residents and consultees. The Summary Document was set out as follows:

* **Introduction:** This set out the aims of the Three Parishes and why they were seeking to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan. This also outlines the purpose of the summary document.
* **How to Comment:** This detailed where the Neighbourhood Plan could be inspected online or sent to consultees on request. This also outlines where paper copies could be viewed and a link to Shropshire Council’s website. Furthermore details of where to send comments were outlined alongside a deadline for comments to be submitted.
* **Policies:** A basic list split between subject areas of all the policies in the plan were shown with the policy boxes themselves show in the proceeding pages.
* **Regulation 14 (Pre Submission) Consultation Response Form:** A physical form was included, however this was also available online where a web link was inserted.

In addition, to the summary document, all statutory consultees were emailed along with Neighbouring Town and Parish Councils, a draft of the document was also sent to Shropshire Council. More specifically of the statutory consultees the following were consulted:

* Natural England;
* The Environment Agency; and
* Historic England.

Finally, further publication of the Regulation 14 Consultation was also published via an article in the Village Crier a local magazine.

In preparation of the Regulation 14 Shropshire Council provided a policy by policy response as well as minor changes to the text within the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), setting out their advice for amending the NDP in order to make sure that it was in conformity with the local development plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Comments received were a mix of both residents and statutory consultees which at the end of consultation were reviewed by the Steering Group before redrafting the Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 15.

Of the online and paper responses comments were received on the following policies:

* H1: Housing Design
* H2: Housing Mix and Tenure
* G2: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity
* G3: Local Carbon Reduction
* EMP1: Small Scale Employment
* EMP2: Farm Diversification
* T2: Parking
* T3: Broadband Connecting the Parish
* LE1: Conservation of the Three Parishes Historic Character
* COM1: Community Facilities

The statutory consultees had no significant comments on the Regulation 14 document other than slight amendments to either policy or wording with the document. Comments from members of the public were generally supportive with again some suggested alterations to policy and wording within the document. Shropshire Council in review of the draft plan as the Local Planning Authority had no fundamental objections to the document and their comments were largely focused on matters of clarification and articulation of the policies. Following their comments all the amendments required by Shropshire Council were incorporated into the plan.

**Conclusion**

The consultation and survey evidence demonstrates the strong sense of community in the Three Parishes and a robust local view about the important qualities of the neighbourhood. Residents were clear about what they want to see in their Neighbourhood Plan and the local character and qualities that they wish to retain. As far as possible the Plan delivers the objectives identified through consultation and includes policies that address the important matters raised by the public.

The Parish Council will continue to collect information in respect of the neighbourhood and continue to use information gathered by Shropshire Council in association with the Shropshire Council Local Plan Review and their Annual Monitoring Reports. The Neighbourhood Development Plan will be regularly reviewed and reports on its implementation presented to the Parish Council. If necessary it will be amended to make sure that it delivers policies appropriate to the Three Parishes throughout the plan period.

It can be concluded that the consultation process and the representation received in response to the consultation have resulted in a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Three Parishes that addresses the matters and issues of concern to residents and that the Plan fulfils their aspirations and will meet their development needs up to 2031.