



Our Village

Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

As part of the Government's Localism agenda local communities are being encouraged to develop Neighbourhood Plans as part of the Government's new approach to planning, which aims to give local people more say about what goes on in their area. The development of a Neighbourhood Plan is not imposed from above, but is an opportunity for communities to set out the way they see the future of their Neighbourhood Area.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a formal and positive plan for development which allows communities to shape the local area in a way which suits their local needs. It can cover a single issue or a range of issues depending what is important to the community. Neighbourhood planning will allow communities to work through their local Parish Council to identify for example where they think any possible new homes should go, how transport and highways can be improved, which areas need improving and what should be protected. The Neighbourhood Plan however must broadly conform with Lichfield District Council's local plan and the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision for the future of the village and its hinterland, providing a strategy and land-use planning framework to guide development within the neighbourhood plan area for the next 15 years.

The Plan has been developed through extensive consultation with the people of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area and others with local interest. Details of the consultation have been recorded in a consultation report which is available to download from the plan's website at http://www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/?page_id=374

1.2 How a Neighbourhood Plan fits into the Planning System

The Localism Act contains a number of basic conditions with which all neighbourhood plans must be in line. A Neighbourhood Plan must therefore:

- have appropriate regard to national policy (National Planning Policy Framework)
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (Lichfield District Council's Local Plan)
- be compatible with human rights requirements
- not have a significant effect on a European Site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

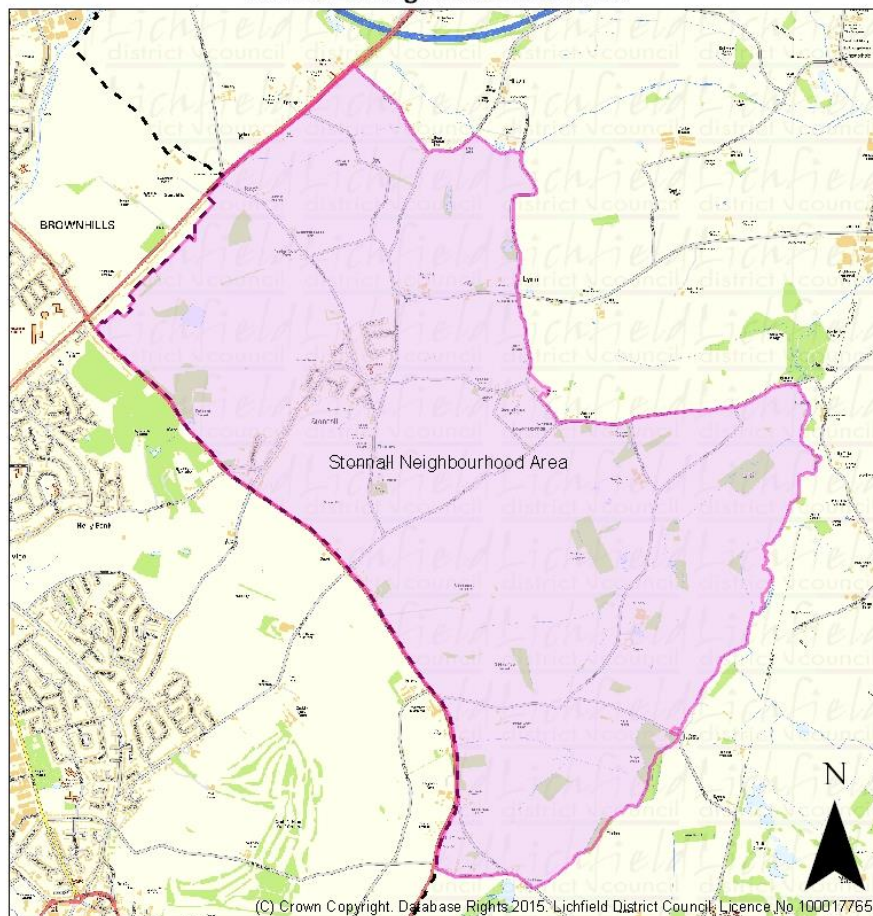
The Neighbourhood Plan, once 'made', forms part of the District's Local Development Plan.

1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Area

The policies within this Neighbourhood Plan are related to the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Area was designated on 19th February 2013 and is shown on the map below.

The Neighbourhood Plan covers the time period 2014 – 2029 to correspond with the District Council's adopted Local Plan Strategy.

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area



Key

- Lichfield District Boundary
- █ Stonnall Neighbourhood Area

Map supplied by Lichfield District Council



1.4 How the Plan is organised

The Plan is divided into the following sections:

Section 2: The methodology underpinning the development of the Neighbourhood Plan including why the Stonnall area needs a neighbourhood plan and its vision and objectives.

Section 3: offers a brief description of the Neighbourhood Area and main settlement.

Section 4: outlines the policy context at both a national and local level to which this Neighbourhood Plan has paid due regard.

Sections 5-12: The Neighbourhood Plan Policies and their justification. The policies are set out by topic with each policy being followed by a summary of the key findings, the evidence base and issues the local community has raised during the consultation process.

Section 13: Delivering the Plan, sets out: how the plan and its actions will be delivered and an action plan of activities.

A glossary is available at Appendix A of this document explaining the technical terms used in this plan. There is also a large amount of background information which has informed the production of the Plan and Appendix B contains a list of these key documents along with their web links. The document entitled 'Evidence Base V5' which summarises the evidence relating to Stonnall Neighbourhood Area can be found on the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan website at http://www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/?page_id=374

1.5 Next steps

This document is a consultation draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. Shenstone Parish Council is now asking local people, the District Council, other statutory service providers and organisations for their views on the Plan.

The comments received will be considered, and the draft Neighbourhood Plan amended to produce a final version. The final version along with its supporting documents will be submitted to Lichfield District Council. The District Council will also publicise the proposed plan and arrange for its independent examination and referendum. The independent examiner can only consider whether the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the five basic conditions set out by law (see section 1.2 above). Following examination, the independent examiner will issue a report to the local authority. If the plan meets the basic conditions, it may proceed to the referendum stage. Further modifications to the plan may be suggested by the examiner to ensure it meets the basic conditions before it can proceed to the referendum. It is the responsibility of the local authority to make such modifications and for these modifications to be agreed by the Parish Council.

2.0 THE METHODOLOGY

2.1 Why does the Stonnall area need a Neighbourhood Plan?

The area surrounding Stonnall is predominantly rural and set within the green belt. Its geographical setting can be viewed as both a constraint and an opportunity. The community of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area is part of Lichfield District and situated in south east Staffordshire on the edge of the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation. Its location within Lichfield District and the presence of 'A' roads to the north west and south west of the Ward help to protect it from coalescence with neighbouring urban areas. This gives the community the opportunity to retain its identity and way of life, however due to the proximity of the conurbation the community considers itself as extremely vulnerable.

Stonnall village has seen some services removed in recent years including most notably the loss of the post office. It therefore cannot be assumed that retaining the status quo will necessarily maintain the present quality of life for the community of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area.

This Neighbourhood Plan deals with the designated Stonnall Neighbourhood Area however it is inevitable that much of the Plan will deal with the village of Stonnall where the highest concentration of people and issues reside. This plan will be the principal means by which change can be managed in a way that delivers a sustainable future for the residents and businesses of the Neighbourhood Area.

2.2 How the Plan has been prepared

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for Shenstone Parish Council (The 'Qualifying Body' under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations).

Work on the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan started in July 2011, with an application for frontrunner funding and the 'Our Village' document submitted in November 2011 and agreed by the

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in March 2012.

The Stonnall Strategy Group was formed to develop and submit the frontrunner bid and has continued with a core of personnel comprising local residents who are active in the community, members of local organisations and parish, district and county councillor representatives. This group has been assisted throughout by officers from Lichfield District Council.

The Neighbourhood Area chosen for the Neighbourhood Plan is an area within Shenstone Parish and based on the 2013 Ward structure. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Area was designated on 19th February 2013 and shown in section 1.3 above. Due to Boundary Commission recommendations the original Stonnall Ward boundary will change in May 2015, and amalgamated with Little Aston. As the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area was designated on the original 'ward' boundary there is no overlap with adjacent neighbourhood areas.

The Plan has been developed taking into account substantial amounts of evidence and the responses and views expressed by the Neighbourhood Area residents in the July/August 2013 questionnaire and the subsequent November feedback event. The draft policies have been consulted upon with residents and statutory consultees prior to the pre-submission consultation draft of the Plan and the whole Plan has been subject to community consultation and to scrutiny by the District Council prior to its submission for examination.

The Evidence Base and Consultation Statement demonstrates the breadth of engagement and how the issues have been taken forward to produce the Objectives, Policies and Actions.

2.3 The Vision for the Neighbourhood Plan

The overarching vision for the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area is to:

- create a sustainable, flourishing Ward that provides a high quality of life for all its residents
- create a Ward with a high quality built and natural environment with protection for important historic and environmental assets.
- retain the Ward's rural identity and independence from neighbouring urban areas.

2.4 The Aims of the Neighbourhood Plan

The 'Our Village' document produced as a result of a public meeting in June 2011 presented 10 challenges facing the village. A number of these issues have subsequently emerged from the 2013 neighbourhood plan consultation along with some new topics of concern to inform the aims of the neighbourhood plan. The aims are summarised as follows:

Housing

- To maintain a sustainable village a balanced age range is required and housing for young and old is needed.
- To secure high quality design of all future development within the plan area.

Local Services

- Address the range and viability of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area's shops and re-establish a Post Office.

Transport

- Address the issue of commuter traffic in the Neighbourhood Area, improve the quality and frequency of public transport linkages and enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Address existing traffic issues and traffic calming measures.

Environment

- Protect and enhance the Neighbourhood Area's trees, woodlands, hedgerows and countryside.

Historic Environment

- Preserve and enhance the village character and distinctiveness, buildings and features.

Communication

- Improve communications and internet connectivity.

Health Care

- Ensure accessibility to health care.

Community Facilities

- Ensure the community facilities address the needs of the Neighbourhood Area's residents throughout the plan period.

3.0 ABOUT STONNALL NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

3.1 Setting

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area is principally rural and set on the southern boundary of Lichfield District. It is predominantly farmland with one main settlement, Stonnall village and a number of much smaller outlying hamlets.

The Neighbourhood Area is part of the larger Parish of Shenstone and sits in a farmland setting adjacent to both the A452 Chester Road and the A461 Walsall Road.

Stonnall is the largest of a group of ‘smaller’ villages within Lichfield District inset into the green belt.

3.2 Our History

The Neighbourhood Area has remained mostly rural throughout history. It was heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have started to support a small scale pastoral economy. The landscape however only supported minimal human occupation between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period. In the post medieval period the area especially to the north of Stonnall village developed its own field system, with piecemeal enclosure formalised by planned enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. During the second half of the 20th century the field systems which emerged during the late medieval period have generally experienced field boundary removal in response to an increased demand for agricultural productivity.

The village of Stonnall has seen considerable expansion in the second half of the 20th century. Stonnall village evolved from a small linear settlement along Main Street and a hamlet at Lazy Hill which was consolidated into a single village through the development of modern housing estates most notably between the 1960s and 1980s.

Within the Neighbourhood Area there are two smaller settlements, namely Lower Stonnall, a dispersed settlement, and representing the lower end of the valley and Lynn located between Shenstone and Stonnall village.

Stonnall village does not have a designated Conservation Area, however the Neighbourhood Area does contain 13 Grade II listed properties and a number of locally interesting features.

3.3 Stonnall Neighbourhood Area Today

Stonnall village has a good range of facilities for its size including a primary school, church, village hall, youth and community centre and two pubs. There is also a football pitch, play area and cricket field. The retail offer is good with a small local centre providing a newsagent/local store, fish and chip shop, Indian restaurant and 2 hairdressers. There are also retail facilities on the Chester Road on the edge of the Neighbourhood Area which includes a petrol station, garage, restaurant and plant nursery.

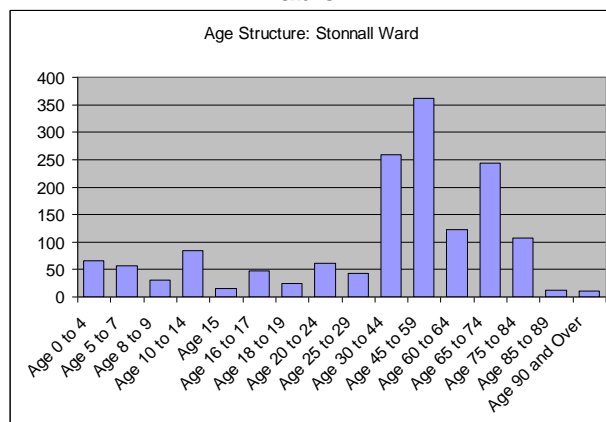


The Neighbourhood Area presents a well-kept and affluent image. The majority of employment age residents in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area are highly qualified professionals, senior executives and business owners. There is however a high percentage of older residents within the Neighbourhood Area as demonstrated in Table 1 below, with only 51% of residents being economically active.

Almost 50% of houses are owned outright with 42% being owned with a mortgage with the remainder being shared ownership or rented

The residents of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area generally enjoy good health with 84% of people stating they are in very good or good health.

Table 1



Source: 2011 Census

More information about the character of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area, including its historical development, and its current social, demographic, and economic nature is available in the document entitled 'Evidence Base V5' and available on line at http://www.parishneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/?page_id=374

4.0 POLICY CONTEXT

This Section sets out the key documents with which the Neighbourhood Plan needs to accord.

4.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 sets out the Government's approach to sustainable development. At the heart of the NPPF is the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Essentially, it is about positive growth with economic, social and environmental gains being sought simultaneously through the planning system. The NPPF is supported by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) an accessible web based resource which is actively managed and updated as necessary.

Neighbourhood Planning forms part of the NPPF legislation, to allow local communities to shape sustainable development within their area and to enable local communities to address their strategic needs and priorities. A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and plan positively to support these policies.

4.2 Lichfield District Local Plan: Our Strategy (2008-2029)

The Local Plan Strategy for Lichfield District provides the broad policy framework and establishes a long term strategy to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities. The Local Plan (currently under examination) has been externally examined to ensure its soundness and legal compliance on the basis of relevant legislation and the NPPF. Considering soundness involves examining the local plan to determine whether it is:

- positively prepared - based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements;
- justified – the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;

- effective – deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working
- consistent with national policy – able to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the NPPF's policies.

The Local Plan Strategy includes a spatial portrait and vision for the District, followed by a suite of 15 strategic priorities to help deliver this vision. The spatial strategy sets out the overall approach towards providing for new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities to 2029 and outlines the broad approach that will be followed towards managing change in the District.

5.0 HOUSING

5.1 Policy H1

Policy H1

Infill development within the settlement boundary that meets local need and does not harm the character and setting of the Village will be permitted. The details of the development should be in line with the principles within the Village Design Statement. The settlement boundary of the village will reflect that set out in the adopted Local Plan.

5.1.1 Evidence

The amount, location and affordability of new housing in the Neighbourhood Area to 2029 are key policy areas to be addressed within the Local Plan Strategy with modifications (2013) which is currently under examination. The Local Plan Strategy does not attribute housing directly to Stonnall as this is to be considered in a later (allocations) document.

The Local Plan Allocations process allocates sites for a wide variety of uses, including housing and employment development, in accordance with the overall spatial strategy for the District. It will also identify sites for other land uses such as open space and recreation and community uses. The 'Call for Sites' is an early opportunity for individuals and organisations to suggest sites within Lichfield District for development. The site suggestions will be used to inform the preparation of the Allocations of Land and Site Development document. The call for sites exercise will not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for development. A substantial amount of community engagement and consultation will be carried out during the production of the Local Plan Allocations document

The Local Plan has identified that 'smaller villages will only deliver housing to accommodate local needs'. Around 5% of the District's

housing (a minimum of 500 dwellings) will be met within village boundaries of these smaller villages, through the conversion of existing buildings, and to meet identified local needs on rural exception sites.

The NPPF states that 'local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area'. It then goes on to identify elements to be considered such as lifetime development, sense of place, appropriate mix of development, use of green and public space, support of local facilities and transport networks, local character and identity through use of materials, safe and accessible environments and good architecture.

5.1.2 You told us

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area's residents wish to retain the rural feel and setting of the area and the main future concern is large scale and inappropriate housing development, not in keeping with the village. Concern was also expressed about the loss of Stonnall's identity due to development amalgamating the village with larger neighbouring urban areas. During the consultation process the majority of people who responded would only consider 'infill' development when asked about the best location for new housing in Stonnall.



5.2 Policy H2

Policy H2

Proposals for small scale affordable housing development on exception sites in the Plan area will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- the proposed development meets the requirements of Policy H2 of the Lichfield Local Plan; and
- the proposed development has due regard to the character and density of the surrounding area and complies with the principles outlines in the Village Design Statement.

All resulting affordable housing units will be required to demonstrate that they comply with a local lettings plan and which has been developed in accordance with Lichfield District Council's Allocation Policy.

5.2.1 Evidence

To enable affordable housing to be provided to meet local housing needs, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) allows new affordable housing to be permitted on small sites in or outside, but adjoining existing village boundaries. It also states that it is for the local authority to decide whether some market housing should be permitted to facilitate the provision of affordable housing needs of the local community.

Currently only 6% of houses in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area are socially rented and in addition the Lichfield Rural Housing Needs Survey (2009) and the Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and SHMA Update (May) 2012 identified that there is a need for affordable housing in rural areas of the district to meet locally generated need and recommends the delivery of smaller properties (predominantly 2 and 3 bedrooms) and housing with care to cater for both smaller household sizes and an ageing population.

In the 2011 Economic Strategy one of the three weaknesses identified as barriers to business which could apply to Stonnall Neighbourhood Area was housing affordability. It identifies that a desired outcome to address this issue would be an increased balanced supply of housing of different types and tenures with appropriate prices, affordable to the maximum amount of people.

Policy H2 sets out to ensure that affordable housing is both well designed and delivers housing to meet local needs. Compliance with a local lettings plan will ensure that new affordable rented homes are allocated to people in need and with a local connection to the neighbourhood plan area.

5.2.2 You told us

The majority of people (82%) are unlikely to move in the next 5 years. However for people setting up new households, 60% will move out of the area and will house/flat share and/or rent from a private landlord. Only 5% of people from Stonnall Neighbourhood Area are likely to set up a household in Stonnall in the near future and would probably be renting from a social landlord or through shared ownership/equity.

It has been demonstrated that Stonnall Neighbourhood Area has an ageing population. To ensure the sustainability of the village it was considered by a number of people that a good age range including young families as well as older people is necessary and consequently affordable homes/ homes to house this age range are required.

5.3 Policy H3

Policy H3
Support will be given to development that provides well designed affordable homes which are easily adapted for older people. Dwellings should conform to the principles contained within the Village Design Statement.

5.3.1 Evidence

The Department for Communities and Local Government measures ten key indicators to determine what level of deprivation people are facing in local areas. The Index of Multiple Deprivation indicates Stonnall Neighbourhood Area falls within the top 20% of least deprived area with England. However Stonnall Neighbourhood Area scored poorly on 'Barriers to Housing' and falls within the bottom third nationally with regards to this domain.

At 24%, Stonnall Neighbourhood Area has a higher percentage of residents over the age of 65 when compared to the statistics for the West Midlands (17%) and England (16%). Shenstone and Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Areas both have 26% within the 65+ age bracket and is not unusual for Lichfield District where in 2011 the majority (19 of 26 Wards) have a high proportion of older people aged 65 and over. Out of the 625 households within Stonnall Neighbourhood Area, the main occupant of 230 (37%) of these households is over the age of 65.

The 'Lichfield Rural Housing Needs Survey' (2009) identified that there is a need for affordable housing in rural areas of the District to meet locally generated need and recommended the delivery of smaller properties (predominantly 2 and 3 bedrooms) and housing with care to cater for both smaller household sizes and an ageing population.

The Local Plan Strategy (currently under examination) has a target on qualifying sites, of up to 40% of new housing to be

provided as affordable, based on the analysis of viability and need. The District Council considers this to be the appropriate maximum target to provide sustainable, balanced communities as part of the overall development strategy. This is addressed in Policy H2 of the adopted Local Plan Strategy.

5.3.2 You told us

98% of respondents live in a detached, semi-detached house or a bungalow, with 82% of these respondents stating that they are unlikely to move in the next 5 years. For those who expressed a wish to move in the future, the majority were unsure about whether they needed larger or smaller accommodation and moving appears to be linked more to the type of housing rather than the size. When we asked 'if you are considering a different type of housing what would you expect to move to?' over 63% of the responses (76 no.) answered 'ground floor accommodation'/'home adapted to enable independent living'. As part of the consultation questionnaire 42 people indicated they are likely to set up new households in the near future, with 60% of these moving out of the area

5.4 Policy H4

Policy H4
The character and setting of the village will be protected through the Village Design Statement to ensure that any new development complements and contributes to the existing village and is in line with the Statement and its principles.

5.4.1 Evidence

Stonnall village itself evolved from a small linear settlement and a hamlet at Lazy Hill which was consolidated into a single village through the development of modern housing estates most notably between the 1960s and 1980s. There is also a no Conservation Area and only few listed buildings throughout the Neighbourhood Area.

5.4.2 You told us

Future concerns which emerged through the consultations centred around the protection of the village ethos, and the surrounding countryside. Although small scale housing developments are accepted as 'infill', worries relating to housing development which overdevelops or is not in keeping with the village were expressed. This was reflected at the consultation event where the majority of responses (almost 60%) stated infill only when it was asked 'Where do you think is the best location in Stonnall Ward for new housing?'

6.0 TRANSPORT

6.1 Policy T1

Policy T1

Planning permission will be granted for new or improved cycling or walking access facilities and services providing that they take account of the residential amenities of adjacent properties and do not otherwise affect the free and safe flow of traffic on the highway network.

6.1.1 Evidence

The NPPF tells us that the transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes giving people real choice about how they travel. It also notes that plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable modes of transport for the movement of goods or people. Although the NPPF notes that new development should be located and designed to give ‘priority to pedestrian and cycle movement’, cycling or walking routes within existing villages and developments should be facilitated to ensure the sustainability of the local community.

Insofar as planning permission may be required for the range of such facilities that may come forward in the Plan period, Policy T2 sets out a positive context for their determination. In assessing the suitability of proposals that require planning permission the policy sets out the importance of safeguarding the residential amenities of residential properties that may be affected, and the integrity and safety of the wider highway network.

The Local Plan Strategy is based around sustainable development and in Core Policy 3 specifically refers to reducing the overall need for travel whilst optimising choice of sustainable modes of travel particularly walking, cycling and public transport with Core Policy 5 supports initiatives related to sustainable

transport improvements within the District. Policy ST1 of the Local Plan also supports measures and specific schemes to improve services and facilities for non car based travel.

One of the aims of the Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 is to get more people walking and cycling and Policy 6.1: ‘We will create a physical and cultural environment in which everyone feels confident to walk and cycle’ will be delivered through the Staffordshire Walking and Staffordshire Cycling Strategies.

6.1.2 You told us

A number of people noted that the public rights of way need some vegetation clearance with improved access for all (where possible) and signage of bridlepaths. Maintenance of pavements and the lack of pavement between Stonnall, Lynn and Shenstone were also highlighted, with improvements to the cycle paths around the village important to a number of respondents (32%).

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area residents appear to want to be independent from surrounding areas and do not feel the need to interact with other settlements on a daily basis, hence the need for improved offer of shops, their range of services and a post office. It is therefore important that accessibility within the ward allows access to services in a sustainable manner.

7.0 BETTER LOCAL SHOPS

7.1 Policy LSH1

Policy LSH1

Planning permission will be granted for proposals that seek to extend the range of facilities offered from the existing retail units identified on Map A.

Planning permission will be granted for the use of the retail units along Main Street for business, services and other facilities subject to the following criteria:

- the proposed uses enhance local provision; and
- the proposed uses do not detract from the vitality and viability of the Main Street retail centre.

7.1.1 Evidence

The retail offer within Stonnall Village currently includes two pubs, newsagents/local store, fish and chip shop, Indian restaurant, tattoo parlour and two hairdressers. Additional services within the Ward can also be found on the Chester Road, and includes a petrol station, garage, restaurant and plant nursery.

The NPPF section 'Supporting a prosperous rural economy' recommends promoting the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, including local shops.

The Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 3 specifically refers to protecting the amenity of residents and seeking to improve their overall quality of life through the provision of appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities.

Policy LSH1 recognises the importance of the retail units on Main Street to the sustainability of the village. The policy provides support for any planning applications that may be required to extend the range of facilities on offer in the individual units. The policy also offers support for the introduction of other facilities subject to criteria. The introduction of a post office and chemist/pharmacy facilities into the units on Main Street would be positively encouraged and supported.

7.1.2 You told us

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area residents appear to want to be independent from surrounding areas and do not feel the need to interact with other settlements on a daily basis, hence the need for improved offer of shops, their range of services and a post office.

The most well used shops in the Ward are the Spar which is used by virtually all respondents and 85% of residents use the Fish and Chip shop both of which are located in the parade of shops on Main Street. The post office in Stonnall closed relatively recently and its loss was clearly communicated through the questionnaire. Residents now have to travel to a variety of locations but most notably to Lazy Hill and Shenstone to access post office services. A number of people suggested that a wider range of shops was required in Stonnall Village and suggested shops such as a butchers, bakers, chemist or café.

7.2 Policy LSH2

Policy LSH2

Environmental improvements to ensure the vitality and viability of the Stonnall shops will be supported.

7.2.1 Evidence

The parade of shops in Stonnall Village is a typical 1960's development with residential apartments above. The rear elevation facing the Playing Fields appears to be disorderly and unkempt.



7.2.2 You told us

Several comments were received relating to a poor variety of shops and the need for a post office and chemist. A number of comments received from residents also considered the flats above and at rear need improvement along with a general tidy and updating of the forecourt.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Policy COM1

Policy COM1

Improvements to broadband infrastructure will be supported. Any new development within the Neighbourhood Plan area should be served by a superfast broadband (fibre optic) connection unless it can be demonstrated through consultation with the NGA Network providers that this would not be possible, practical or economically viable. In such circumstances, suitable ducting should be provided within the site and to the property to facilitate future installation.

8.1.1 Evidence

In the 2011 Tamworth and Lichfield Economic Strategy three weaknesses were identified and poor rural access to broadband was shown to be one of the three barriers to business. The strategy notes the desired outcome to address this issue would be an improved communications network and faster speeds, wider rural coverage and better access to broadband networks including mobile.

The Local Plan Strategy (currently under examination) identifies that home working by residents in rural areas is becoming a significant part of the rural economy and the expansion of broadband, improved mobile phone coverage and other technological advances will help to support this sustainable form of employment. Home working and other proposals which aim to diversify the rural economy will generally be supported in line with the National Planning Policy Framework.

The majority of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area under the Staffordshire Superfast Broadband project is to receive a minimum of 2Mbps by 2016. This however only covers 3% of

properties and further funding is being sought to bring the other areas up to super broadband speeds.

8.1.2 You told us

When asked what improvements residents would like to see in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area 129 people felt that broadband was a priority for improvement as the current service was slow, poor and intermittent.

9.0 HEALTH CARE

9.1 Policy HC1

Policy HC1

Improvements to existing health care provision and infrastructure within the village will be supported, including infrastructure which enables mobile services which support health care.

Issues were highlighted regarding accessing health care and especially hospitals due to poor public transport.

9.1.1 Evidence

None of Lichfield District's population live in the 20% most deprived areas in England for health deprivation and disability. From the ONS Census data 2011, 84% of people in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area state they are in very good or good health, with only 2.8% in bad health and 0.6% in very bad health. 84% of people in Stonnall also recorded that their day to day activities are 'not limited' by health issues, with 6.7% 'limited a lot', which is less than the District and National figures of 8.2% and 8.3% respectively.

Core Policy 10 of the Local Plan is concerned with Healthy and Safe Lifestyles and where appropriate the District Council will support the development of new or improved facilities and initiatives which contribute to improved and accessible local healthcare.

9.1.2 You told us

Stonnall Village does have a GP surgery, however only 27% of respondents to the survey use this surgery. The reasons behind alternative GP surgeries being used was further investigated at the follow up consultation/feedback event and range from:

- Historic – ie remaining with a surgery despite moving into the village.
- Use a dispensing surgery
- Stonnall GP surgery opening hours/ manner
- Access to online booking, range of services and quick appointments

10.0 BETTER LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES

10.1 Policy CF1

Policy CF1

The Plan supports proposals for the enhancement or adaptation of indoor flexible community spaces. Particular support will be given to proposals that result in the improvement of the community facilities available in the building concerned.

10.1.1 Evidence

There is a particular need to ensure that existing facilities are able to adapt or are appropriately replaced to ensure the level of existing capacity is maintained and able to grow with demand for the length of the plan period.

The Youth and Community Education Centre in terms of construction is a temporary style building. It is likely that without significant investment the infrastructure will begin to fail during the plan period. The current space restricts the type of activities it can host. In addition the building is current leased from Staffordshire County Council until 2031 when it must be returned in its original state. Current arrangements mean that post 2031 the facility may not be available for use.

The Village Hall is currently oversubscribed for evening functions. In addition the current space is unable to adapt and accommodate dual or multiple use.

Policy CF1 provides a context to support proposals for the enhancement or extension of existing community facilities insofar as they may need planning permission. The Plan is particularly keen to promote the development of flexible community facilities and which meet the needs of all its residents.

10.1.2 You told us

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area is renowned for having a large number of active community groups. 41% of respondents, to the questionnaire are member of Community Groups within the Ward. The residents were also asked which amenities they used within the Ward 52.1% used the Village Hall and 31.1% used the Youth and Community Education Centre. The space available however limits activities.



At the consultation event in November 2013, 40% of respondents wanted more community events, with new community events suggested including fitness classes, events for young mothers and for people in their 20's.

During the consultation process the Neighbourhood Area's 15 Community Groups were canvassed about the venues they use. Of all the venues the Youth and Community Centre was identified as the one that required most improvements with general repair and maintenance cited. The limited lease of the facility is also noted by users.

The users as well as the committee of the Village Hall have commented that an increase in the hall's space would improve usage with additional facilities suggested such as changing rooms and raised seating at the back of the hall. The school

consultation also showed that the children valued the village hall and lots of clubs.

In addition to the Village Hall and Youth and Community Centre, the Primary School is also used by the guiding groups but they would like to have access to cooking facilities.

10.2 Policy CF2

Policy CF2

The loss of existing community buildings will only be acceptable where it can be shown that the facilities are no longer needed or viable, or where acceptable alternative provision exists or is proposed.

10.2.1 Evidence

The Youth and Community Education Centre is a temporary style building and without investment is likely to deteriorate during the plan period. This building is leased from Staffordshire County Council until 2031 when it must be returned in its original state.

The Village Hall and the Youth and Community Centre are main venues used for weekly and monthly meetings. The Primary School is also used by the guiding groups. The Village Hall and the Youth & Community Centre are used by other groups, mainly for weekly and monthly meetings. The Church and The Shed are specific to respective users ie the P.C.C. of St Peters Church and the Diamond Jubilee Allotments.

15 groups responded to the survey of which 87% have been established over 5 years. 1063 people are represented by these groups however participants may attend more than one group. A third of Stonnall community groups are charities.



10.2.2 You told us

On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is not important and 5 is very important, 36% of people scored 'Village activities/community groups' as a '4' and 30% of people scoring it at '5'. Comments received from the questionnaire showed that youth facilities and activities were considered limited. 52% of respondents to the questionnaire use the Village Hall and 31% the Youth and Community Centre.

10.3 Policy CF3

Policy CF3

The Playing Fields as identified on Map A will be protected from residential and other development for the benefit of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area community. Improvements to the range and quality of equipped play facilities and additional infrastructure to facilitate the greater use of the playing pitches located at the Playing Fields and at the Mill Green Recreational Ground will be supported.

10.3.1 Evidence

According to the Open Space Assessment 2012, Stonnall has three amenity green spaces with the largest site being located around the playing fields at Stonnall. Stonnall village has

complete coverage within a 480m/10 minute walk time catchment despite the linear form of the settlement. The Playing Fields is the largest amenity open space, centrally located and easily accessible to most of the village. It contains 1 playing pitch in the centre, a children's playground and a small skateboard facility.

The Open Space Assessment 2012 highlights that Stonnall play area has had little investment over recent years and typically correspond to those that scored poorly in terms of their physical attributes. Play value needs to be considered alongside physical quality.

The Playing Pitch, Tennis and Bowls Strategy 2012 identifies in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area, the football provision is sufficient to meet current and projected demand, with improvements to the existing pitch on the Playing Fields seen as a local priority. Changing rooms would however enable the Playing Fields to be more widely used. This is echoed in The Stonnall Village Plan (October 2011) which demonstrates a clear aspiration to improve the quality of the Playing Fields and to provide adjacent changing rooms.

The Playing Pitch, Tennis and Bowls Strategy 2012 also identifies Mill Green Recreation Ground which is located within Stonnall Neighbourhood Area. The study notes that there is scope to further expand and improve Mill Green Recreation Ground in terms of football and cricket provision.

10.3.2 You told us

The Playing Fields are valued and it was noted that they were generally well maintained and well used. Suggestions for improvements included lighting and adding toilets/ changing facilities and issues with dogs and dog fouling were raised. Some respondents would like the facilities upgraded to the standard of the recently improved play facilities at Little Aston

Park in the neighbouring Ward, and the park closed at night. The play area was described as adequate but well used.

The school consultation also highlighted at the children wanted more places to play.

10.4 Policy CF4

Policy CF4
Development proposals should not result in the loss of the following open spaces shown either on Map A or in Appendix C:
Playing Fields
Land at Glenwood Rise
Land at junction of Main Street and Cartersfield Lane

Appropriate development proposals should include the required accessible green space in accordance with the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy or otherwise demonstrate how they would contribute to the improvement of other local green spaces.

10.4.1 Evidence

Natural England (NE) is supporting the concept of Green Infrastructure as a way to deliver a wide range of benefits for people, the economy and the natural environment together. NE believe Green Infrastructure can be delivered via the spatial planning system, as an integral part of new development everywhere and alongside other infrastructure such as utilities and transport networks.

The Local Plan Strategy in Core Policy 10 to help people live healthy and safe lifestyles advocates access to high quality and well maintained open spaces which meet the need of local communities

According to the Open Space Assessment 2012, Stonnall village has three amenity green spaces with the largest site being the Playing Fields at Stonnall. Stonnall has complete coverage within a 480m/10 minute walk time catchment despite the linear form of the settlement. However the two smaller sites do not provide opportunity for recreational use but do have amenity value for the village.

Policy CF4 sets out a related series of approaches to safeguard and extend the provision of open space in the Plan area. The existing local spaces are both well used and of significant community and environmental value to the community.

10.4.2 You told us

The school consultation also highlighted at the children wanted more places to play.

10.5 Policy CF5

Policy CF5

New community garden areas and allotments in and around the settlement centre will be supported providing that they take account of the residential amenities of adjacent properties and do not otherwise affect the free and safe flow of traffic on the highway network.

10.5.1 Evidence

Natural England recognises the importance of green infrastructure which can provide many social, economic and environmental benefits close to where people live and work including local food production through allotments and gardens. The Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 10 also supports initiatives such as allotments to enable access to healthy food.

Policy CF5 sets out a positive context for the consideration of proposals for new such facilities. A later section of the Plan sets

out support for other initiatives to encourage the long term take up of allotment plots.

The Diamond Jubilee Allotments which contains around 45 plots were opened in early 2012 and are located on Cartersfield Lane just outside Stonnall Village. The Jubilee Allotments membership has a website and appears to have a very active community.

10.5.2 You told us

Only 19 people commented on the allotments in the questionnaire survey undertaken in 2013. One person felt these were not necessary, however other comments advised that although the allotments were not used by all they were important for families.

11.0 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

11.1 Policy HB1

Policy HB1

Development proposals will be expected to retain buildings which make a significant contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the locality. Significant buildings have been identified in the Village Design Statement.

11.1.1 Evidence

Stonnall village itself does not have a designated Conservation Area, however the Neighbourhood Area does contain 13 Grade II listed properties and a number of locally interesting features such as the remnant of a black and white fingerpost outside Ivy Cottage.

Core Policy 14 of the Local Plan Strategy states that 'new development must make a positive contribution to the historic environment's local distinctiveness.'

11.1.2 You told us

105 responses to the questionnaire survey expressed future concerns about the protection of the village ethos, and the surrounding countryside. Although small scale housing developments are accepted as 'infill', worries relating to housing development which overdevelops or is not in keeping with the village were expressed.

Respondents expressed a wish to preserve and retain village character, buildings and features.

11.2 Policy HB2

Policy HB2

Heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Area especially the listed buildings and their settings must be protected, conserved and enhanced when development proposals are brought forward.

Development will be resisted which includes:

- demolition or part demolition of buildings or structures on the local list,
- inappropriate alteration or extension to buildings or structures on the local list
- a detrimental impact on the setting or context of buildings or structures on the local list

Proposals for the change of use of a building or structure on the Local List will be required to demonstrate how this would contribute to its conservation whilst preserving or enhancing its architectural or historic interest.

Applications proposing demolition will be required to demonstrate that the viability of continued beneficial use, restoration or conversion has been fully investigated and that there are no reasonable alternatives. Where demolition is unavoidable, it must be ensured that provision is made for an appropriate level of archaeological buildings recording to take place prior to demolition.

11.2.1 Evidence

English Heritage identifies that local lists play an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness in the historic environment. They provide a unique opportunity for communities, in partnership with local

authorities, to identify heritage assets that they wish to protect at the local level.

The value of locally listed buildings is also recognised in Policy 14 of the Local Plan Strategy.

Stonnall village itself does not have a designated Conservation Area, however it does contain a number of buildings of interest from a variety of periods which help to create the village character and are worthy of local listing.



11.2.2 You told us

Stonnall has an active Conservation and Historic Society which was consulted and both the society and local people value the history of Stonnall village and Neighbourhood Area.

Respondents articulated a wish to preserve and retain village character, buildings and features. Concern was expressed over the loss of Stonnall's identity due to development amalgamating the village with larger urban towns, and retaining and investing in historic buildings.

Housing was also brought up in a different guise on the at the November 2013 consultation event with the following 3 issues all concerned with the character and loss of historic buildings reported:

- Restrict size.
- Do not allow overbuild on the site of old buildings
- Loss of historic buildings could destroy the nature of the village.

11.3 Policy HB3

Policy HB3
Redevelopment, alteration or extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings within the Neighbourhood Area should be sensitive to their distinctive character, materials and form. Due reference and consideration should be made to the Staffordshire Farmstead Assessment Framework.

11.3.1 Evidence

Farmsteads, and in particular traditional farm buildings of 19th century or earlier date make a fundamental contribution to local distinctiveness and a sense of place, through their varied forms, use of materials and the way they relate to the surrounding form and patterning of landscape and settlement. The majority of the field systems across the character area exhibit a morphology which suggests they were enclosed as planned enclosure during the 18th/19th century which corresponds to the development of traditional farm buildings.

The 'Historic Farmsteads And Landscape Character in Staffordshire' report for Staffordshire County Council and English Heritage identifies that in Lichfield District there are high rates of survival with 78.8% of historic farmstead sites retaining some working buildings with a higher proportion of farmsteads in residential use than is typical of the region as a whole and a slightly lower proportion in agricultural use.

11.3.2 You told us

The rural atmosphere is the most valued element of this Neighbourhood Area. Respondents value the quietness of the village and easy access to the countryside from being in a rural location. It was also identified that the loss of historic buildings could destroy the nature of the village and residents wanted to see the preservation and retention of the village character, buildings and features.

11.4 Policy HB4

Policy HB4

Development must take account of known surface and subsurface archaeology and ensure unknown and potentially significant deposits are identified and appropriately considered during development. Lack of evidence of subsurface archaeology must not be taken as proof of absence and in all instances the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record should be consulted at an early stage in the formulation of proposals.

11.4.1 Evidence

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of this Historic Area Character Area (HECA) in which Stonnall Neighbourhood Area resides, suggests that the majority had been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have started to support a small scale pastoral economy. By the later 11th century this Character Area probably formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land which may suggest that the landscape supported only minimal human occupation in the centuries between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period.

Evidence of possible Roman and later settlement lies near Hilton. There is high potential for unknown archaeological sites

to lie in the northern part of the HECA, which perhaps relates to activity at Wall during the Roman period.

11.4.2 You told us

Stonnall has an active Conservation and Historic Society which was consulted and both the society and local people value the history of Stonnall village and Neighbourhood Area.

12.0 LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

12.1 Policy LE1

Policy LE1

Development will not be permitted where it harms a substantive biodiversity habitat, species, network or landscape feature. In the event that the proposal concerned is otherwise considered to comply with the development plan policies any consequent loss of biodiversity must be minimized and fully mitigated by the creation or enhancement of habitat.

12.1.1 Evidence

Natural England's representation on the designation of the Neighbourhood Area highlighted that 'there are no statutorily protected nature conservation sites within the plan area but there are a number of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats including deciduous woodland near New Barns Farm, Forge Wood, Mill Farm and Fishpond Cottages. There is also floodplain grazing marsh habitat on the Footherley Brook. Just across the parish boundary there is the Shire Oak Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and the Castle Bank Plantation Local Wildlife Site. Any proposals or projects that may be considered during the Neighbourhood Plan process would need to take these sites into account.

Core Policy 13 of the Local Plan Strategy supports the safeguarding of the District's ecological networks.

The Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) identifies Ecosystem Action Plans (EAP) and Stonnall Neighbourhood Area falls within the Central Farmland EAP. The primary objective for the Central Farmland EAP is to reduce fragmentation of existing semi-natural habitats by linking sites through the creation of habitat corridors and networks using hedgerows, arable field margins and rivers where possible.

12.1.2 You told us

The rural atmosphere and natural environment such as trees, woodland and hedgerows are the most valued elements of this Neighbourhood Area. Hedgerows and their retention were seen as an important aspect of village. It is also considered important that trees and woodland are maintained and preserved. Existing wildlife habitats should be preserved and protected for future generations and school children, farmers and land owners encouraged to support wildlife and create new habitats including a wildflower area.

12.2 Policy LE2

Policy LE2

Projects and developments which increase wildlife habitats and species in accordance with the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan and Lichfield District's Biodiversity Action Plan will be supported.

12.2.1 Evidence

Core Policy 13 of the Local Plan Strategy supports the safeguarding of the District's ecological networks.

The Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) identifies Ecosystem Action Plans (EAP) and Stonnall Neighbourhood Area falls within the Central Farmland EAP. The farmland surrounding Stonnall is made up from mixed arable and pastoral farming varying from low intensity where intact historic patterns of hedgerows and hedgerow trees survive to intensively farmed arable and improved pasture where hedgerows are in decline. This is borne out by the sparse trees and hedge boundaries in the fields between Church Road and Main Street, and in the fields to the west of Main Street.

The primary objective for the Central Farmland EAP is to reduce fragmentation of existing semi-natural habitats by linking sites through the creation of habitat corridors and networks using Hedgerows, Arable Field Margins and Rivers where possible.

Opportunities to create wetland, grassland and woodland habitat mosaics need to be taken in order to diversify the area.

There are also a number of priority species which would directly benefit from the protection and enhancement of farmland habitats including hares; pipistrelle, brown long-eared and noctule bats; barn owl, lapwing, polecat, otter, harvest mouse and seed eating birds.

12.2.2 You told us

The rural atmosphere and natural environment such as trees, woodland and hedgerows are the most valued elements of this Neighbourhood Area. Hedgerows and their retention were seen as an important aspect of village. It is considered important that trees, hedgerows and woodland are maintained and preserved. Existing wildlife habitats should be preserved and protected for future generations and school children, farmers and land owners encouraged to support wildlife and create new habitats.

12.3 Policy LE3

Policy LE3

Development proposals will be required to retain existing trees and hedgerows of good quality and/or visual significance, trees and hedgerows which are likely to become visually significant when a site is developed or have been identified as being of historic importance. During the course of any development such trees and hedgerows should be protected to ensure their future survival and retention.

12.3.1 Evidence

There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders within the Neighbourhood Area, with individual TPOs on a large proportion of hedgerow trees along roadsides, 'Area' TPOs around Lynn Cottage, Shepherds Farm and Heath Close, and 'Woodland' TPOS on two areas of woodland between Lynn Lane and the

A461. These TPOs are mapped in the Evidence Base V5 document.

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area also falls within the Forest of Mercia boundary. The Forest of Mercia is part of a national programme of ten Community Forests in England developed in the early 1990s and located in and around England's largest towns and cities.

The field systems have generally experienced field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century in response to an increased demand for agricultural productivity. Some historic field patterns survive reasonably well to the south and south east of Stonnall.

Core Policy 13 of the Local Plan Strategy supports the safeguarding of the District's ecological networks.

Both the SBAP and Lichfield District's Biodiversity Strategy aims to prevent further loss of existing and promote the planting of woodlands and hedgerows.

12.3.2 You told us

Hedgerows and their retention is seen as an important aspect of the Neighbourhood Area and it is important that trees, hedgerows and woodland are maintained and preserved.

12.4 Policy LE4

Policy LE4

Development proposals will be required to include the provision of new landscaping and green infrastructure appropriate to the setting and size of development. Development should be sympathetic to the landscape character and quality of the Neighbourhood Area with due reference and consideration made to the Staffordshire Landscape Character Assessment.

12.4.1 Evidence

Multi-functional Green Infrastructure can deliver a range of benefits including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. It is a requirement of National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 114 that Local Planning Authorities plan positively for the creation and enhancement of Green Infrastructure.

Applications which incorporate sustainable drainage systems within their proposals will be particularly welcomed.

12.4.2 You told us

Respondents articulated a wish to preserve and retain the village character, buildings and features.

12.5 Policy LE5

Policy LE5

Before development is permitted it must be demonstrated that alone or in combination with other development there will be no adverse effect whether direct or indirect upon the integrity of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) having regard to avoidance or mitigation measure.

Any development will be required to mitigate for its own impact and development will not be permitted until satisfactory mitigation measures have been secured.

12.5.1 Evidence

Sitting within the wider AONB, the Cannock Chase SAC was designated in 2005 under the provisions of the European Habitats Directive, the majority of the site having previously been designated as a SSSI in 1987. Cannock Chase represents the largest area of heathland habitat surviving in the English Midlands and though much diminished in area from its original extent, as with all lowland heathland zones, the habitat and dependent species are of very high nature conservation importance. The Annex I habitat, European Dry Heath is the primary reason for designation of the SAC. The character of this vegetation is intermediate between the upland or northern heaths of England and Wales and those of southern counties.

Any residential development which results in a net increase in dwellings within the 15km zone of influence of Cannock-Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) will be deemed to have an adverse effect on the SAC.

The evidence base (from Footprint Ecology) shows significant impacts from high visitor numbers. Additional visits from the residents of new developments would be expected to increase this impact unless measures to prevent this are put in place. The

main impacts are the fragmentation of habitat from a multiplicity of paths and tracks, track and path widening with erosion, trampling and compaction, and eutrophication from dog fouling.

Evidence commissioned by the SAC Partnership suggests that the planned level of growth within a 15 kilometre radius of the SAC is likely to have a significant effect on its condition. The greater part of this effect would arise from development within an 8km zone as it has been determined through research that this zone would contribute the most visitors to the SAC. The effect of increased visitor numbers consists of additional damage from site use and vehicle emissions. In granting planning permissions the Local Planning Authorities must comply with their duty under the Habitats Regulations as a Competent Authority to ensure appropriate mitigation is delivered prior to developments being built and new visits generated.

13.0 NON LAND USE POLICIES

13.1 Non Land Use Policy 1 - Transport

Non Land Use Policy 1

The Neighbourhood Plan will support the adoption of 'smarter choice' travel measures such as workplace travel plans and car clubs, car sharing schemes.

13.1.1 Evidence

In Lichfield District around 35,000 people (36%) are defined as living in the most disadvantaged quintile nationally for geographical access to services. These are located in a number of Wards throughout the District and include Stonnall Neighbourhood Area along with Little Aston and Shenstone Neighbourhood Areas. The Rural Settlement Sustainability Study (2011) notes that Stonnall scores highly in terms of services and facilities within the village despite the post office having recently closed, but does not score as highly in accessibility due to the lack of a half hourly bus service.

The 35B Central Buses company operates five bus services daily from Monday to Saturday between Lichfield and Walsall (via Aldridge) which pass through Stonnall and Shenstone. Commuting to and from Walsall does not appear to be an issue with the first bus travelling to Walsall passing through Shenstone and Stonnall before 8am, with the last return journey being 17.25pm. Travel to and from Lichfield however appears to present more of an issue with the first bus travelling towards Lichfield not passing through Stonnall until just before 9am with the last return journey leaving Lichfield at 4.23pm, therefore restricting commuter options.

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area does not have a train service, the nearest stations are located at Shenstone and Blake Street.

Staffordshire County Council has undertaken a highways survey which has shown that the main issue to be addressed is the

speed and volume of traffic cutting through Wall and therefore Stonnall to avoid the A5 Wall Island.

13.1.2 You told us

By far the most important issue of sustainability identified by residents is the need for better public transport. The business surveys echo the comments about the poor bus service and link it to negative impacts on their business.

The local transport infrastructure is one of the few dislikes residents have about Stonnall. It appears that the infrequent daytime, and non-existent evening bus services along with limited routes leads to residents not being able to travel to where the services are located. The post office is identified as the most inaccessible service followed by hospitals and a train station. As such the main mode of transport is overwhelmingly the car. A number of different post offices are now used most notably Shenstone and Lazy Hill, both situated on current bus routes.

As public transport was one of the main issues emerging from both the Stonnall and Shenstone Neighbourhood plans' respective consultations, a further travel survey was designed in consultation with the Neighbourhood Plan groups to assess local bus and train service usage and what additional services residents would like to see in the future. When asked why the current bus service was not used, the frequency of the service was the most commonly cited. Only 4.67% of people used the bus to get to work which is an indictment of the service provided.

There was a relatively even spread of around 20-25% of people who want to see daytime services i.e. between 9am and 6pm however this may be due to the high number of people (almost 50% of respondents) from the 65+ age category. Between 15% and 18% of respondents also wish to see early morning and later buses.

13.2 Non Land Use Policy 2 - Transport

Non Land Use Policy 2

Proposals which improve local and strategic traffic management through routing of HGV/LGV traffic away from the local road network will be supported.

13.2.1 Evidence

Vehicle movement studies undertaken by Staffordshire County Council in 2014 have identified that the main issue to be addressed is the speed and volume of traffic cutting through Wall and therefore Stonnall to avoid the A5 Wall Island.

The Staffordshire Freight Strategy 2011 identifies that much of the HGV traffic in rural areas has a legitimate right of access to a point of collection or delivery and a significant proportion of it is related to a business operating in the rural area. The small proportion of HGV traffic that is using the rural network inappropriately however is of considerable concern to local communities.

13.2.2 You told us

81% of respondents (with the majority of people answering this question) were concerned with the speed of vehicles through the Ward with 77% of respondents concerned about the volume of HGV traffic.

The route of the HGV traffic was clarified by visitors to the consultation event in November 2013. It appears that HGV's are cutting through the Ward from the A461 generally via Cartersfield Lane and Lynn Lane to access the Shenstone Industrial Estate and at times using lanes which are in the opinion of the residents, too narrow for the size and weight of vehicle.

13.3 Non Land Use Policy 3 - Transport

Non Land Use Policy 3

Support will be given to infrastructure improvements in the Neighbourhood Area, particularly those which address local traffic issues including existing traffic calming, HGV restrictions and commuter traffic.

13.3.1 Evidence

The Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 acknowledges that transport can have both positive and negative impacts including road traffic injuries, poor air quality and unwelcome noise. It has identified road traffic is the most common source of noise pollution and can contribute to stress-related health problems, and interfere with concentration and sleep. Certain traffic calming features, particularly speed cushions, road humps and those resulting in stopping and acceleration, have led to complaints about the increased noise from road traffic. As such the Local Transport Plan includes Policy 6.5: 'We will reduce the negative impact of traffic related noise' and specifically includes 'designing traffic calming schemes that minimise noise generation such as avoiding features that involve a 'vertical deflection' wherever possible.'

The Staffordshire Freight Strategy 2011 acknowledges that HGV's are particularly unsuited to narrow rural roads and a small proportion is using the rural network inappropriately and is of considerable concern to local communities. There are a number of frequently cited causes of concern (evidenced from the Staffordshire Parish Council Survey (SPCS) and complaints direct to the County Council and include amongst others 'rat running' through rural areas to avoid congestion. Action and Priority No 2 of the Freight Plan is to work with local communities and the freight industry to consider areas for weight restriction on individual merit having particular regard to the impact and quantum of HCV traffic, the sensitivity of the area, the population affected, the level of access required and the availability of suitable alternative routes.

13.3.2 You told us

Throughout the consultation process residents have expressed their overwhelming dislike of the speed humps as it is felt they do not assist in reducing the speed of traffic and cause more pain and inconvenience to locals. Given the concerns with the level of traffic through the village an alternative option such as chicanes was suggested by residents. Traffic speeds also emerged as an issue during the consultation with local primary school children.

The number of HGV's and their routes through the Ward is also a key issue for residents and suggestions such as a requirement for the imposition of further weight limits and additional weight limit signage were received at the November 2014 consultation event.

13.4 Non Land Use Policy 4 - Health

Non Land Use Policy 4
Transport services and infrastructure that enables access to a wide range of health services located within and outside the Neighbourhood Plan area will be supported.

13.4.1 Evidence

The Rural Settlement Sustainability Study (2011) notes that Stonnall scores highly in terms of services and facilities within the village despite the post office having recently closed, but does not score as highly in accessibility due to the lack of a half hourly bus service. Public transport connections are poor and this is reflected by a high car ownership.

Settlements can appear more isolated in terms of their location away from main urban centres or lack of public transport. Even settlements close to some urban areas can seem isolated where no or infrequent public transport exists. Stonnall amongst others is identified as a 'more isolated settlement' within Lichfield District.

The Local Plan Strategy as part of Core Policy 10 supports the development of accessible local healthcare.

13.4.2 You told us

Access to hospitals was identified as one of the top three most inaccessible services. It appears that the infrequent daytime, and non existent evening bus services along with limited routes leads to residents being unable to travel to where the necessary services are located. As such the main mode of transport is overwhelmingly the car.

Many people would like to see an improvement in the range of shops available within Stonnall Village with a chemists cited as being desirable. There is however a repeat prescription delivery service available from chemists in neighbouring settlements offering a pick up and drop off service.

13.5 Non Land Use Policy 5 – Community Facilities

Non Land Use Policy 5
The Plan will support appropriate initiatives to encourage the long term take up of allotment plots through the plan period, and where appropriate.

13.5.1 Evidence

Natural England recognises the importance of green infrastructure which can provide many social, economic and environmental benefits close to where people live and work including local food production through allotments and gardens. The Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 10 also supports initiatives such as allotments to enable access to healthy food.

This section of the Plan sets out support for other initiatives to encourage the long term take up of allotment plots.

The Diamond Jubilee Allotments which contains around 45 plots were opened in early 2012 and are located on Cartersfield Lane just outside Stonnall Village. The Jubilee Allotments

membership has a website and appears to have a very active community.

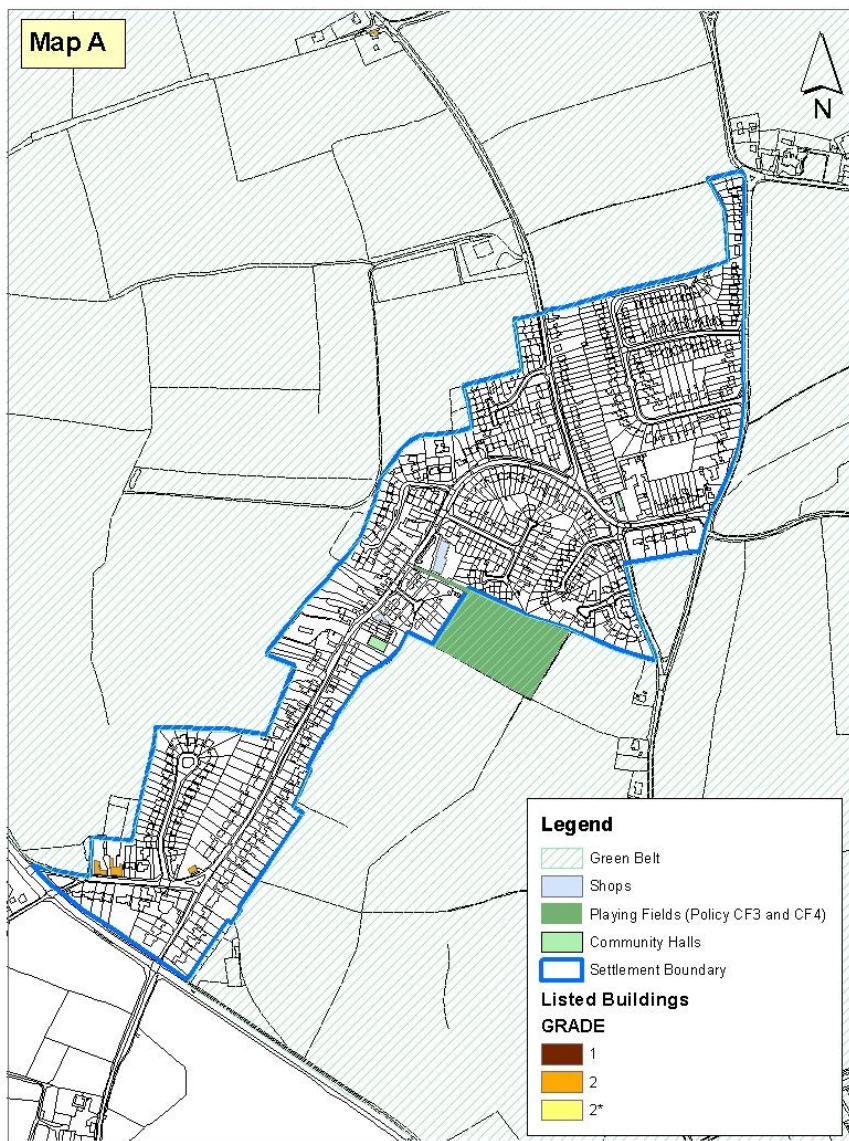
13.5.2 You told us

Only 19 people commented on the allotments in the questionnaire survey undertaken in 2013. One person felt these were not necessary, however other comments advised that although the allotments were not used by all they were important for families.

14.0 DELIVERING THE PLAN

- 14.1 As the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan once 'made' and adopted by the Local Planning Authority, it will form part of the District's Local Development Plan and be taken into account when planning applications are considered. This element of the plan will therefore be delivered in conjunction with the District Council as the Local Planning Authority.
- 14.2 Elements of the plan are also dependent on services currently provided through Staffordshire County Council and by working in partnership, elements of the plan can be which are in the gift of Staffordshire County Council can be addressed.
- 14.3 The voluntary and community (third) sector will have a strong role to play particularly in terms of the delivery and maintenance of local community infrastructure, events and village life. This sector may play a stronger role in the future.
- 14.4 The private sector also has a role to play in the delivery of the plan with regards to the investment in retail and bringing development forwards.
- 14.5 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tariff upon development which Local Authorities can opt to charge in order to raise funds to contribute to the delivery of infrastructure needs which arise as a result of new development in an area. Lichfield District Council is currently developing CIL and once in place must pass on 25% of the money raised from any qualifying development within a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan area to the Parish Council which can be used to fund Stonnall community's priorities.

Map A



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Not to scale

Appendix A
Glossary

Affordable Housing	Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices • Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.
Conservation Area	Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character, appearance or setting of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.
Exception site	An exception site is one that would not usually secure planning permission for housing, for example agricultural land next to but not within a local settlement area.
Heavy Goods Vehicle	A heavy goods vehicle means a mechanically propelled road vehicle designed or adapted to have a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kilograms when in normal use and travelling on a road laden.
Local Centre	Small shops and perhaps limited services, serving a small catchment. Sometimes also referred to as a local neighbourhood centre.
Listed buildings	A "Listed Building" is one which has been formally declared to be of 'special architectural or historic interest' by being placed on statutory lists compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Listing ensures that the architectural and historic interest of the building is carefully considered before any alterations, either outside or inside, are agreed.
Local list	These are buildings that are not necessarily listed, but have a special interest because of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association with well-known local historic persons or events. • Special architectural interest i.e. a good example of its building type and/or the work of an architect of local importance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special historic (i.e. social, industrial or cultural) interest. (Most buildings and places will fall into this category). • Contribution to the streetscape/townscape i.e. part of a group of buildings that make up an attractive scene.
Local Lettings Plans	From time to time a local lettings plan may be agreed between Lichfield District Council and the relevant Housing Association for specific areas or developments to reflect local circumstances. Any such plan will be published and have regard to considerations such as the social mix, density, age and community stability. Any such plan will be time limited but during that time properties may be let to applicants outside the normal rules for priority and banding included in this policy.
Local Plan: Strategy	The local plan strategy contains the broad policy directions and long term strategy to manage development, infrastructure and services across the District. The strategy consists of strategic policies which set out how the strategy will be implemented and monitored.
Village Design Statement	A Village Design Statement is concerned with the visual character of a village and how it might be protected or enhanced. Their aim is to encourage developers and householders to design new structures which are in keeping with existing local character.

Appendix B

Evidence Base - Contents

Name	Date	Link
Lichfield District Local Plan, Our Strategy – proposed submission.	July 2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4161/lichfield_district_local_plan_strategy_july_2012
Black Country Core Strategy	Feb 2011	http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/
Shenstone Parish Plan	2006	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4277/shenstone_parish_plan_2006
Transport		
Lichfield Local Development Framework - Appraisal of Spatial Options	Nov 2008	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4126/lichfield_local_development_framework_appraisal_of_spatial_options
West Midlands Local Transport Plan	2011-2026	http://www.westmidlandsltp.gov.uk/associated-groups/red-routes/what-red-routes-are/ http://www.centro.org.uk/LTP/LTP.aspx
Local Transport Plan 2011 Strategy Plan	2011	http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/transportplanning/localtransportplan/localtransportplan2011strategyplan.aspx
Staffordshire Freight Strategy	2011	http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/transportplanning/freight/Freight.aspx
Housing		
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2012 - Main Document	2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4193/shl_aa_2012_main_document
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Stonnall Ward 2012	2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4205/stonnall_2012
Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study	May 2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4099/southern_staffordshire_districts_housing_needs_study_and_shma_update_2012

and SHMA Update (May) 2012		
Lichfield Rural Housing Needs Survey	2008	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=1063&fileID=2709
Rural Settlement Sustainability Study 2011		http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3986/rural_settlement_sustainability_study_2011
Water Cycle Study Final Report	July 2010	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3392/water_cycle_study_final_report_july_2010
Appendix E – SUDS		http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3396/appendix_e
Water Cycle Study Addendum	April 2011	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3732/water_cycle_study_addendum_april_2011
Surface Water Management Plan Final Report	July 2010	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3402/surface_water_management_plan_final_report_july_2010
Appendix E		http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3406/appendix_e
Lichfield District Strategic Green Belt Review	July 2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/download/1419/lichfield_district_strategic_green_belt_review_july_2012
Site Allocation Document – Chapter 3 Housing	April 2013	http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/site_allocation_document.htm
Environment		
Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment – Final Report	Feb 2009	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=1030&fileID=2601
Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment	Dec 2007	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/2159/strategic_landscape_and_biodiversity_assessment_dec_2007

Lichfield District Council Biodiversity Strategy	2003-2013	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/info/856/local_plan/1014/evidence_base/33
Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan		http://www.sbap.org.uk/actionplan/index.php
Lichfield District Hedgerow Survey	2008	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4163/lichfield_district_hedgerow_survey_2008
An Ecological Study	Dec 2009	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=1128&fileID=3023
Cannock Chase SAC Interim Guidance	Oct 2013	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/5604/cannock_chase_sac_interim_guidance_october_2013
Cannock Chase SAC Visitor Survey & Mitigation reports	Dec 2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/info/856/local_plan/1014/evidence_base/24
Landscape and Green Spaces		
Playing Pitch, Tennis and Bowls Strategy 2012	2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/download/1396/playing_pitch_tennis_and_bowls_strategy_2012
Greens and Open Spaces Strategy	July 2008	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3794/greens_and_open_spaces_strategy_july_2008
Open Space Assessment	2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4124/open_space_assessment_2012
Health		
Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 for local areas in England and Wales	2008-10	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-223356
Deprivation		http://opendatacommunities.org/deprivation/map
Health and Wellbeing Profile for Lichfield District Council	May 2012	http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4129/health_and_welbing_profile_for_lichfield_district_council_may_2012
Employment		

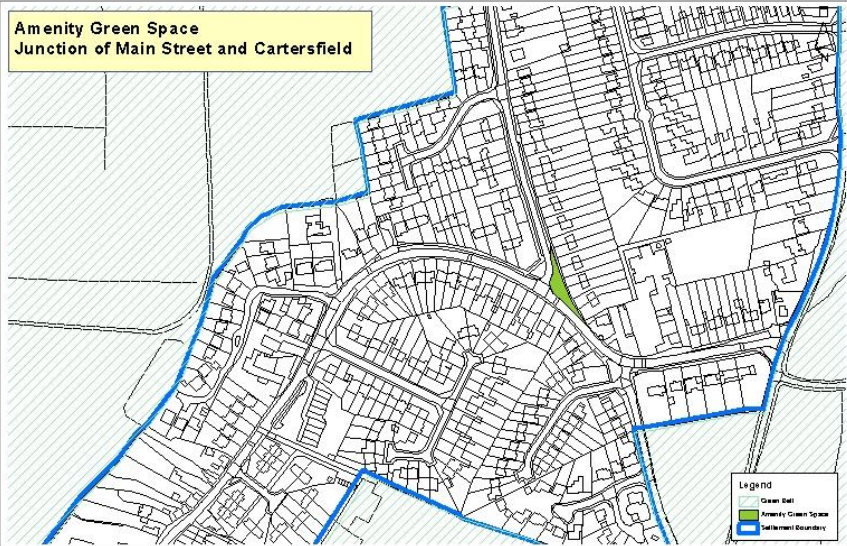
Employment Land Review 2012		http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4026/employment_land_review_2012
Ward Labour Market Profile: Stonnall		https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward/1308627548/report.aspx

Appendix C

Maps of Amenity Green Spaces



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Our Village

Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan 2014 – 2029

Appendix D

Stonnall Village Design Statement

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1.0 WHAT IS A VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

A Village Design Statement describes the visual character of a village and can be used as a tool to ensure that future development respects how that distinctive visual character can be protected and enhanced. The creation of a settlement that continues to be desirable to live in and meets its community's needs underlies the creation of this Village Design Statement

This design statement will not detail the type of development that could take place in a village and is also restricted in terms of commenting on or directing local service provision. It is not intended to stop development and change from happening, but will help to influence how new development fits into the village by setting out the qualities and characteristics of the village and the valued surroundings, and provide clear and simple guidance for the design of all development. Quality design is also fundamental to ensuring that development is sustainable. It can also ensure that existing services and facilities can continue to play key roles in the future of a settlement.

This statement also provides a way of identifying buildings that are locally important to the character of the settlement, and aims to detail local distinctiveness in order to shape any future development which may occur within the Neighbourhood Area during the period of the Neighbourhood Plan (2014-2029).

A village design statement should be compatible with the statutory planning system and therefore the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan for the area. There are a number of key adopted and emerging documents that support the principles of sustainable design across Lichfield District. This Village Design Statement provides sign posting to these documents which present both the strategic context for future development and in the case of the Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2007) detailed requirements for a comprehensive range of design elements.

2.0 WHAT AREA DOES THIS VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT COVER?

This Village Design statement covers the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area which sits within Shenstone Parish. Stonnall Neighbourhood Area covers 886 hectares, has a population of 1,500 and includes the settlements of Stonnall, Lower Stonnall and Lynn and the outlying hamlets of Thornes, New Barnes, Bosses and Mill Green.

3.0 HOW HAS THIS STATEMENT EVOLVED?

The development of this Village Design Statement is intrinsically linked to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan document for the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area. It was evident during the Neighbourhood Plan development process that quality design was important to the local community.

This design statement was submitted to the District Council for independent examination as part of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan. It now sits as part of the made neighbourhood plan and the wider development plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan development process undertook comprehensive consultation with the residents of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area to ensure that the plan was based on sound evidence. One of the key tools used during the consultation was a questionnaire sent out to all households and community groups based in the Neighbourhood Area. The questionnaire which was circulated during July/August 2013 achieved a 42% return rate based on numbers of households. The questionnaire focused on identifying what was valued by residents and also what they considered required improvement or change.

When asked what was seen as important to Stonnall, 105 respondents expressed concerns about the long term protection of the village ethos and the surrounding countryside, with the loss of Stonnall's identity due to development amalgamating the village with neighbouring larger urban towns being raised as an

issue. Respondents also expressed a wish to preserve and retain the character of the village, historic buildings and features, along with investment in historic buildings.

These views were reiterated during the emerging Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy evidence gathering process. Rural residents across the District value the spirit of their communities and the physical qualities of village and countryside, but are concerned about the loss in rural services, the availability of housing to suit their circumstances and, in some cases, increasing levels of isolation through poor public transport.

By identifying and describing the key characteristics of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area, the Village Design Statement aims to ensure that those distinctive values recognised by Stonnall residents can be protected and enhanced.

3.1 Relationship to the Neighbourhood Plan

The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the future of the village and its hinterland, providing a strategy and land-use planning framework to guide development within the designated Neighbourhood Area for the next 15 years. The Village Design Statement is designed to be read in conjunction with the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan providing evidence and support for a number of its policies. The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the development plan and will be used in determining planning applications.

The Stonnall Village Design Statement also forms part of a wider raft of documentation and has regard to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance entitled 'Planning for Landscape Change' <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/planners-developers/landscape/NaturalEnvironmentLandscapeCharacterTypes.aspx> which details policy and practice for the conservation, enhancement and regeneration of the rural landscapes in Staffordshire. This in turn has informed Lichfield District's

Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2007) and thus the Village Design Statement. Further information on the wider policy context is provided in section 5.0.

4.0 A SPATIAL PORTRAIT OF STONNALL

This spatial portrait helps to place the Neighbourhood Area in the context of the wider district and region, describes its evolution, and the key social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Neighbourhood Area that are relevant to future development.

4.1 Stonnall Today

The community of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area is part of Lichfield District and situated in south eastern Staffordshire. The Stonnall Neighbourhood Area is rural, situated within the greenbelt and located on the edge of the Birmingham and Black County conurbation as shown in Map 1. The green belt and the presence of 'A' roads to the north-west and south-east of the Neighbourhood Area have help to protect the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area from coalescence with neighbouring urban areas.

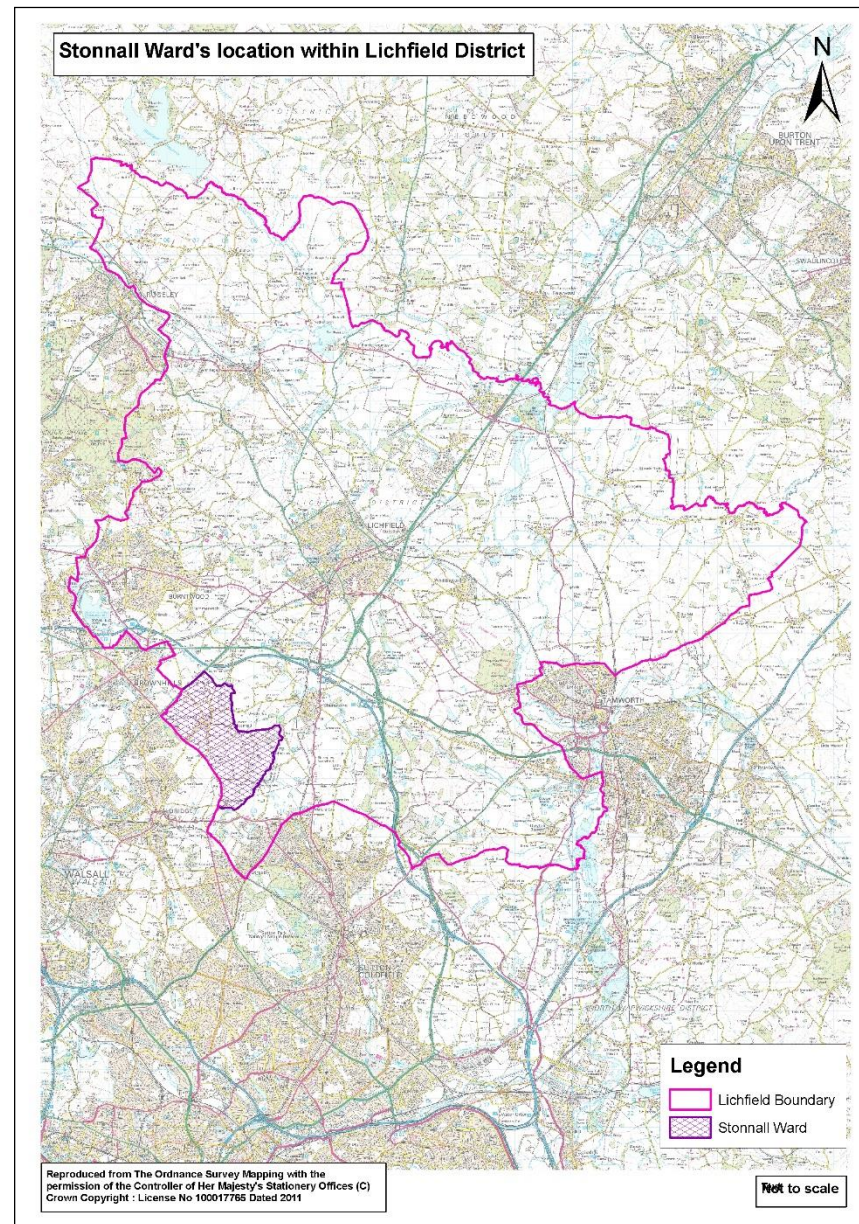
Stonnall Village is located just to the north of the centre of the Neighbourhood Area and is where the majority of the Neighbourhood Area population resides. The village is surrounded by green belt which enhances views in and out of the settlement and the setting of the village.

Main Street runs through the centre of the village and comprises a range of styles of buildings from a variety of periods, which help to create the village character. There are only three listed buildings within Stonnall Village itself and thirteen within the Neighbourhood Area as a whole. Within the Neighbourhood Area there are two smaller settlements, namely Lower Stonnall, a dispersed settlement, representing the low end of the valley and Lynn located between Shenstone and Stonnall village. The remainder of the Neighbourhood Area settlement consists of

farmsteads and in particular traditional farm buildings of 19th century or earlier date making a fundamental contribution to local distinctiveness and sense of place.

Stonnall Village provides a number of local services including a St Peters Primary school, Parish Church, Village Hall, Youth and Community Centre, GP surgery and two pubs. In addition there is a row of retail units located along Main Street which offer convenience shopping to residents (newsagents/local store, fish and chip shop, Indian restaurant, tattoo parlour and two hairdressers). There are also retail facilities on the Chester Road on the edge of the Neighbourhood Area which includes a petrol station, garage restaurant and plant nursery.

The Playing Fields is the largest amenity open space, centrally located just off Main Street and easily accessible to most of the village. It contains 1 playing pitch in the centre, a children's playground and a small skateboard facility. Mill Green Recreation Ground also located at its southern most tip of the Neighbourhood Area, provides facilities for football and cricket.



Map 1

4.2 The Historic Development of Stonnall and its Landscape

Stonnall village itself evolved from a small linear settlement mainly along the western side of Main Street, and a hamlet at Lazy Hill which was consolidated into a single village through the development of modern housing estates most notably between the 1960s and 1980s. The evolution of Stonnall Village is shown on Map 3 below:

A few buildings have been demolished in the smaller outlying hamlets of Thornes, Lower Stonnall and Lynn since the 1840s tithe maps, however these settlements have remained largely unchanged.

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of the Historic Area Character Area (HECA) which includes Stonnall Neighbourhood Area suggests that the majority had been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have started to support a small scale pastoral economy. By the later 11th century this Character Area probably formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heathland. The landscape started to be enclosed in earnest between the 11th and 13th centuries as assarts (clearing woodland for farmland) from the Royal Forest of Cannock. This is perhaps further suggested by the settlements Stonnall, Fotherley, Lynn and The Bosses which are first mentioned in documentary sources during this period. A mill mentioned in the Domesday Book attests to an arable economy from at least the later Anglo-Saxon period.

The area to the north west of Stonnall Village was enclosed piecemeal during the later and post medieval period. The majority of the field systems across the character area however exhibit a morphology which suggests they were enclosed as planned enclosure during the 18th/19th century. The pattern of regular field boundaries can be seen on the aerial map below (Map 2).

The villages of Stonnall and Shenstone have both seen considerable expansion during the 20th century. The field systems have generally experienced field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century in response to an increased demand for agricultural productivity. Some historic field patterns survive reasonably well to the south and south east of Stonnall. The dispersed settlement pattern remains with many historic farmsteads surviving alongside the villages and hamlets.

Before its realignment, the Chester Road ran through the Lazy Hill end of Stonnall Village where inns developed to serve the coaching trade linking London to Chester. The Chester Road was turnpiked from Chester to Castle Bromwich to help to pay for the upkeep of the road, with a turnpike (toll) being present at Stonnall. This however deterred traffic, including the coaches, from using the Chester Road, and as such, the inns serving the coaching trade suffered and closed by the late 18th century. Stonnall remained a small agricultural community until the second half of the 20th century.



Map 2

4.3 The Natural Environment and Biodiversity

Although within Stonnall Neighbourhood Area there are no statutorily protected nature conservation sites, the area is predominantly rural and the biodiversity and habitats it contains are part of the wider landscape and should be considered in any development proposals. A number of publications are listed below to aid this process.

Natural England's National Character Area Profile: 67 Cannock Chase and Cank Wood extends north of the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation and includes the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area. This Character Area profile seeks to ensure that the character of the countryside is protected and enhanced. It has 3 Statements of Environmental Opportunity:

- SEO 1: Expand lowland heathland to increase habitat connectivity, improve resilience to climate change and improve water quality
- SEO 2: Manage, enhance and expand the network of green infrastructure, such as woodlands, restored mining sites, parklands and canal routes, to increase biodiversity, access and recreational use and increase understanding of the area's rich industrial heritage, particularly geodiversity
- SEO 3: Conserve and enhance the essential character of this varied landscape, which includes the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Forest of Mercia and the urban conurbation of the Black Country, to maintain food and timber production where possible; enhance landscape, sense of place and tranquillity; and increase resilience to climate change

The Landscape Character Area information should be considered during the development process to ensure any development makes a positive contribution to the area.

The Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) identifies Ecosystem Action Plans (EAP) and Stonnall Neighbourhood Area falls within the Central Farmland EAP. The farmland surrounding

Stonnall is made up from mixed arable and pastoral farming varying from low intensity where intact historic patterns of hedgerows and hedgerow trees survive to intensively farmed arable and improved pasture where hedgerows are in decline. This is borne out by the sparse trees and hedge boundaries in the fields between Church Street and Main Street, and in the fields to the west of Main Street.

The primary objective for the Central Farmland EAP is to reduce fragmentation of existing semi-natural habitats by linking sites through the creation of habitat corridors and networks using Hedgerows, Arable Field Margins and Rivers where possible. Opportunities to create wetland, grassland and woodland habitat mosaics need to be taken in order to diversify the area.



There are also a number of priority species which would directly benefit from the protection and enhancement of farmland habitats including hares; pipistrelle, brown long-eared and noctule bats; barn owl, lapwing, polecat, otter, harvest mouse and seed eating birds.

Natural England's representation on the designation of the Neighbourhood Area highlighted that 'there are no statutorily protected nature conservation sites within the plan area but there

are a number of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats including deciduous woodland near New Barns Farm, Forge Wood, Mill Farm and Fishpond Cottages. There is also floodplain grazing marsh habitat on the Fotherley Brook. Just across the parish boundary there is the Shire Oak Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and the Castle Bank Plantation Local Wildlife Site. Any proposals or projects that may be considered during the Neighbourhood Plan process would need to take these sites into account. We would also encourage any opportunities that the Neighbourhood Plan can take to increase biodiversity and to protect and enhance the natural environment.'

Despite being set within a rural landscape, high quality and multifunctional greenspace can help to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification and should be considered within the development process. Please see Neighbourhood Plan Policy LE4. The Town and Country Planning Association has also produced a practical document entitled 'Biodiversity by Design' which can help to achieve high levels of biodiversity as part of the development process.

A proportion of Cannock Chase was designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the 2005 under the provisions of the European Habitats Directive for its dry lowland heath habitat value. Its condition is monitored by Natural England.

Levels of access to the SAC are predicted to grow by 15% per annum due to an increase in population linked to new residential development within a 15 km zone of influence. To offset this visitor impact, a costed mitigation strategy has been developed to allow developer contributions to be levied for the implementation of the mitigation strategy. Stonnall Neighbourhood Area falls within the 15km zone of influence.

4.3.1 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders within the Neighbourhood Area, with individual TPOs on a large proportion

of hedgerow trees along roadsides, Area TPOs around Lynn Cottage, Shepherds Farm and Heath Close, and Woodland TPOS on two areas of woodland between Lynn Lane and the A461.

Stonnall Neighbourhood Area also falls within the Forest of Mercia boundary. The Forest of Mercia is part of a national programme of ten Community Forests in England developed in the early 1990s and located in and around England's largest towns and cities. Their aim is to deliver a comprehensive package of urban, economic and social regeneration, creating high-quality environments for millions of people by revitalising derelict land, providing new opportunities for leisure, recreation, and cultural activities, enhancing biodiversity, preparing for climate change and supporting education, healthy living and social and economic development.

The field systems (whether mediaeval or C18/C19th) have generally experienced field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century in response to an increased demand for agricultural productivity. Some historic field patterns survive reasonably well to the south and south east of Stonnall.

Both the SBAP and Lichfield District's Biodiversity Strategy aims to prevent further loss of existing and promote the planting of woodlands and hedgerows.

4.4 Sense of place

Stonnall village itself is a remnant rural settlement amalgamated through substantial expansion and infill during the late 20th century. See Map 3 showing the historic development timeline.

The historic sense of place is most evident along Main Street, the Lazy Hill junction with Main Street and the dispersed buildings along Church Road. Examples of the original buildings which comprise the early settlement can be found along Main Street particularly, many of which have been adapted and converted,

and whilst still evident, the impact of these buildings on Stonnall village's sense of place is lessened by the later development.

Whilst the historic road pattern is evident in plan form, the A452 (Chester Road) being realigned southward from its original route through Lazy Hill, is visually less apparent within the settlement.

The 20th century residential areas are pleasant suburban style pockets of housing. The 1960's developments provides a mix of bungalows and two storey detached and semi-detached houses, all constructed with the simple design characteristic of their time, with straightforward undecorated lines and large airy windows. Many of the semi-detached houses appear to have small extensions to the front, altering the uniformity of housing form and streetscape. The houses sit within their own plots set back from the road with gardens to the rear. Most houses have a garage and front gardens some being delineated by walls, fencing or hedges, however in many cases the front gardens have been paved over to provide sufficient space for off road parking for additional cars.

In the 1980s, the expansion of Stonnall Village continued although at a slower rate, with further infilling with detached housing on the Garnet Close and St Peter's Close developments off Main Street. The design of these houses and roads again reflects the fashion of their time. The houses themselves have smaller windows to improve energy efficiency. The houses sit within unfenced plots set back from the road.

4.5 Local character and identity through use of materials

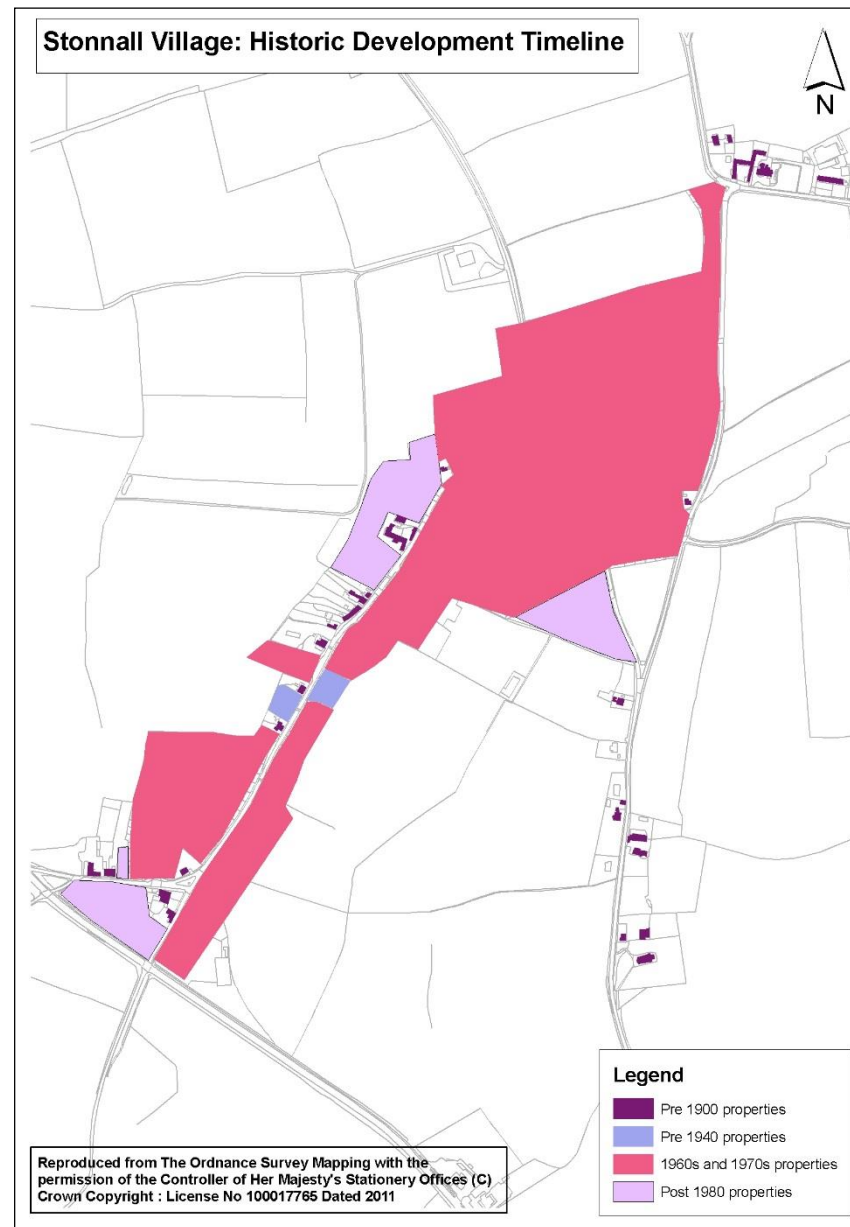
The majority of buildings within Stonnall Neighbourhood Area are traditional brick built structures with tile and slate roofs. These buildings also have a traditional rectilinear footprint set within a backcloth of extensive 20th century development, a substantial part of which is low rise/single storey/bungalows. Please see

Lichfield District Council's Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2007) for further information.

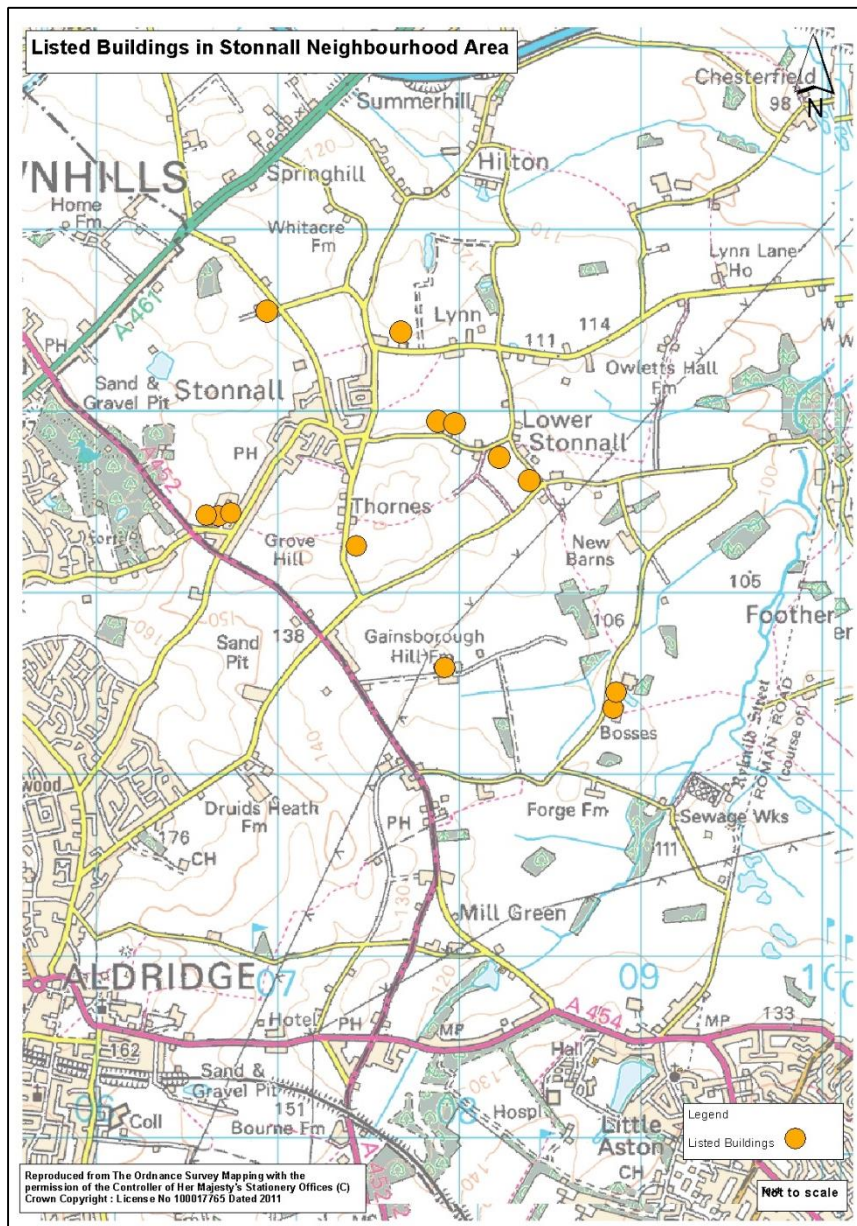
4.6 Listed Buildings

Stonnall village itself does not have a designated Conservation Area, however the Neighbourhood Area does contain 13 Grade II listed properties which remain in use and a number of locally interesting features such as the remnant of a black and white finger post outside Ivy Cottage. These heritage assets are irreplaceable and their continued reuse is a fundamental part of sustainable development. The locations of the listed buildings are identified in Map 4 with the details for the buildings provided in Appendix A.

Those buildings that are listed play an essential role in reinforcing a sense of place and are an important component of local distinctiveness. The number of locally listed buildings in Stonnall is likely to increase over the neighbourhood period as the community of Stonnall work with the Local Planning Authority to identify heritage assets that they wish to protect at a local level. Please see a list of potential inclusion on a local list at Appendix B.



Map 3



Map 4

4.7 Safe and accessible environments

Whilst the historic route through Stonnall village promotes good connectivity, the 20th century development is cul-de-sac based and although this promotes a high degree of natural surveillance, it is relatively impermeable for pedestrians.

Despite the village's historic connectivity it is poorly served by public transport with reliability and timetable concerns raised during the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process, along with issues of accessing hospital and post office services.

Evidence from the Neighbourhood Plan showed that car ownership levels are high with 92% of respondents owning a car but with 36% of people considering that car parking was an important issue. Lichfield District Council's emerging Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document contains comprehensive detail about car parking standards which must apply to all development. The main objective of this guidance is to ensure that sufficient space is provided within new developments to accommodate its generated parking needs, and that the maximum parking standards are intended to ensure that parked vehicles do not become either a safety hazard or environmental nuisance.

4.8 Good architecture and design

Against the village's traditional architecture and the District's in general, innovative technologies and sustainable design is encouraged where it complements the established context. Please see Chapter 10 of the Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2007) for further information.

5.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

5.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 sets out the Government's approach to sustainable development. At the heart of the NPPF is the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Essentially, it is about positive growth with economic, social and environmental gains being sought simultaneously through the planning system.

The National Planning Policy Framework advocates the adoption of a positive strategy in terms of conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource whilst also stating that conservation should directly relate to their significance. The production of this village design statement gets to the heart of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. It underpins relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

The NPPF also states that local planning authorities should be take account of the following points when developing their strategy:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- The wider social, cultural economic, and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness ; and
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

5.2 Lichfield District's adopted Local Plan Strategy

The Local Plan Strategy was adopted on 17th February 2016. The Local Plan Strategy includes a spatial portrait and vision for the District, followed by a suite of 15 Strategic Priorities to help deliver

this vision. The Spatial Strategy sets out the overall approach towards providing for new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities to 2029 and outlines the broad approach that will be followed towards managing change in the District.

To achieve the sustainable development requirements of the NPPF, the emerging Local Plan Strategy seeks to concentrate major growth within the most sustainable settlements and accessible locations with Lichfield District. This focus ensures that the best use of existing services and infrastructure is achieved whilst also enabling improvements to create and maintain sustainable local communities. The Settlement Hierarchy of sites is described in Strategic Priority 1 with the detail articulated through Core Policy 1: The Spatial Strategy. Stonnall is classified as 'Other Rural Settlement' within the hierarchy

The Spatial Strategy seeks to ensure that rural communities are as sustainable as possible, delivering appropriate levels and types of housing to address identified need, retaining rural services and facilities in all the villages, providing new services which are relevant to local needs and supporting communities in delivering initiatives which help them to be more self sufficient. This vision is articulated through the following policy:

Policy Rural 1: Rural Areas

Smaller villages will only deliver housing to accommodate local needs. Around 5% of the District's housing (around 500 dwellings) will be met within the village boundaries of these smaller villages, through the conservation of existing buildings and to meet identified local needs on rural exception sites. Allocations of sites for new rural housing will be considered through the Local Plan Allocations document or through a community led plan where this is in broad conformity with the Local Plan.

The Local Plan Strategy's vision for Rural Areas includes the statement that 'The historic character and local distinctiveness of

these key rural settlements and other villages will be protected and enhanced.’

In addition the built and historic environment is also identified as a valued asset in Lichfield District. Strategic Priority 14 places particular emphasis on protecting and enhancing these assets alongside local distinctiveness. This is expressed through the following policies:

Core Policy 14: Our Built & Historic Environment, which focuses on protecting and improving the built environment. It makes clear reference to the conservation and enhancement of locally listed buildings and maintaining local distinctiveness in relation to the built environment in terms of buildings, public spaces and the enhancement of linkages between the built and natural environment. The policy allows for appropriate and sympathetic change and development that responds to the historic buildings significance and makes a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Development Management Policy BE1: High Quality Development, outlines how one of the key dimension of Sustainability in terms of protecting, regenerating and enhancing the District Council’s historic and built environment will be achieved. In term of this Village Design Statement it is worth noting that development will be permitted where it can be clearly and convincingly demonstrated that it will have a positive impact on:

- The significance of the historic environment, including listed buildings and locally listed buildings.
- The built vernacular. New development, including extensions and alterations to existing buildings, should carefully respect the character of the surrounding area and development in terms of layout, size, scale, architectural design and public views.

5.3 Supplementary Planning Documents

The Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was published in 2007 and provides district specific guidance for residential development, outlining what the Council expects in terms of an approach to residential design in Lichfield District.

This document provides detailed guidance on

- Local Character & Distinctiveness
- Site layout (Sustainable Development, Setting, Site Characteristics, Design Concept, Frontages, Plot Size & Shape, Site Entrance, Access for Vehicles, Traffic Speed, Nodal & Focal Points, Streetscape & Surfacing, Boundaries).
- Building Design
- Innovation

The design principles outlined within this Village Design Statement are the same as those contain in the Residential Design Guide SPD. The SPD provides a detailed explanation and also relates the content directly to the Development Management Process.

The following Supplementary Planning documents are currently emerging. Once completed they will also offer detailed guidance to support the aims of the Village Design Statement, Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan and Lichfield District Local Plan.

- Supplementary Planning Document: Sustainable Design
- Supplementary Planning Document: Historic Environment

5.4 Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan

The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan was made on 19th April 2016. A neighbourhood plan is a formal and positive plan for development which allows communities to shape the local area in a way which suits their local evidence needs. Neighbourhood planning forms part of the NPPF legislation and allows local communities to shape sustainable development within their area

and enables local communities to address their strategic needs and priorities.

In terms of neighbourhood plans, the NPPF states that local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. It then goes on to identify elements to be considered such as lifetime development, sense of place, appropriate mix of development, use of green and public space, support of local facilities and transport networks, local character and identity through use of materials, safe and accessible environments and good architecture.

The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the future of the village and its hinterland, providing a strategy and land use planning framework to guide development within the neighbourhood area for the next 15 years (2012-2029) to correspond with the District Council's adopted Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan has an overarching vision for the Neighbourhood Area to:

- Create a sustainable, flourishing Neighbourhood Area that provides a high quality of life for all its residents
- Create a Neighbourhood Area with a high quality built and natural environment with protection for important historic and environmental assets.
- Retain the Neighbourhood Area's rural identity and independence from neighbouring urban areas.

Following consultation, 8 aims have been identified for the focus of the Neighbourhood Plan. The 'Historic Environment' and 'Housing' aims taken from the Neighbourhood Plan and shown below are key to providing detail to this Village Design Statement:

Historic Environment

Preserve and retain the village character, buildings and features.

Housing

To maintain a sustainable village a mix of age groups is required and housing for young and old is needed.
To secure high quality design of all development within the plan area.

These aims are articulated through the following Neighbourhood Plan policies, summarised below:

Section 5 Housing

Policy H1 addresses potential infill development and the need for a direct link to local need. The policy also cross references the Village Design Statement expressing that the detail of development should be in line with principles within this Statement.

Policy H2 addresses potential exception sites. The policy also cross references the Village Design Statement expressing that the detail of development should be in line with principles within this Statement.

Policy H3 addresses development that provides affordable housing. The policy also cross references the Village Design Statement expressing that the detail of development should be in line with principles within this Statement.

Policy H4 establishes the Village Design Statement as a key document to the success of achieving the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Policy states, the character and setting of the village will be protected through the Village Design Statement to ensure that any new development complements and contributes to the existing village and is in line with the Statement and its principles.

Section 11 Historic Environment

Policy HB1 focuses on retaining the buildings which make a significant contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the locality. Those buildings identified as significant have been identified in within the Village Design Statement.

Policy HB2 focuses on the protection, conservation and enhancement of listed and locally listed buildings. There is a requirement to demonstrate how changes to a locally listed building would contribute to its conservation whilst preserving or enhancing its architectural or historic interest.

Policy HB3 focuses on the protection of the distinctive character of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings within the Neighbourhood Area.

Policy HB4 relates to development taking account of archaeology.

Appendix A – Listed Buildings

Property Name	Grade	Description
Elm Cottage, 21 Main Street	II	House. Late C18 with minor mid-C19 alterations. Red brick; tiled roof on cogged eaves with verge parapets. Ridge stack set on entrance axis. Two-storey, two-window front; 3-light casements; segmental headed to ground floor. Central entrance with C20 part-glazed door and lightweight porch.
Ivy House Farmhouse	II	Farmhouse. Early C18. Red brick with rusticated stone quoins and bands at floor levels; tiled roof; end stacks. L-shaped plan. Two storey and dormer-lit attic, four-window front. Two hipped dormers placed over inner pair of glazing bar sashes below, all with gauged brick heads. Central entrance with moulded surrounds and 6 panel door. Further wing to rear has casement windows and yard entrance.
Barn Approximately 60 Metres West Of Ivy House Farmhouse	II	Barn. Dated 1747 with late C19 alterations. Red brick with slit vents; tiled roof with verge parapets. Long frontage with two segmental headed threshing floor entrances inset from ends. C20 opening to left end and lower addition to right. A painted stone plaque to the left is inscribed "JOHN SMITH/1747". One of a series of large barns in the area reputedly built by the same hand.
Marlais House And Wordsley House, Main Street	II	Inn, later farmhouse and now two houses. Late C17, remodelled c1850-70 and with some late C20 alteration. Rendered over brick; plain tile roof, hipped to front, with rendered axial and end stacks. Storeys with attic. 3-window south front. Tuscan porch; mid C19 6-panelled door with margin panes to overlight. 6/6-pane horned sashes to left, mid C20 12-pane windows to right; 3 gabled dormers with bargeboards. The rear elevation has a tall stair window with stained glass to margin panes.

Stonnall House Farmhouse	II	Farmhouse. Late C18 with mid-C19 and C20 alterations. Red brick with raised bands at floor levels; hipped tiled roof on moulded eaves cornice. Centre stacks. Almost square plan. Two storey and dormer lit attic, 3-window front. Hipped dormers over 3,2,3 light casements with painted rusticated wedged heads and raised keystones; ground floor left replaced by 3-sided flat roofed bay window. Central entrance with similar head to window, overlight and 6-panel door. The square plan is possibly the result of two buildings with the south-west corner being filled out at a later date. Details of frontage continue to adjacent sides.
Ivy Cottage, Gravelly Lane	II	House. Late C18 with C20 addition. Red brick; tiled roof. End stack to right and ridge stack. Two-storey, two-window front; three-light casements with segmental heads to ground floor. Entrance to left of centre with wide moulded surround, frieze, cornice and 6-panel part- glazed door. Addition to left end of one window.
Church Of St Peter	II	Chapel of ease. 1822, for the 1818 Commission, chancel 1843 by Joseph Potter. Red brick with painted stone dressings to earlier part and coursed dressed squared stone to later chancel. Tiled roofs. West tower, nave and chancel. Tower: of three stages almost entirely engaged into nave; raised string below crenellated parapet. Lancets to bell chamber and Y-tracery pointed west window over pointed west door. Nave of 3½ bays on plinth divided by two-stage buttresses, Y-tracery pointed windows to each bay and either side of tower. Chancel of approximately two bays; diagonal buttresses and strings below cill level. Pointed, labelled two light windows to sanctuary and 3-light pointed east window with trefoils in circular tracery within head. Similar flat roofed addition to south and gabled addition to north.

Outbuildings Immediately To The West Of Wordsley House	II	Outbuilding. Late C17/early C18. Brick, mostly Flemish bond, with gabled plain tile roofs. L-plan: the main E-W range incorporates, from the E, a dovecote, stable, smithy and stable, the cross wing extending N from the W end comprising one space for the storage of vehicles; open lofted areas above, that to the cross wing used from at least the C19 as a granary. This is a complete and important example of a building associated with the inn trade, built at a critical period of economic growth in post-Restoration England.
Cartshed Approximately 20 Metres From North West Of The Bosses Farmhouse	II	Cartshed. Early C19. Dark red brick; tiled roof. Single storey. Five elliptically arched cart entries on east side, inset from ends, the right hand with a C20 door and frame.
The Bosses Farmhouse	II	Farmhouse. Mid C18 possibly to earlier core with mid C19 alterations. Rendered brickwork with rendered quoins; tiled roofs; ridge stacks. Double range plan. Front of two gables, projecting left-hand gable of two storeys; casement window of 3 light to first floor and small hipped- roof, 3-sided bay to ground floor. Earlier set back gable to right of two storeys and attic with a range of three 3-light, segmental head casements. Entrance set against return angle with moulded surround and 6-panel door.
Shepherds Farmhouse	II	Farmhouse. Late C18 with late C19 alterations. Rendered brickwork; tiled roof; verge parapets with end stacks and ridge stack to left of centre. Two-storey, 3-window front, 3-light casements, segmental headed to ground floor. Entrance to right of centre with corbelled hood and 6 panel door. Lower addition to right of one window with a dormer. Exposed brick to left end with a small single, centrally placed window.

Barn Approximately 25 Metres North Of Gainsborough Farmhouse	II	Barn. Dated 1727 with minor alterations. Red brick with 3 tiers of vents; tiled roof formerly with verge parapets. Extremely long (approx. 60m) and of approximately two storey height. Two threshing floor entrances inset from ends with stone hinge blocks; segmental relieving arches and double boarded doors. Set-in at the left end has a wide door, with segmental relieving arch and plaque over inscribed "1727/JOHN SMITH", C20 opening to right. The barn is one of a group by John Smith including that at Ivy House Farm (q.v.) and Woodend Farm (q.v.), this being the largest of the group.
Fighting Cocks Farmhouse	II	Farmhouse. Late C18. Red brick; tiled roof on dentilled eaves course, hipped to left side. Ridge stack to left of centre. L-shaped plan. Two-storey, two-window front. 3-light casements, more closely spaced to the first floor (set into eaves band) and with segmental heads to ground floor. Entrance set to left side with 4-panel door.

Appendix B – Heritage Assets under consideration for local listing.

Local lists play an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness in the historic environment. Local lists can be used to identify significant local heritage assets to support the development of Local Plans. Encouraging the use of local lists strengthens the role of local heritage assets as a material consideration in the planning process.

The following heritage assets have been identified as potential inclusions on the local list. The local list will be designated and maintained by Lichfield District Council.

Buildings on west side of Main St from Old Swan to Barns of Lower Farm

The Old Swan
The Royal Oak,
79
83-89,
93 & 95
Lower Farm, 109 Main Street
1-5 Lower Farm, Main Street
123 Main Street

Buildings both sides of Lynn Lane from Lynn House to junction of Wallheath Lane

Lynn House, Lynn Lane
Myatts, Lynn Lane
Lynn cottage, Lynn Lane
The Cottage, Lynn Lane
3 The Cottages, Lynn Lane
Conifer Cottage & Whitacre Cottage, Lynn Lane
Lynn Hall
Shepherds Barn, Coach House,
Lynway Cottage
Firstone, Cranebrook Lane

Lower Stonnall.

Millie Cottage, Mill Lane
Laurel Cottage, Mill Lane
Laurel Farmhouse, Mill Lane
The Barn, Laurel Farm, Mill Lane
The Drift House, Mill Lane
The Flower Barn, The Keepers Lodge, Store
Swan Cottage, Mill Lane
Swan Farmhouse, Mill Lane
Swan Farm, Mill Lane

Thornes Hall Farm, Church Rd.

The Farmhouse, Thornes Hall Farm, Church Road
Horseshoe Barn, Church Road
Church Cottage, Church Road

The Manor House, 2 Lazy Hill.