



Our Village

Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029

Consultation Statement

Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.0	VILLAGE MEETING (JUNE 2011)	4
2.1	How people were consulted.....	4
2.2	Main Issues Raised	4
3.0	RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE - JULY/ AUGUST 2013	4
3.1	Who was consulted	5
3.2	How People were Consulted	5
3.3	Main Issues Raised	6
3.4	Feedback Event	7
4.0	TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE - MARCH 2014.....	8
4.1	How People were Consulted	8
4.2	Main Issues Raised	8
5.0	DRAFT POLICY CONSULTATION – JUNE/ JULY 2014.....	9
5.1	How People were Consulted	9
5.2	Main Issues Raised	9
5.3	Issues raised by Statutory Consultees.....	9
6.0	PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION	10
6.1	How People were Consulted	10
6.2	Number of responses	10
6.3	Main Issues Raised	10

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:

- (a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;*
- (b) explains how they were consulted;*
- (c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;*
- (d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.*

The Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group has been explicit in its aim that the Neighbourhood Plan should be a plan for the Neighbourhood Area developed and owned by local people.

At the outset of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, an 'Engagement Strategy and Communication Plan' was produced to identify who should be consulted, which information routes were available and which would be the most appropriate (Appendix A). As a result a substantial amount of community engagement and consultation has taken place throughout the Plan's development phase and is set out below.

The aims of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were:

- 'front-load' community consultation to identify and engage as wide a range of local people and interested parties as possible to ensure ownership of the plan and to ensure continual commitment from the community during the lengthy development processes. Front loading also ensured that key themes were identified early in the process.
- ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process where view points and local knowledge were required and direction provided.
- engage as wide a range of people as possible in the planning process by using a variety of events and communication techniques
- ensure the results of consultations are fed back to local people and made available to read (in both hard copy and via electronic media) as soon as possible after the consultation events.

Consultation was undertaken by the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group in partnership with officers from Lichfield District Council. Consultation events took place at the following stages during the neighbourhood planning process:

- June 2011 - a village meeting regarding the localism bill and to garner interest in a Village Masterplan leading to a successful application for front runner funding and the creation of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- Residents Questionnaire - July/August 2013 plus Feedback event and further evidence gathering to clarify questionnaire responses – November 2014
- Travel Questionnaire - March 2014
- Draft policy consultation/Questionnaire - June/July 2014.
- Pre-submission consultation - Statutory consultation stage in accordance with Regulation 14 from 10th November 2014 to 5th January 2015.

This Consultation Statement provides an overview of each of the above stages of consultation in accordance with Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations. Full details are provided in the reports that support the Consultation Statement and are available in the appendices to this document.

2.0 VILLAGE MEETING (JUNE 2011)

A Village meeting was held on 17th June 2011 to discuss the opportunities the Localism Bill could present to Stonnall Village; the meeting was open to all residents and was held in the Village Hall. This was an open meeting publicized through the local paper the Lichfield Mercury with over 100 residents of the ward attending.

The meeting led to the formation of a series of working groups to undertake ongoing consultation with the Village residents. A subsequent submission for frontrunner funding was made in November 2011 and agreed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in March 2012.



2.1 How people were consulted

The Village meeting was an open meeting where issues were raised and recorded on a flip chart. The meeting was chaired by Cllr David Smith who is an elected member of Lichfield District Council. Support was provided by Parish Councillors and key members of established stakeholder groups.

2.2 Main Issues Raised

10 challenges were identified which formed the basis of the front runner funding bid. The 10 challenges being:

- To address the needs of our ageing residents and young people under the community right to build we should consider the possibility of a small development of semi sheltered homes and starter homes.
- To decided how can we develop the viability of our shops and possibly bring back a Post Office.
- To co-ordinate the Village leisure activities.
- To address the expectations of our young people.
- To consider what are our expectations regarding Transport and the commuter traffic in the Village.
- To decide how we should both protect and develop our trees and woodlands and also our footpaths and buildings of interest.
- To consider what action we should take to protect our homes and develop community policing.
- To develop a plan to reduce carbon emissions firstly with our public buildings and then with our homes and also to consider how we can work together to reduce costs.
- To consider the role of the Church in the Village.
- To look to improve communications and internet connectivity

The above event lead to the creation of a Steering Group (Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group). Members of the group coming from established stakeholder groups within the village, elected Parish, District and County Council members, and

individuals who expressed an interest in developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Stonnall.

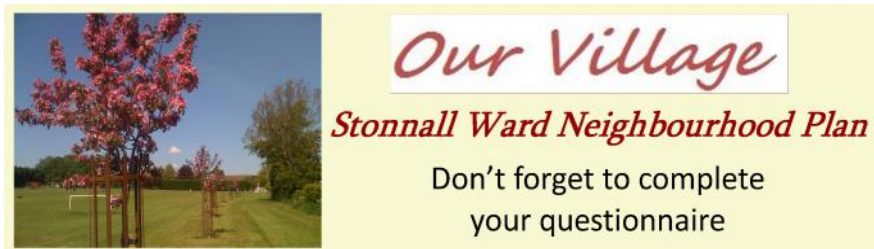
A subsequent successful application to designate a neighbourhood area was made and the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area was designated in February 2013.

3.0 RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE - JULY/ AUGUST 2013

In July 2013, three types of survey were circulated to consult with as many local residents, businesses and groups as possible.

3.1 Who was consulted

- Residents' survey: posted to each household in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area with a prepaid return envelope provided to encourage responses. The survey could also be completed online. The survey ran from 1st August to 16th September. The residents' questionnaire was publicised via the village news section of the Lichfield Mercury and 4 large banners located throughout the Ward to raise awareness and encourage responses. 267 responses were received (237 paper copies and 30 online) giving a 42% return rate.



- Groups' Survey: distributed as a paper copy only during August 2013 by a member of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group who visited all existing community groups within Stonnall Neighbourhood Area. All the groups responded with 15 completed questionnaires returned.
- Business Survey: hand delivered as a paper version by District Council Officers in September 2013 with an online form also available. The survey ran from 4th to 30th September. 7 businesses completed the survey out of 19 distributed giving a 37% return rate
- St Peter's Primary School, the village school was also engaged to ensure the views of the younger generation were captured. A session to understand what was seen as good and bad in the village was undertaken on behalf of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group by Lichfield District Officers with a focus group of children who lived within the village. In addition a wider 'post card' from Stonnall was completed with the whole school.

3.2 How People were Consulted

The front of the questionnaire clearly attributed it to the Neighbourhood Plan and also provided a clear guide to the neighbourhood planning process explaining why the views of the residents were needed at this point and what their views would be used to shape.

The surveys included topics based around the issues raised at the first Village Meeting held in June 2011 and the subsequent Front Runner documentation. The survey contained sections on:

- About You
- Ward Views
- Village Facilities
- Sustainability
- Helping Out

- Community Safety
- Transport and Highways
- Housing

The issues and concerns were collated in a detailed report of the consultation event. The report entitled Consultation Report is available at Appendix B.

The methodology included a variety of tick boxes and literal responses to allow peoples likes, dislikes and thoughts to be collected. These issues along with subsequent survey results formed the basis of the policies developed for the Neighbourhood Area.

3.3 Main Issues Raised

- Speeding traffic and the use of Stonnall village as a rat run emerges as an issue throughout the consultation.
- Stonnall suffers with regard to public transport with a poor bus service in terms of reliability and a limited number of services with no evening services. There is also only one service which runs from Aldridge to Lichfield, and no other large conurbations.
- Many people would like to see an improvement in the range of shops available within Stonnall Village citing a post office as a necessity with chemists, butchers, bakers and café as desirable.
- The post office by far is demonstrated as the most inaccessible service followed by hospitals and the train station. It appears that the infrequent daytime, non existent evening bus services and limited routes leads to residents not being able to travel to where the required services are located.
- It has been demonstrated that Stonnall Neighbourhood Area has an ageing population. To ensure the sustainability of the village it needs to include a good age range including young families as well as older people and affordable homes/ homes to house this age range are required.
- Most people setting up new households (60%) will move out of the area and will house/flat share and/or rent from a private landlord.
- The majority of people (82%) are unlikely to move in the next 5 years.
- Stonnall Neighbourhood Area has a good range of clubs and activities however clubs for younger people and more events (including improved advertising of such) were suggested. The clubs also need to broaden the age range of their membership and committees to ensure their longevity.
- Stonnall Neighbourhood Area residents want to retain the rural feel and setting of the Neighbourhood Area and the main future concern is large scale and inappropriate housing development.
- The speed bumps have been identified as inappropriate method of traffic calming by the majority of respondents.
- People are concerned about the lack of street lighting in some areas especially up to the church (along with the poor pavement).
- The Group surveys identified that the Youth and Community Centre was most in need of maintenance and the Village Hall is over subscribed. Some groups suggested that by increasing the space within the hall this would improve its usage (also reiterated by the Village Hall Committee) with additional facilities such as changing rooms also suggested.
- The Business surveys echo the comments about a poor bus service which impacts on their business and suggest signage on the main roads to identify the village centre.
- The main issue for primary school aged children in the ward is dog poo and speeding traffic.

3.4 Feedback Event

On 9th November 2013, all residents of Stonnall Neighbourhood Area were invited to an open event to enable the presentation of the results of the Residents, Businesses and Groups Questionnaire. The event also provided an opportunity for those who attended to provide further detail and clarification about the main issues identified. This ensured that the questionnaire responses had been interpreted correctly and that the issues identified were clearly based in local knowledge. The event was advertised in the Village Voice section of the Lichfield Mercury and with 4 banners and 20 posters distributed around the Neighbourhood Area. Over 90 people signed the attendance sheet.



The event was facilitated by Officers from Lichfield District Council and the members of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group. The event was also attended for a short time by the local MP.

At the feedback event there was also information available about what a Neighbourhood Plan is, the process required to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and how it fits into the wider planning policy context.

3.4.1 How People Were Consulted at the Feedback Event

Having been welcomed, people were asked to sign in, and invited to look at the information on the exhibition boards summarising the results of the survey questionnaire. On boards at the end of the display, additional questions were also posed which expanded on issues raised through the residents' survey with written contributions on 'Post It' notes encouraged. The additional questions were:

- Where is your GP and why?
- Where do you currently access Post Office services?
- What would you suggest instead of speed humps?
- What do you think the Village Hall needs to service the Ward in the future?'
- Where do you think is the best location in Stonnall Neighbourhood Area for new housing?
- The questionnaire responses suggest that HGV routes through the ward are an issue. Do you agree with this and if so, which roads/routes do the HGV's
- Any other issues you would like to highlight?

The results of this additional consultation was incorporated as Section 8 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B), and provided additional detail which helped to inform the development of the Neighbourhood Plan policies.

Further feedback was provided to the residents of the Neighbourhood Area in the form of an A4 leaflet delivered to each household summarising the results of the survey and including the additional information gathered at the aforementioned event. This feedback leaflet can be found at Appendix C.



4.0 TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE - MARCH 2014

One of the main issues emerging from both Stonnall and Shenstone Neighbourhood Plans' respective consultations was the lack of reliable public transport, not travelling where residents needed to go or at the times when residents need to travel. A travel survey was designed in consultation with the Neighbourhood Plan groups to assess local bus and train service usage, its popularity and what additional services residents would like to see in the future. The introductory text of the travel questionnaire clearly stated that the information would be used to shape the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The information below deals solely with the results of the consultation for the Stonnall Neighbourhood Area.

4.1 How People were Consulted

The survey was distributed to all Stonnall Neighbourhood Area households along with prepaid return envelopes. The survey was also available to complete online. This survey achieved a 37% return rate for Stonnall Neighbourhood Area.

The survey comprised a variety of questions ranging from ranked questions, yes/no/no opinion and literal responses to ensure all issues and the level of opinion were captured. The questionnaire issued is contained within the full reports of the results and is appended at Appendix D.

4.2 Main Issues Raised

The main issues residents would like to be addressed are:

- The connectivity of the bus services to other bus routes, train stations and train services needs to be improved.
- An increased frequency of bus services as the 35B only runs every 2 hours, plus the introduction of earlier and later services on this and other routes.
- All trains to stop at Shenstone
- Improvements to the train service to Shenstone as the service is intermittent and unpredictable due to both the cancellation of trains and trains terminating before Shenstone station. This has been highlighted as a problem especially when the trains are well used by school children.
- The 112 and X12 timetable needs to be reviewed as a number of buses run at the same time.
- Trains to link to Lichfield Trent Valley station throughout the day as they currently only travel to and from Lichfield Trent Valley during commuter hours.
- Improvements to Shenstone station to include ticketing improvements and most importantly improved access to both platforms so they are accessible for all.
- An improved bus service to Lichfield would be used by 60% of respondents.

The full report is available at Appendix D.

5.0 DRAFT POLICY CONSULTATION – JUNE/ JULY 2014

As a result of the information gathered from the consultations, existing reports and planning policy, a series of policies were drafted, which would form the basis of the planning element of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and address the issues identified.

A consultation on these draft policies ran from 18th June 2014 until 26th July 2014 for Neighbourhood Area residents to consider. The consultation was again advertised through banners and fliers delivered to each house. It was launched at the Stonnall Village Fair on 21st June 2014 where members of the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan Group supported by officers from Lichfield District Council manned a display, distributed questionnaires, explained the displays and outlined the neighbourhood planning process and where the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan was within that process.



5.1 How People were Consulted

The Questionnaire was available on line and in hard copy on request and can be found at Appendix E. The introductory text to the questionnaire outlined what a Neighbourhood Plan was where the questionnaire fitted into the Stonnall Neighbourhood Plan process and what the questionnaire returns would be used to shape. Each section had a précis of the evidence taken from the evidence base summary, (completed as part of the development of the neighbourhood plan) and a summary of the main issues/opportunities that had been identified by the community during previous consultation events. The evidence was followed by the draft policies with agree/disagree/no opinion and an opportunity to provide a comment or suggested amendment to the draft policy.

At this early stage the draft policies were also sent to the statutory consultees listed at Appendix F to ensure that any issues could be addressed prior to the pre-submission consultation.

5.2 Main Issues Raised

14 questionnaires were returned representing the views of 30 residents. The only 'disagrees' were by 3 no people to the draft housing policies H2 and H3 which covers small scale affordable housing development and housing easily adapted for older people. The reasons stated for 'disagree' being that there are already affordable houses in Stonnall and therefore no more need to be built. The results of the draft policy consultation is at Appendix G.

5.3 Issues raised by Statutory Consultees

No comments were received from the majority of statutory consultees other than English Heritage, Natural England and Lichfield District Council's Housing Officer and Planning Policy Officer. Their comments were addressed and the relevant policies amended and additional policies included in response to their comments. These amendments are shown at Appendix H.

6.0 PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

The consultation strategy was designed to ensure as wide a possible cross-section of the Neighbourhood Area's population was engaged, and provided a variety of different ways for people to get involved and make comment. The consultation was again advertised through banners and fliers delivered to each house.



The publication information and the introduction to the questionnaires provided the community with the Neighbourhood Plan context for the area and was clear about how the responses would be used to shape the final Plan.

6.1 How People were Consulted

The pre-submission consultation, the statutory consultation stage in accordance with Regulation 14 ran for 8 weeks from 10th November 2014 to 5th January 2015. The consultation was launched at an event on 14th November 2014 in Stonnall Village Hall where the Neighbourhood Plan, Village Design Statement and questionnaires were available. In addition a questionnaire (Appendix I) was posted out to each household within the Neighbourhood Area which made clear that hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement were available on request as well as on line. Each questionnaire was accompanied by a prepaid return envelope and a flier about the 14th November event.

The pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan and design statement were sent to statutory consultees via email and letter. The list of consultees is included at Appendix J.

6.2 Number of responses

28 questionnaires were returned representing the views of 65 residents of the Neighbourhood Area. Over half of the respondents were aged 65 and above.

Responses were also received from Natural England, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, Lichfield District Council, Brooke Smith Planning and the Coal Authority.

6.3 Main Issues Raised

A number of statements were received and have been noted. A detailed list of these comments and how they have been considered is included at Appendix K.

