



**Loggerheads**  
Parish Council



# **Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan**

**2013-2033**

**Version 2.20 “Made” 15 February  
2019**

## Foreword

This is the 'Made' version of the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan, following successful Referendum in January 2019 and the earlier draft plan. It reflects the hard work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group over the last three years and the commitment of Loggerheads Parish Council to the principles and practice of "Localism". However, it is your involvement and support that has been most valuable.

Following the successful outcome at referendum on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan has now been 'made' by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and forms part of the development plan for the area, together with the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006 – 2026 (adopted October 2009), the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2003), the Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire(2015 -2030) and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Local Plan (2010 to 2026). To the extent that development plan policies are material to the determination of a planning application or an appeal. the decision must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise.

The Plan came through the independent examination with its intent and purpose intact, the only changes being to some words in the policies.

In September 2015 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, designated the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Area. This comprised the entire area of Loggerheads Parish. Throughout this plan, 'Loggerheads' refers to the entire parish and neighbourhood plan area. The term 'Loggerheads Village' refers to that settlement only and not the entire parish.

The production of the Neighbourhood Plan has been led by the Parish Council, with input from residents and external consultants.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be in force until the end of 2033, unless it is revised and replaced before that time.

The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan reflects local evidence and the comments received from questionnaires and surveys that have been undertaken during 2015-16. It is evident that people are happy living in the parish, but have a desire to make improvements where appropriate. The policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan seek to address key concerns relating to housing, transport, heritage, economy and sport, health and community facilities.

# Acknowledgements

This document has been developed and produced by the Parish Council, working with a community group of volunteers with wide ranging skills and backgrounds.

The Parish Council would like to thank the volunteers who made up the Neighbourhood Plan Group, who gave up their time to see this project through from an idea to a finished plan.

The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group would like to thank the whole community for participating in the process and for coming together and supporting the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Team would like to thank the following in preparation of the documents:

- Ros Grimes for help and advice with the residents questionnaire and in writing the Residents' Survey Report
- Rosie Duncan who was our cartographer
- Andy Perkin who was our Community and Enterprise Consultant
- Dave Chetwyn of Urban Vision Enterprise CIC who was our professional planning consultant funded by the DCLG grant and the Parish Council
- Helen Beech, Claire Coombs, Janet Belfield and Mark Kirk from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council for guidance and support on matters relating to neighbourhood planning
- Staff from AECOM for the Strategic Environment Assessment

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All can be found at [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)

<b>1</b>	Loggerheads Housing Needs Assessment 2016 (file name N Plan housing & pop projections amended v5 final June 16) including Appendix A Loggerheads Parish Needs Survey Report 2012.
<b>1a</b>	Update to Loggerheads Housing Needs Assessment July 2017.
<b>2</b>	Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan Residents survey report 2016 final Inc. Appendix A: Loggerheads Parish Needs Survey Report 2012
<b>3</b>	Key Messages from Residents Survey Loggerheads
<b>4</b>	Business Survey Report Final Version
<b>5</b>	Young People's Questionnaire 2016
<b>6</b>	Loggerheads Rural Place Profile ACRE, OCSI 2013
<b>7</b>	Character Assessment October 2016
<b>8</b>	Environmental Characteristics
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<b>10</b>	Local Green Space Designation
<b>11</b>	Heritage Assets for Ashley, Loggerheads, Mucklestone and Tyrley Wards
<b>12</b>	Briefing note for Health and Wellbeing
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<b>15</b>	Neighbourhood Statement Final 3
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<b>17</b>	Annex B Neighbourhood Statement
<b>18</b>	Newcastle under Lyme Council Issues Consultation Response March 2016
<b>19</b>	Loggerheads Feasibility Project (for community facility) Feb 2017

<b>20</b>	Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Joint Local Plan evidence documents Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2015
<b>21</b>	NuLBC Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update 2017
<b>22</b>	NuLBC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment SHLAA 2017 Final Report
<b>23</b>	NuLBC Appendix A Part 1 SHLAA Site schedule
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<b>25</b>	Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy Final Feb 2015
<b>26</b>	Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Open Space Strategy Final 2017
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<b>31</b>	Map of Saved policies for rural area 2009 (Adopted 2003)
<b>32</b>	Staffordshire County Council Planning for Landscape Change: Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan, 1996 – 2011 Volume 3: Landscape Descriptions
<b>33</b>	Aecom Loggerheads N Plan SEA Scoping Report Final
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## Section 1: Introduction

### 1.1 What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Localism Act of 2011 gave new rights and powers to communities. It introduced Neighbourhood Planning into the hierarchy of planning in England giving communities the right to shape their future development at a local level. Once “made”, it is part of the statutory development plan for the area and decisions must be made in accordance with the policies of the neighbourhood plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework of 2012 states at paragraph 183 “Neighbourhood Planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need...Neighbourhood Planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right type of development for their community. The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned to the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area”.

All Neighbourhood Plans must meet the ‘Basic Conditions’. These are:

- have regard to national planning policy
- contribute to achieving sustainable development
- be in general conformity with strategic local policies for the area
- be compatible with EU obligations.

Neighbourhood plans must also conform to human rights legislation.

In addition to being part of the statutory development plan, a Neighbourhood Plan can also help the Parish Council decide priorities for the parish and give guidance when making decisions on behalf of the parish. In producing a Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council would have to:

- demonstrate extensive consultation and community engagement to ensure that residents’ views about how they want the area to develop are fully reflected in the submitted Neighbourhood Plan

- identify and take account of local evidence, including the settlement's history, features, environment, demographics and socio-economic data
- take into account the impact of recent planning decisions.

## **1.2 The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan**

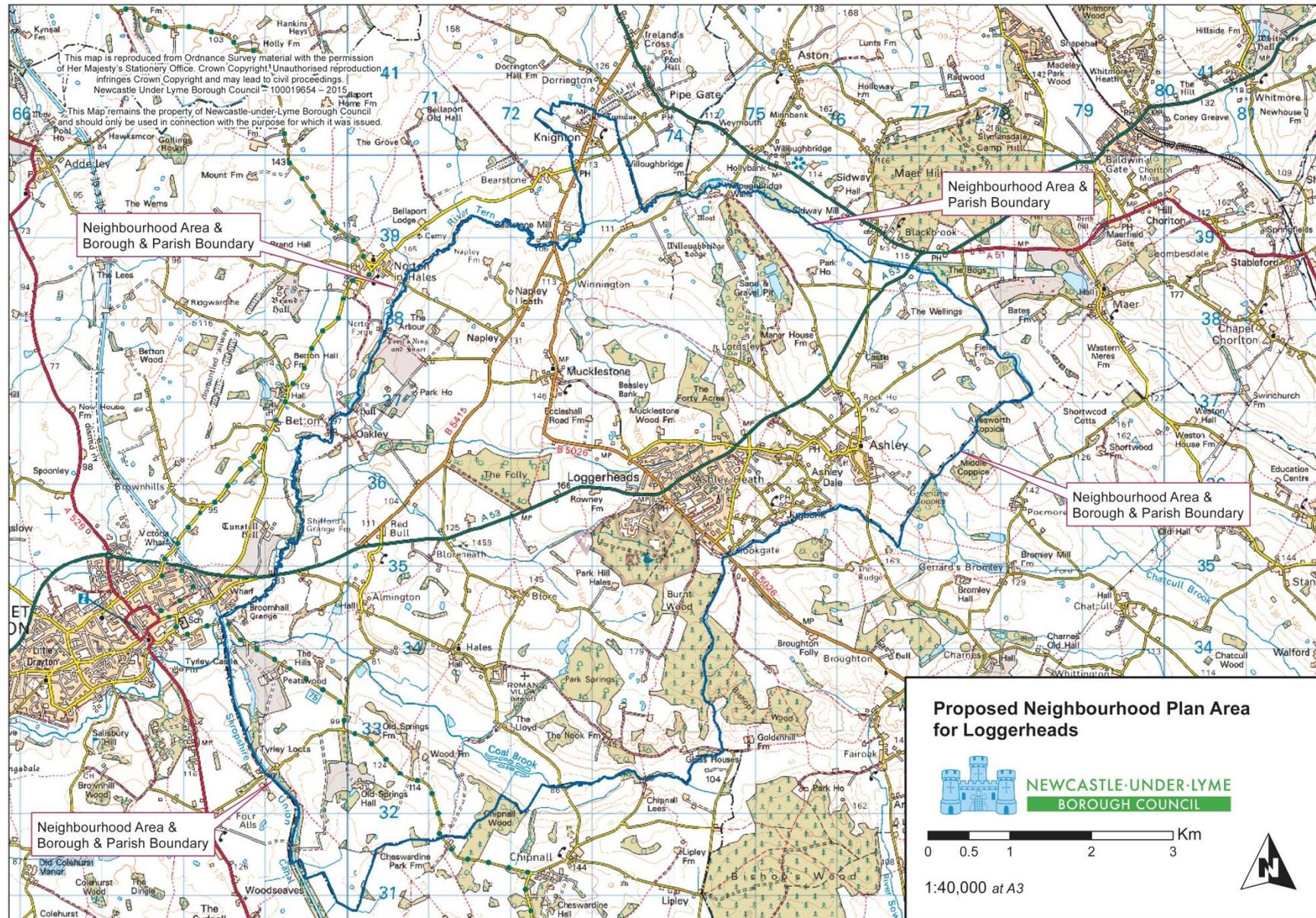
The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan contains policies for future development of this parish, which occupies a significant area in the south and west of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme (the rural south), which is within the county of Staffordshire. It has borders with Shropshire and is close to Cheshire.

The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan, together with the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006 – 2026 (adopted October 2009), the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2003) and the Saved Policies of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan (Adopted 2003) will form the statutory development plan for the area. The Borough Council is working on a new Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent which is due to be published in 2020 and will supersede the current adopted plan. Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This gives real weight to the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **1.3 What Area does the Plan Cover?**

The Plan covers the whole of the parish of Loggerheads which includes the wards of Ashley, Loggerheads, Mucklestone and Tyrley. Map 1 below shows the plan and parish boundary.

**Map 1: Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area for Loggerheads**



## 1.4 Time-scale of the Plan

The duration of the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan is from 2013 to the end of 2033, a period to match the period of the Joint Local Plan.

## 1.5 Monitoring and Revising the Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed following the publication of the Joint Local Plan and then monitored by the Parish Council at intervals during the plan life, adopting a similar cycle to the Joint Local Plan, i.e. Every 3 to 5 years as appropriate. Any revisions that are required due to significant changes will be underpinned by an updated evidence base and be subject to consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. Details will be published on the Parish Council website. [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)

## 1.6 Neighbourhood Plan Process

Neighbourhood plans must be based on relevant evidence about the neighbourhood area and must reflect the views of the local community. The Parish Council has therefore been careful to gather the necessary evidence to inform the Neighbourhood Plan and to underpin the policies in it.

The Neighbourhood Plan itself has been led by the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, which is made up of Parish Councillors and Parishioners. In producing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group has been supported by neighbourhood planning specialists, Urban Vision Enterprise CIC, Aecom and a specialist in community engagement, Andy Perkin. Throughout the process the Steering Group has liaised with Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, which has provided advice on key issues such as strategic local policy and housing needs.

The Parish Council has organised and delivered many informal consultation events to gauge local opinion at key stages in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition a draft Neighbourhood Plan was the subject of a 6-week period of statutory consultation (Regulation 14).

After this formal consultation period the Neighbourhood Plan Group considered all the representations received and decided how to respond to them. This included making appropriate modifications to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The amended Neighbourhood Plan, was then be submitted to Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, along with a Consultation Statement and a Basic Conditions Statement, explaining how the Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the defined legal requirements.

It is the Borough Council’s duty to check whether the Neighbourhood Plan has followed the proper legal process and that it meets the basic conditions. The Borough Council was satisfied in this regard and publicised the Neighbourhood Plan under Regulation 16. This invited representations from the public and from statutory consultees. At this stage comments must focus on whether the Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the basic conditions.

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council then appointed an independent examiner, in agreement with the Parish Council, to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions.

The independent examiner prepared a report for the Borough Council which was shared openly with the Parish Council, recommending 13 modifications. The Borough Council, in consultation with the Parish Council, adopted the modifications and then arranged for a referendum to take place. All people on the electoral register who live in the Neighbourhood Area (parish of Loggerheads) were entitled to vote in the referendum.

The results of the referendum held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were as follows:

Response	Votes	% of Total
YES	807	91%
NO	79	8.9%
Turnout	24.9%	

1 ballot paper was returned as “unmarked or void for uncertainty”

As more than 50% of the votes case supported the Neighbourhood Plan and the Borough Council assessed that its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with any EU obligations or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning

of the Human Rights Act 1998) the Council made (brought into force) the Neighbourhood Plan on 15th February 2019.

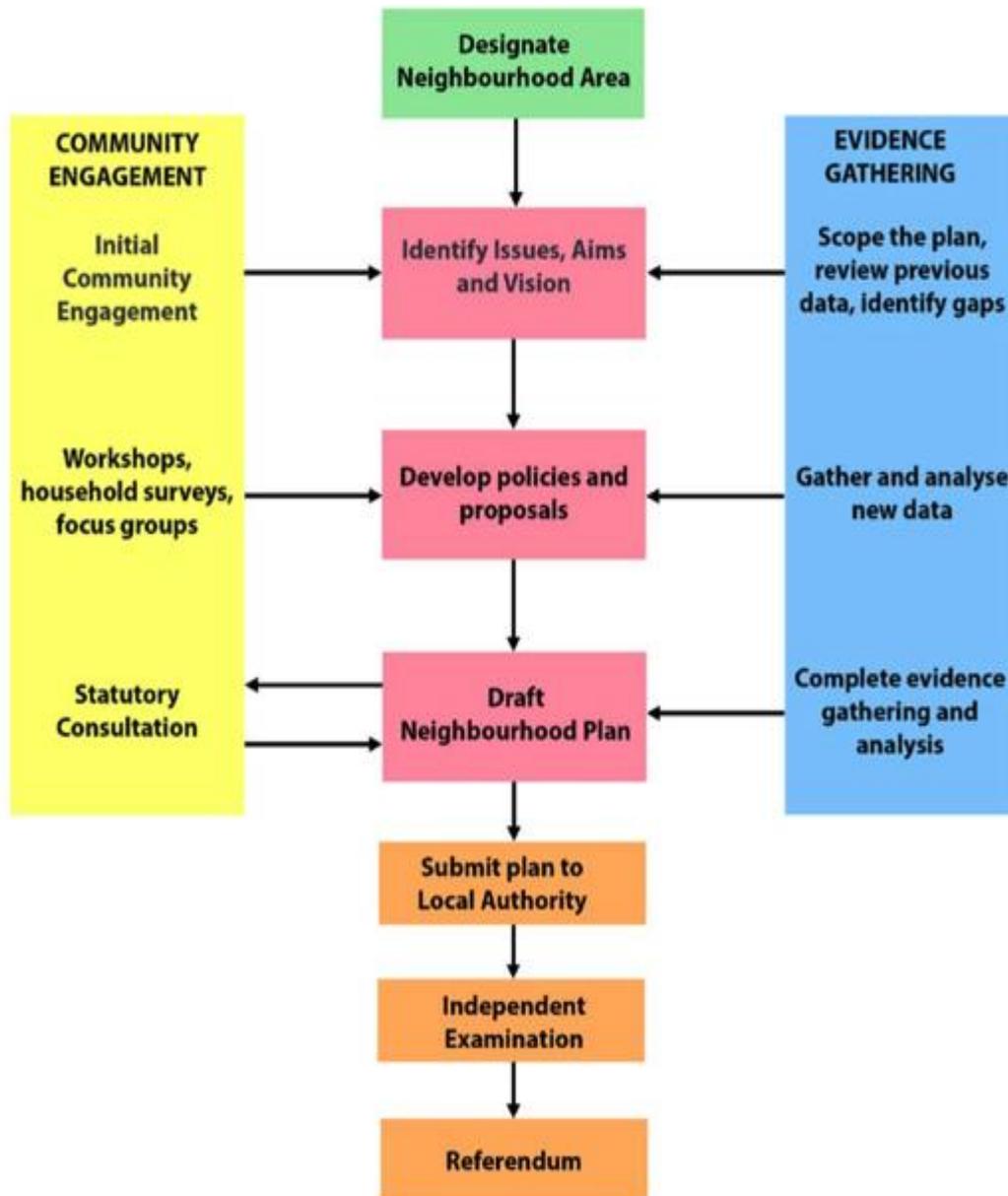
Table 1 below shows the timetable followed for this plan, which has been updated several times to account for changes. Table 2 illustrates the process that is required to be followed for this plan. Note that this section and table 1 have been updated post examination and referendum, merely setting out the timetable post examination and are covered by Examiner’s modification 13.

**Table 1: Timetable for Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan**

<b>Spring/Summer 2015</b>	Publicity and early engagement
<b>Summer 2015</b>	Application for designation of plan area
<b>Summer onwards</b>	Understanding the area - Data and evidence collection and interpretation
<b>Winter 2015/Spring 2016</b>	Residents, young people and business survey
<b>Summer 2016</b>	Identification of issues, vision and aims – Consultation
<b>Summer 2016</b>	Plan Creation - Bringing together all the evidence and consultation results
<b>Autumn 2016</b>	Submission of draft to Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council for screening for Environmental Impact
<b>April 2017</b>	Screening opinion presented to Neighbourhood Plan Group
<b>May/October 2017</b>	Preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment. Review policies
<b>Nov/Dec 2017</b>	Draft Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission consultation (6 weeks) - testing proposals for the future development of the village and surrounding countryside
<b>Dec – February 2018</b>	Plan Amendment and Finalisation & submission to Local Authority
<b>March/April 2018</b>	Submission consultation (6 weeks)
<b>September/October 2018</b>	Habitats Regulations Screening Report amended & re-consulted on
<b>October 2018</b>	Examination - An Independent Examiner tested the Plan

10 January 2019	Referendum
15 February 2019	Made - Plan given full weight by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

**Table 2: Main Stages of the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan Process:**



## Section 2: Vision and Aims

### 2.1 The Vision

The following Vision encapsulates the main issues identified by evidence on the local area and issues raised by the community. It was important that residents felt that this statement reflected their wishes for the parish over the lifetime of this Plan. Residents were asked to endorse the Vision at a public forum on 7 June 2016.

**To create an enhanced sustainable rural community that provides for people of all ages**

### 2.2 Aims

The vision is supported by five aims, which are then translated into the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Aim 1: Heritage & Place**

To promote, protect and enhance natural and built heritage and improve access where this does not conflict with conservation of the assets.

#### **Aim 2: Transport & Movement**

To enhance and maintain local walking routes, access to public transport and connections to local towns and employment centres without reliance on cars.

#### **Aim 3: Housing**

To provide a sustainable place to live with a range of housing that meets local needs.

#### **Aim 4: Health & Wellbeing**

To cultivate social cohesion and healthy lifestyles through the provision of public, recreational and community spaces.

#### **Aim 5: Economy**

To provide and create an environment that is attractive to employment and visitors.

## Section 3: Context and General Data

### 3.1 History of the Parish of Loggerheads

The Parish of Loggerheads was formed in 1984 as a result of the Local Government boundary review. The three parishes of Tyrley, Mucklestone and Ashley were merged into one and this ended an era in local government, which commenced with the original act of 1894. The history of the villages and hamlets within the Parish goes back much further, the archaeological evidence, mostly from stray finds, suggests human activity from the Neolithic – Bronze Age and from the ancient site of the Roman Courtyard Villa (late first century) in Hales, to the site of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Battle of Blore Heath and more recently the Sanatorium at Loggerheads.

### 3.2 Strategic Context

Loggerheads is a civil parish of 4,790 hectares with a population in 2011 of 4,480, living in 1,860 households. It is located on the southern-most edge of Newcastle under Lyme Borough, in the county of Staffordshire. It makes up 22.7% of the borough's acreage and 3.6% of its population. Together with Whitmore, Maer & Aston and Chapel Chorlton Loggerheads is referred to as the "Rural South" by the Borough Council. It is made up of 4 wards (Ashley, Loggerheads, Mucklestone and Tyrley) and includes the historic villages of Ashley, Knighton and Hales and the compact and attractive hamlet of Mucklestone, which has a Conservation Area. Loggerheads village is the biggest settlement and has developed in the last 40 years around what was the Loggerheads Hotel and the Cheshire Sanatorium.

The rural villages, with limited local employment, make it a residential commuter base with reasonable road links to centres of employment in Stoke, Crewe, Stafford and further afield. The A53 runs through the parish from North Staffordshire to Shropshire. The south east border of the parish is the county boundary and the Shropshire Union Canal. The area is mainly agricultural land, with some large tracts of woodland. There is a small scale retail centre in Loggerheads village. The area is abundant with well used public footpaths and horse tracks.

### 3.3 Environmental Characteristics

#### 3.3.1 Settlement Features

The villages of Mucklestone, Knighton, Hales and Ashley have developed over centuries and residents are keen to ensure that significant developments in these areas would enhance and not be detrimental to the heritage and landscape quality of the area. Loggerheads village has seen significant growth in the past 20 years and residents are keen to see that a measured pace of growth continues so that village services and infrastructure can keep up with demand. Loggerheads village clearly developed along the main roads to settlements in Newcastle and Shrewsbury.



#### Aerial View of Loggerheads village

#### 3.3.2 Historic Character

The majority of present-day villages and hamlets within the plan area date from before the Domesday Survey of 1086. These are:

- Ashley
- Mucklestone
- Knighton
- Winnington
- Tyrley
- Almington
- Oakley



Aerial View of Ashley



Aerial View of Knighton

The largest settlement is Loggerheads village itself, which developed mainly in recent decades, there being no historic centre. Other hamlets include Napley, Blore, Hales and Willoughbridge.

The area contains:

Designated and protected heritage assets

- 79 listed buildings (78 at grade II and 1 at grade II\*)
- 6 scheduled monuments
- 2 conservation areas
- 1 registered battlefield at Blore Heath 1459
- 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Non-designated heritage assets

- 127 archaeological sites and monuments recorded by Staffordshire Historic Environment Record, managed by Staffordshire County Council including 79 extant historic farmsteads (pre-dating 1900)
- 10 non-designated assets registered by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
- 6 non-designated assets identified by Loggerheads Parish Council

A book showing all of these heritage assets has been produced and can be viewed by ward on the parish council website [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)

The area is skirted to the West by Telford's Shropshire Union Canal, built in 1835 and notable for its extensive use of embankments and cuttings. The natural watercourses comprise the Coal Brook, which rises at a spring near Bishop's Wood in the East of the area and flows under the canal aqueduct to join the River Tern at Market Drayton. The Tadgedale Brook, formerly Bloreedale Brook, which rises to the East of Loggerheads and joins the River Tern near Shifford's Grange and the Hempmill Brook which flows through the Blore Heath battle site and also joins the Tern. The River Tern flows from its source at Maer in the neighbouring parish to the east and extends some 30 miles to join the River Severn near Attingham.



**Tyrley Top Lock on the Shropshire Union Canal**

### 3.3.3 Natural Character

There is a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the Burntwood in Loggerheads village, comprised of several ancient woodland blocks within a wider area of ancient woodland. Ancient woodlands have been in situ since at least 1600 and are among the rarest and most diverse habitats in Britain and are considered irreplaceable. Loggerheads Parish boasts a significant group of these woodlands many of which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites and which complement SSSIs in protecting biodiversity. The Parish is within the wooded Quarter Ecosystem Area in the

Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan where the priorities are to protect, expand and join up native woodland and wood pastures and parkland. Maintaining and enhancing the hedgerow network contributes to linking woodlands together and allowing rare and protected species to move through the landscape to feed and to breed.

### **3.3.4 Landscape Character**

Staffordshire County Council's 'Planning for Landscape Change: Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan, 1996 – 2011 identifies two Landscape Character Types within the Plan area, Sandstone Hills and Heath (Farmland and Estateland variants) and Sandstone Estatelands. The Sandstone Hills and Heaths types occupy higher, often strongly undulating ground to the south of the area, with characteristic intimate steep sided wooded valleys; small woodlands and copses; and ancient narrow sunken lanes with sandstone banks. The more open Sandstone Estatelands lies in the west of the Plan area, and is an area of more intensive arable farming, again with woodland cover but where hedges are in decline and being lost and where there are more open views.

Volume 3: Landscape Descriptions identifies the parish of Loggerheads as being within the Woodland Quarter of the Staffordshire Plain. The undulating landform is a unifying feature; to the west of the core area, approaching the boundary with north Shropshire, it supports a medium scale landscape with an intact field pattern and conifer woodlands on a pronounced rolling landform. To the south it develops into an elevated plateau of intensive farmland and dispersed hamlets. This is an area of scattered woods and regular to semi-regular medium sized fields. The mixed arable and pastoral farming, with few trees, sculpted hedges and strong landform, results in extensive views across the landscape. Broadleaved woodlands have more effect in dictating scale in these areas, though never enough to interrupt views across them. Small winding lanes are a general feature of the Quarter.

There is some evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement, but the irregular field pattern, the lack of nucleated villages and the preponderance of woodland-type names all suggest that the present landscape is the result of gradual colonisation of an area that was once wooded. No particular date can be determined for this colonisation, but it may have continued up until the

early modern period. In effect, it may have ended with the final enclosure, by agreement or by Act, of the remaining open heaths and commons.

There are large Forest Enterprise woodlands, mainly of Corsican Pine at the Burntwood. The Burntwood is an ancient woodland site; a semi-natural remnant of former simple oak coppice with both native species and hybrids surviving.

*Planning for Landscape Change* assigned policy objectives, derived from the assessment of factors such as representation and condition of characteristic landscape features, time depth, and the occurrence of semi-natural habitat. Much of the Plan area falls within policy objectives of Landscape Maintenance and Active Landscape Conservation, indicating strong representation of characteristic features in good condition. In addition much of the Plan area to the south and west of Loggerheads village and around and to the east of Ashley were identified of highest sensitivity to change. This supports objectives of landscape protection and enhancement.

### **3.3.5 Landscape Uses**

Of the 4,790 hectares total area, around 4,100, or in excess of 85%, comprise agricultural land. There is no Grade 1 agricultural land, 25% is Grade 2, 65% is Grade 3 and 10% is Grade 4. The settled areas account for around 220 hectares, or less than 5%, while woodland occupies 420 hectares (9%) of which 280 hectares are ancient or early woodland (6%) and 140 hectares are plantations (3%). Areas affected by mineral extraction account for less than 1%. Maps showing the main landscape uses present in the plan area can be seen on the Parish Council website [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)

All land outside the settlement boundaries of the main villages is classified by the planning authority as “open countryside” and afforded some protection from non-agricultural development under saved policies of the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011 H1 and N17. About 90% of the parish’s 4,790 hectares is in this category (open countryside) but less than 20% of the dwellings are outside settlement boundaries.

The area benefits from a number of stunning landscape views across Shropshire to the Wrekin and the Welsh mountains and across Staffordshire to the South and to the Maer Hills to the East.

There are a range of circular walks, which take advantage of those views, further routes are under development. These are actively promoted by the Parish Council.

## Views from the Parish

View from Hales south west towards Telford



View from White House Farm, Loggerheads across Shropshire to the Welsh Hills



## Views from the Parish

View from Ashley north-eastward towards the Maer Hills



### 3.3.6 Character Assessment

As part of the evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan Group undertook a character assessment for the neighbourhood plan area, i.e. the parish. The first step was to identify the broad character areas that exist in the local area. Character areas can be described as areas that have their own distinctive, individual character or “sense of place”. They are areas which share a similar appearance and feel as each other. The Group identified 6 character areas; Loggerheads village(1), Ashley Heath (2), Ashley village (3), Tyrley Conservation Area (4), Mucklestone Conservation Area (5). The rest of the parish has been combined into one overarching character area (6). These are described in full and can be found on the Parish Council website.

### 3.3.7 The Importance of Open Countryside for the Parish

The relatively unspoiled open countryside of the parish is important for the following reasons:

- The good network of public footpaths and quiet lanes (extending over fifty kilometres within the parish boundaries and with links further afield) provide a much-appreciated amenity for residents and visitors.
- Though the contribution of farming to the local economy and employment has decreased in recent decades, the continuation of farming is essential if the attractive and historic character of the landscape is to be preserved.
- The identity and individuality of the villages would be diminished if green land separating them from adjoining settlements were to be built over. The gap is now quite small between Ashley and Loggerheads village.
- A valuable resource drawing in visitors such as cyclists and walkers who spend time in the area and contribute to the rural economy.
- To enhance the views and settings of the villages for the benefit of residents and visitors.

### 3.3.8 Local Green Space Designations

This Neighbourhood Plan has designated local green spaces. The National Planning Policy Framework states:

“Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities”.

The criteria for designating Local Green Space in Neighbourhood Plans is set out in Paragraph 77 of the NPPF:

“The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land”.

In addition to these criteria, National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented”.

The green space assessment that led to the designations is on the website

<http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk/Pages/116/Evidence+for+the+Plan>

File: Local Green Space Designations V3.pdf

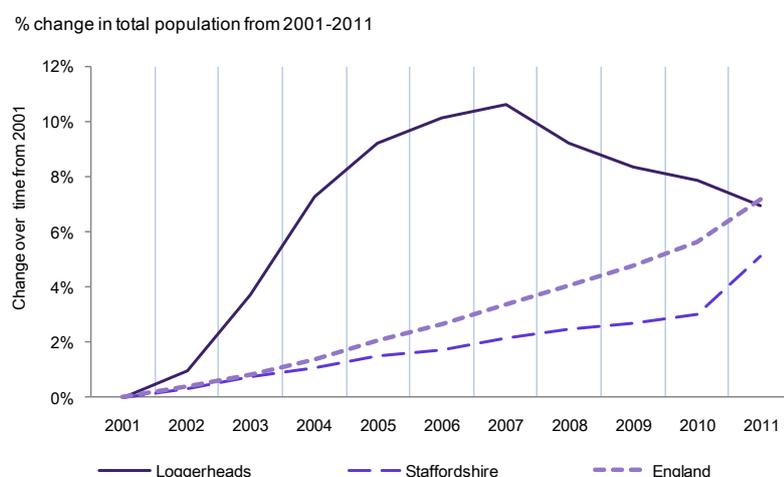
### 3.4 Key Socio-Economic Data

Unless otherwise stated, all of the data referred to in this section is taken from a Community profile for Loggerheads Parish ACRE, OCSI 2013 and relates to the 2011 census.

#### 3.4.1 Demographics

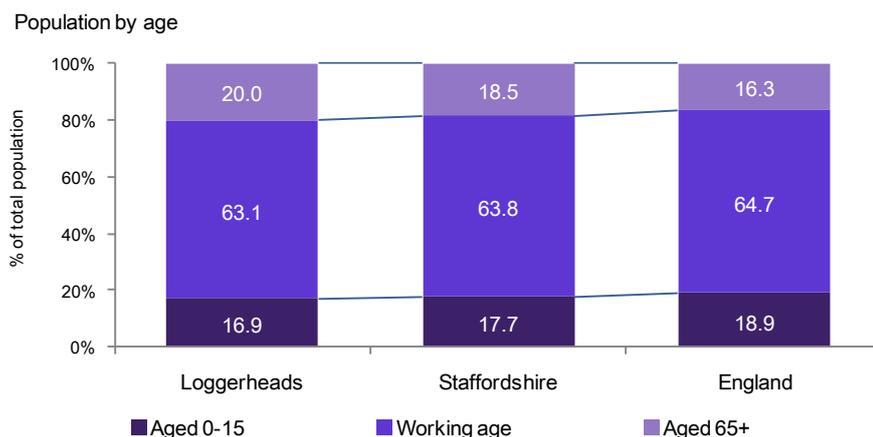
There were 4,480 people living in the parish of Loggerheads at the 2011 census. This was 6.8% more than in 2001 (4,193). Population growth has been slowing down since 2007. Table 3 below demonstrates this.

**Table 3: % Change in Population from 2001 -2011 showing a reduction since 2007**



There is a higher proportion of residents aged 65+ than the Staffordshire or England average and a lower proportion of children aged 0-15. There has been a significant reduction in the number of people age 30-44 (-11.6%) and a significant increase in the number aged over 60 (+53.8%) between 2001 and 2011. This is shown in table 4 below.

**Table 4: Population by Age 2011 showing higher proportion of 65+ in Loggerheads**



**3.4.2 Economy**

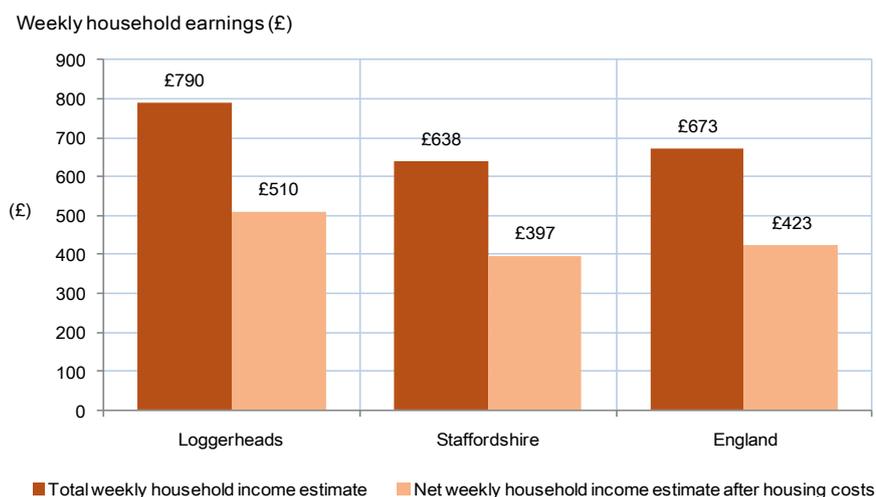
Loggerheads is less deprived than other areas and the average weekly household earnings are significantly higher. Table 5 and 6 below demonstrate this.

**Table 5: Deprivation in Loggerheads compared to England average 2011**

Number of people living in the most deprived 20% of areas in England	Working-age DWP benefit claimants	Households experiencing multiple deprivation (1)
<b>0</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>0</b>
-	9.8% of working age adults (England average = 13.9%)	0.0% of households (England average = 0.5%)

Source: IMD 2010 (CLG), Working age Benefits (DWP Aug-12), Multiple deprivation (Census 2011)

**Table 6: Weekly Household Earnings in Loggerheads, Staffordshire and England 2011**



### 3.4.3 Employment

There is a higher proportion of economically inactive residents (retired) and a higher proportion of people who are self-employed and work from home; a lower proportion of people who are unemployed (claiming job seekers allowance, 1.4% of working age adults compared to 3.8% in England). Table 7 shows this information.

**Table 7: Employment Characteristics for Loggerheads Compared to England average 2011**

Economically active residents <b>2,254</b> 66.7% of people aged 16-74 (England average = 69.9%)	Economically inactive residents <b>1,126</b> 33.3% of people aged 16-74 (England average = 30.1%)	Full-time employees <b>1,185</b> 35.1% of people aged 16-74 (England average = 38.6%)	Part-time employees <b>440</b> 13.0% of people aged 16-74 (England average = 13.7%)
Self-employed <b>448</b> 13.3% of people aged 16-74 (England average = 9.8%)	Working 49+ hours per week <b>443</b> 20.6% of people in employment (England average = 13.3%)	Working from home <b>235</b> 7.0% of people aged 16-74 (England = 3.5%)	Employed in the public sector <b>635</b> 29.6% of 2,070 people in employment (England = 28.2%)

The most recently available census shows that in 2011, 66.7% of Loggerheads residents were economically active compared to 69.9% in England. 52% of Loggerheads economically active residents were working in the sectors shown in Table 8 below, many outside the Parish. Only 4% work in agriculture.

**Table 8: Employment Types in Loggerheads, 2011**

Employment Type	%
Retail	16.7
Health and social work	12.8
Education	12.0
Manufacturing	10.8

Source: ONS, Census 2011

**3.4.4 Health**

There is a higher than average percentage of residents with a limiting long-term illness (aged 16-64) which will have an impact on local health services. There is a medical centre in Ashley which does not have capacity to register all residents; as a consequence many register with Market Drayton Primary Care Trust (5 miles distant and in Shropshire) or Madeley Health Centre (7 miles distant). Additionally, because patients are being treated by Shropshire Health they are required to travel excessive distances for Hospital appointments e.g. Oswestry for Orthopaedic care. All of this is compounded by poor public transport links. For the future, additional capacity is urgently required in the area, either by increasing the Ashley capacity or with an additional facility to service the Loggerheads community. Table 9 shows health characteristics for Loggerheads.

**Table 9: Health Characteristics for Loggerheads Compared to England Average, 2011**

Number of people living in health deprivation "hotspots"	People with a limiting long-term illness (aged 16-64)	Attendance Allowance claimants (aged 65+)	Disability Living Allowance claimants
0	390	115	215
-	13.8% of people aged 16-64 (England= 12.8%)	12.8% of people aged 65+ (England average = 16.7%)	4.8% of the population (England average = 5.1%)

Source: Indices of Deprivation 2010 Health domain, Limiting long-term illness (Census 2011), Attendance Allowance/Disability Living Allowance (DWP Aug-12)

**3.4.5 Transport**

There are typically fewer jobs in rural areas than urban, and those local jobs are often lower-paid than their urban counterparts. Many rural communities act as “commuter villages”, providing a higher quality of life for residents who commute to urban areas for work; although there can also be large numbers of people working from home.

Understanding how far people travel to work may help identify actions based on potential demand for local employment. The profile for Loggerheads is in table 10 below. Almost double the number of people work from home (14%) compared to the national average (8.7%), but there has been a reduction locally and nationally in this number. Only 21%

travel less than 10km to work compared to the Newcastle under Lyme average of 60%. Over double the Newcastle average travel up to 30km to work.

Only 1.3% of people in Loggerheads travel to work by public transport compared to 11.0% in England. 82% travel by car. This is not necessarily by choice; public transport serving the area is limited. There is one bus service that runs hourly Monday to Saturday from 7am till 7pm from Market Drayton to Newcastle under Lyme.

**Table 10: Distance Travelled to Work, Loggerheads, Newcastle under Lyme and England 2011**

<b>Location of work</b>	<b>Loggerheads</b>	<b>Newcastle under Lyme</b>	<b>England</b>
Less than 10km	21.2%	60.3%	52.3%
10km to less than 30km	50.8%	16.5%	21%
30km and over	9.7%	7.6%	8%
Work mainly at or from home	14.0%	8.7%	10.3%
Other	4.2%	6.9%	8.5%
Average distance travelled to work	20km	14.1km	14.9km

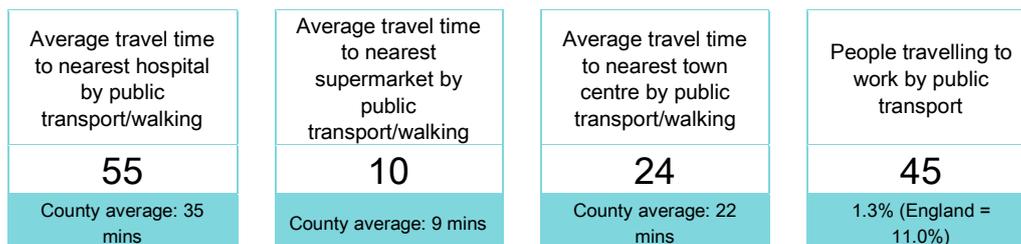
Source: ONS, Census 2011

**3.4.6 Distance to Key Services**

Access to services is a major factor in quality of life for people in rural communities, where services and amenities may be some distance away. This is especially likely to cause difficulties for people without cars or who are unable to drive, whose mobility is limited, and in areas where public transportation is poor.

Many rural communities have identified a lack of facilities and amenities as a priority locally. These facilities might include leisure facilities and meeting places for young people. Table 11 below shows the average travel time by public transport or walking to a range of services.

**Table 11: Average Travel Time to Key Services, Loggerheads Compared to Staffordshire, 2011**



Source: DfT 2011

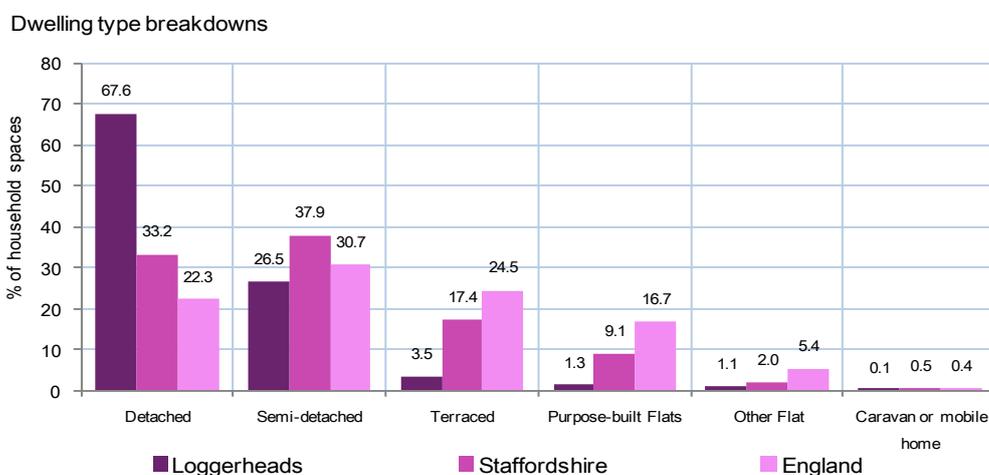
### 3.5 Land Use Data

#### 3.5.1 Housing

Between 2001 and 2011, the significant increase in Loggerheads has been in people living in detached properties. There has been a slight increase in flats and terraced properties. There are twice as many detached dwellings in Loggerheads compared to the Staffordshire and England average. There are a very small proportion of terraced dwellings and flats, shown in table 12 below.

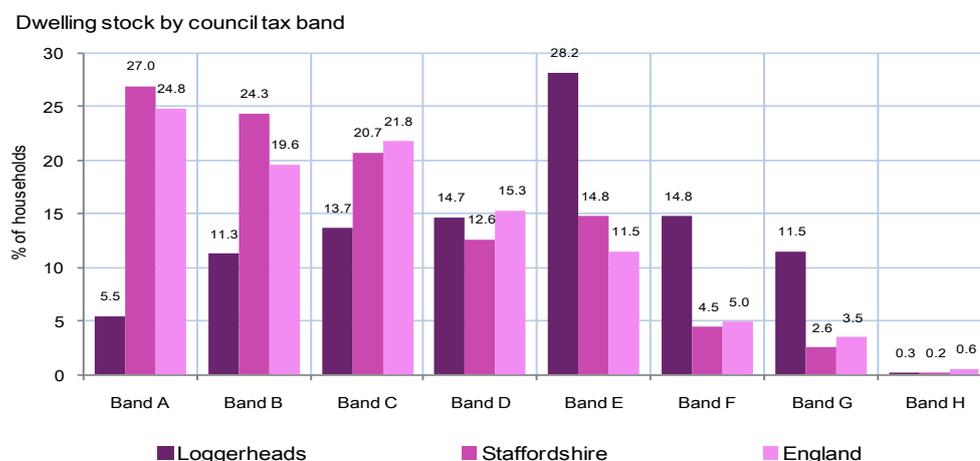
**Table 12: Dwelling Type Breakdowns, Loggerheads, Staffordshire and England, 2011**

Source: ONS, Census 2011



The number of properties in council tax Bands D, E and F (larger properties) is significantly higher than the Staffordshire average, shown in table 13 below.

**Table 13: Dwelling Stock by Council Tax Band Loggerheads, Staffordshire and England, 2011**



Source: ONS, Census 2011

### 3.5.2 Housing Need

The Housing Needs Assessment undertaken for Loggerheads in 2016 and updated in 2017 (which can be read in full on the parish council website [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)) indicates that there is currently a mismatch between local housing needs – which are very specific and that which is currently being provided, or is in the pipeline, which is in the main larger homes. The need is to cater for an ageing population, either downsizing or independent living opportunities such as bungalows and for the needs of young people and families, namely 1 or 2 bedroom houses.

From the Residents Survey, in terms of future housing development, there is a perceived need for starter homes (46%), smaller family homes (36%) and for homes for older people to move to (29%).

### 3.5.3 Key Routes

The area is bisected by a main transport route, the A53, which joins Shrewsbury in the West to Newcastle in the East. This is a major concern to Loggerheads residents due to traffic

noise and highway safety, the speed limit being routinely ignored. There is no obvious route for a potential by-pass. The Shropshire Union Canal is one of the busiest waterways in the country and is a significant heritage asset.

#### 3.5.4 Recreational Use/Sports Facilities

There is a single football pitch in the Burntwood which is too small to meet FA league rules, a cricket pitch at Hales and no other recreational space apart from a number of small play areas for children under 11, located in Ashley, Knighton, Almington and Loggerheads village. The nearest sporting and leisure facilities are located in Market Drayton, 5 miles from Loggerheads village, with only 1 bus per hour between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Taking into account the current population of nearly 4,500 there is deemed to be a shortfall of 25 acres of recreational amenity space, calculated using Fields in Trust benchmarking guidelines in terms of quantity. (This calculation is evidenced in the Feasibility Study for a Community Facility on the website [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)).



**Tadgedale Play Area**

#### 3.5.5 Community Facilities

There is one small retail centre in Loggerheads village with a Co-op food store, library, post office, pharmacy, pub, Chinese restaurant, butcher, hairdresser, vet, barber, dance studio, car sales and car wash. Ashley has a doctor's surgery, 2 pubs, Indian Restaurant, hairdresser a village hall and 3 churches. There are two primary schools, Hugo Meynell in Loggerheads village and St Mary's in Mucklestone.

There are four facilities throughout the parish, which can be used by the community for a range of events and functions.

- Ashley Memorial Hall, on the edge of Ashley, 1 km from Loggerheads village on an unlit road. Space for 150 people and a badminton court size. Used for a wide range of clubs and activities.
- Knighton Village Hall, in Knighton village. 1 hall with space for 60 people and small meeting room, used for a variety of club activities.
- Hales & District Club in Hales, 1 function room used for meetings and theatre.
- Oddfellows Hall, Ashley, in Ashley village, adjacent to and owned by the Catholic Church, 1 room for 50 people, used for meetings and small groups.

There is no dedicated facility in Loggerheads village where over 60% of the population lives. Local groups such as scouts and brownies use the school hall at the Hugo Meynell School in Loggerheads village. The community fire station in Loggerheads village, opened in April 2015, is also available for use for meetings and events such as coffee mornings with a capacity of 40 people. Map 15 in Section 6 shows the location of these facilities.

## Section 4: Community Engagement

### 4.1 The Process

The Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan was produced by the Parish Council and members of the community. In August 2015 residents were given information on Neighbourhood Planning and asked if they wished to take this opportunity to plan proactively for the challenges of the future. There was unanimous agreement to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan so that the community could ensure gradual, sustainable development to allow the local infrastructure and facilities to keep pace with the additional demands more housing will create. Over the next few months the Parish Council set about investigating what was required to produce a robust, evidence-based Neighbourhood Plan. Newsletters and the Parish Council website were used to publicise the process and several requests were made for volunteers from the community to participate in the exercise. The Parish Council applied for designation of the neighbourhood area, which was granted in September 2015. In October 2015 the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was held, made up of 9 Parish Councillors and 9 volunteers, formed to oversee the development of the Plan. Its contents reflect the views of the community following surveys and extensive consultation over the period.

### 4.2 Activities

#### 4.2.1 Local Consultation

The Neighbourhood Plan belongs to the residents of the parish of Loggerheads. It has been developed from the views of the local people gathered using a variety of different consultation approaches including meetings, presentations, interactive workshops, the Parish Council website, village-wide on-line surveys and paper surveys. A separate survey of young people was undertaken at both primary schools in the parish. In addition local businesses were asked to complete a survey, either paper-based or on-line. The Steering Group has worked closely with neighbouring parishes and Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. Staffordshire County Council, health and social housing providers have all been consulted.

The following are some of the reference documents to the Neighbourhood Plan:

- pre-existing Loggerheads documents including the Parish Plan 2008 and the Neighbourhood Statement 2012
- Housing Needs Assessment 2016 & update 2017

#### 4.2.2 Statutory Consultation

There have been several key stages of statutory consultation affording a wide range of consultees the opportunity to have a say about the Plan.

**Designation:** When the Parish Council applied for designation of the Neighbourhood Area the Local Authority undertook a 6-week consultation, which was publicised locally and borough-wide. The feedback received has been used to inform the plan.

**Pre-submission Consultation:** The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted for consultation to the list of statutory and other bodies provided by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council as required under Regulation 14, Town and Country Planning, England Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) 2012. The draft Plan was also made available to residents by email and at drop-in's at the library and fire station. Responses have been fully documented in the Consultation Statement which can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

**Submission Consultation:** Following submission of the Neighbourhood Plan the Borough Council will consult with all statutory consultees (Regulation 16).

### 4.3 Key Outcomes and Issues

**Residents Survey** – The survey was delivered to every household in the parish. 511 responses were received from 470 households (14% of the adult population and 27% of households). Of those responding:

- 64% say the best thing about the area is the rural nature, countryside and scenery, which the Neighbourhood Plan Group has termed the “ruralness” of Loggerheads
- The worst thing is the appearance of the centre of the village of Loggerheads, too many/proposed developments, lack of facilities and traffic and transport issues
- An overwhelming 95% are happy living in the area
- 70% acknowledge a need for change

- Residents identify a shortfall in leisure facilities, health facilities, equipped recreational space and something for young people to do
- In terms of future housing development 80% of residents hold the view that small scale development would be acceptable
- New development needs to be conditional on the provision of infrastructure (71%), improvements to roads (66%) and provision of facilities (55%)
- There is a perceived need for starter homes (46%), smaller family homes (36%) and for homes for older people to move to (29%)
- The traffic related concerns include speeding on the roads (69%), road layout and junctions (49%) and parking, specifically in relation to the school in Loggerheads (32%).

**Young People's Survey** – 109 responses from young people aged between 8 and 11 years. 79% of young people cited the environment as the thing they like best about Loggerheads. Specifically this included the play areas and the Burnt Wood, facilities such as the fire station and a recurring comment was that it was small and friendly. 32% of young people cited improved open spaces as their priority for example protecting the open spaces and not building houses on them, together with 16% who specifically think the car wash should be got rid of. 15% would like to see more sport and leisure facilities such as a swimming pool and upgrading the football pitch at the Burnt Wood while 17% would like to see more shops and food outlets.

**The Business Survey** which was delivered to every household as an attachment to the Residents survey, achieved responses from 70 residents, in relation to 75 businesses. Some 60% of the businesses were operated from home, 5% from premises within the Parish and the remaining 35% from premises outside the Parish. Businesses run from home were in: Loggerheads 56%, Mucklestone 24%, Ashley 16% and Tyrley 4%. 40% employ no staff at all and this is much more likely where the business is run from home. Businesses based outside the Loggerheads area tend to be larger with more than 40% of them employing more than 5 people. When asked whether there was anything that could be provided within the Parish which would help their business to develop over the next ten years, a response was given

predominantly by those whose business is currently based within the Parish, either at home or in premises. The overwhelming requirements were for better Broadband speeds and improved mobile phone signals.

## Section 5: Growth Strategy



### 5.1 Strategy for Sustainable Growth

The parish of Loggerheads has continued to thrive by adapting and evolving over nine centuries. Necessary development to provide new homes, businesses and community facilities will continue to come forward. The Neighbourhood Plan is looking to ensure that development needed to sustain the Parish is well located and designed to be sustainable and to respond to the distinctive local character.

The NPPF states a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainability is described as having social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Paragraph 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

“Economic growth can secure higher social and environmental standards, and well-designed buildings and places can improve the lives of people and communities. Therefore, to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. The planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions”.

Following a careful assessment of the evidence and responses from public consultation, the planning strategy focuses on well-designed development to meet identified needs. This includes housing within the built up area of Loggerheads village, whilst protecting and enhancing the

character of the village and the surrounding countryside. Some development will be allowed outside of this settlement, such as infill housing development, or employment development of brownfield sites and involving use of redundant buildings in other parts of the parish. The plan enables development that enhances the economy or provides much needed community and recreational facilities, without having a detrimental impact on the heritage and landscape of the area.

The strategy is to ensure that new developments of multiple housing units, include a mix of housing to reflect local need. This includes one or two bedroom properties and ensuring that affordable housing is provided as an integral part of development, rather than being provided remotely. This is evidenced in the Housing Needs Assessment for Loggerheads.

The strategy is also to ensure new development does not exacerbate congestion or have a negative impact on road safety. Creating opportunities for walking, cycling and for using public transport and creating new routes where needed are important aims. Designation of Local Green Space provides protection against development for green areas that have been judged to be of particular importance to local communities, using the criteria in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Neighbourhood Plan promotes sustainable development to provide new and improved sports and community spaces, to facilitate community interaction and healthy lifestyles. The heart of the village of Loggerheads is prioritised as a thriving centre for local shops, services and community infrastructure.

The strategy includes creation of employment opportunities within the parish, facilitating home working and reducing the need to travel. New development should be equipped for current communication needs.

This growth strategy underpins the policies contained in Section 6. All of the policies apply across the parish, except where otherwise specified in the policy. The exception to this is Policy LNPS2, which makes site allocations on the edge of Loggerheads village.

## Section 6: Policies

The following suite of policies has been developed to manage the future development of Loggerheads in order to achieve the vision, objectives and strategy of the Neighbourhood Plan. Decision makers and applicants must accept the policies as a whole when judging if a proposal would be acceptable.

The policies are separated into five themes:

- Housing Growth & Mix
- Heritage & Place
- Transport & Movement
- Sport, Health and Community Facilities
- Economy

To aid interpretation for decision makers and applicants, each policy is accompanied by supporting interpretive text. Policies are introduced by a clear statement of purpose and a planning rationale. This includes the local community's views on that subject, supporting evidence, and relevant national and local policies and guidance. All policies have been framed in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging Joint Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough and Stoke on Trent. The evidence underpinning the Neighbourhood Plan is listed in the Schedule of Evidence accompanying the plan. All references to "Loggerheads" in the policies are inclusive of the whole parish. The term "Loggerheads village" is used where reference is being made to the village only.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is a land-use document, a number of issues falling outside of the planning system's remit were identified by the local community during the consultation process. Alongside its core policies the Plan therefore includes a number of aspirations to encourage interventions by the Parish Council and wider stakeholders. These are included in Section 7, which does not form part of the statutory Neighbourhood Plan.

## **6.1 Housing Growth**

### **6.1.1 Purpose**

**To enable the growth of settlements within Loggerheads to meet local need, whilst ensuring growth is sustainable, reinforces the rural character and does not encroach into the rural area.**

### **6.1.2 Rationale and Evidence**

Paragraph 55 of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

“To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities”.

Growth is required to accommodate local need. Loggerheads is peripheral to Newcastle-Under-Lyme district, remote from the market town of Newcastle-Under-Lyme and from Hanley, the nearest city centre (Stoke-on-Trent). There is an over-reliance on private car usage and there are limited public transport facilities. It is not a sustainable location for very large-scale growth. However, growth is essential to meet local need, and such growth can enhance sustainability and the viability of local service provision in the village.

These policies are designed to focus growth in the settlement boundary of Loggerheads village but allows for some development outside this boundary. This is to ensure that growth is sustainable, to ensure the centres remain viable, to prevent sprawl into the rural area and to preserve the rural character of the area and its settlements. This is consistent with the adopted Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026 which identifies Loggerheads village as a Rural Service Centre.

Loggerheads is a largely rural area, with high-grade agricultural land. Therefore, development should focus on existing built settlements and not sprawl into the rural area or create connected and uncontrolled ribbon development. There is a need for a balanced mix of use in the settlements, to create more sustainable live-work patterns. Focusing growth on the existing centres helps to make them and their community facilities more viable.

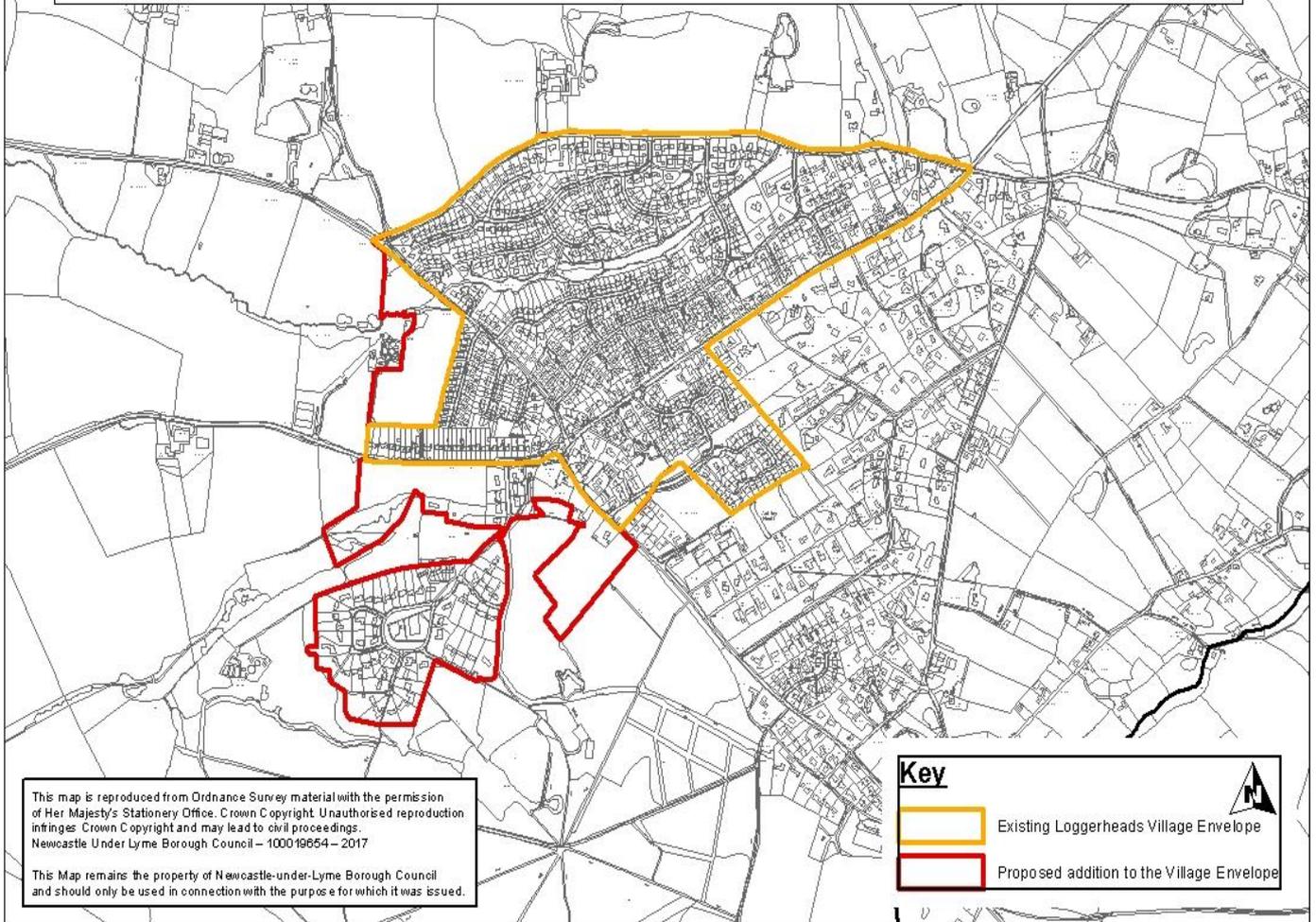
Community facilities and public transport services are focused on the larger settlements, so focusing growth in and around them has less impact through car journey generation.

A further consideration is to preserve the largely rural character of the area. A built up area boundary (village envelope) is defined for Loggerheads village, based on previous boundaries from the adopted local plan (Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011 (adopted in 2003), but with some expansion to allow for growth and to recognise where development has been approved. They have been set to create a clear and logical boundary, based on physical features and logical defensible boundaries.

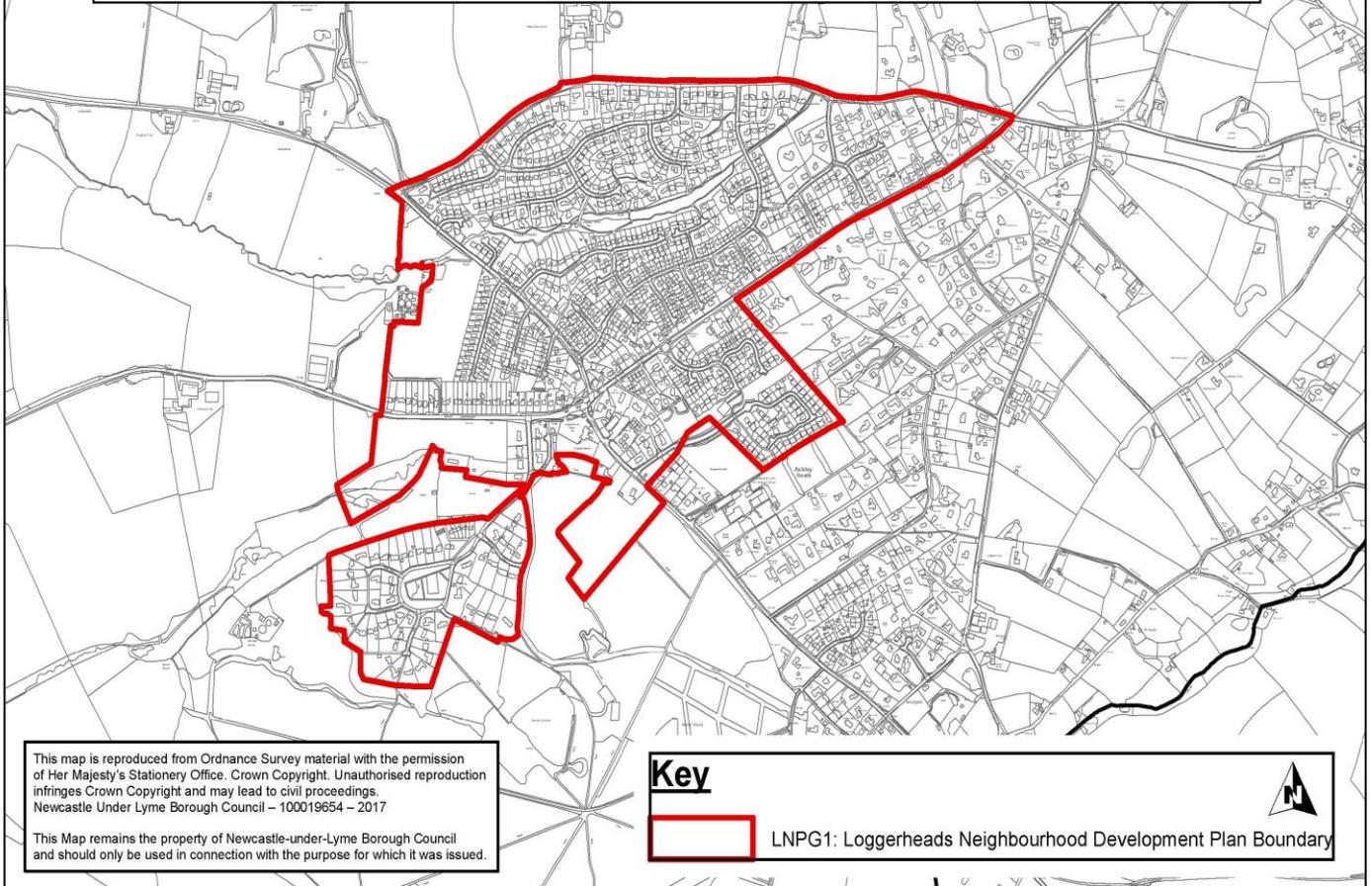
Loggerheads village has been subject to significant development pressure in recent years and is the main settlement area in the parish with limited retail facilities and a primary school. The Housing Needs Assessment shows a need for a maximum of 19.9 dwellings a year in Loggerheads. Current permitted potential supply (315 dwellings) is **equivalent to 15.8 years of demand**. If the permitted and potential supply at June 2017 (391 dwellings) is used, there is **19.6 years of supply** in what is only year 4 of a 20 year plan period. This supply is calculated by adding the 122 permissions granted between October 2013 and October 2015; plus the 193 permissions between October 2015 and June 2017 and a further 76 dwellings had been applied for but not yet considered in June 2017. Only 28 homes have been built or are under construction in Loggerheads between the 2011 census and up to June 2017. The extant planning permissions meet the local housing need in number terms. The Loggerheads village envelope has been extended to the west of the village to take account of development that has been built since the 2003 adoption (Burntwood estate (site of the old sanatorium) which happened in the 1970s); 3 greenfield sites have been included to the west and south of the village, adjacent to existing development which would not cause substantial harm to the local area; all three sites are where planning permission has already been granted, part of one is committed to a sport, leisure and community facility. It is recognised that planning permission has been granted for 128 dwellings at Tadgedale Quarry but this site has not been included in the village envelope as it is considered to be outside the logical boundary of a built up area.

The proposed change to the Village Envelope or Built-Up Area Boundary is shown on Map 2. The designated village envelope for Loggerheads is shown at Map 3.

## Map 2. Proposed changes to Loggerheads Village Envelope



### Map 3. Loggerheads Neighbourhood Development Plan Village Envelope



Nevertheless, any development beyond the built up area boundaries should protect and enhance the setting of the villages and the landscape character. Recreation and sports facilities, agricultural diversification and local employment are considered to be other developments acceptable beyond the built up area boundaries. Infill housing may also be acceptable subject to the design and location.

There are highways pressure points at the A53 mini roundabouts in the centre of Loggerheads village and at the A53 crossroads with Gravelly Bank and Mucklestone Wood Lane and at the A53 junction with the A51 just outside the parish boundary. The area has some infrastructure pressure points and the strategy is to ensure appropriate local infrastructure keeps pace with new development. Flooding occurs regularly at locations that have been subject to housing development in the past 15 years (Broom Lea, Mucklestone Road and A53, Newcastle Road) and the sewerage plants servicing the area are under pressure but Severn Trent have provided an assurance that adequate capacity is available for current requirements.

Resident's views recorded as part of the Neighbourhood Plan research highlight the principle of housing development being supported by an enhancement in community, and recreational facilities and improvements in infrastructure. This could be assisted by Section 106 agreements and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). At this time Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council does not have a CIL policy.

### **6.1.3 Policies**

#### **LNPG1: New Housing Growth**

**New housing development will be supported within the village envelope of Loggerheads village as defined in this Neighbourhood Plan.**

**Outside of the village envelope, housing development will be supported where:**

- **It is a replacement dwelling, or limited infill housing, or within a built frontage of existing dwellings; and**
- **It will reflect the character of surrounding dwellings and will not lead to significant loss of garden space; and**
- **It will not cause significant harm to residential amenity; or**
- **It is a new isolated home in the countryside that meets the special circumstances described in paragraph 55 of the Framework.**

#### **Interpretation:**

This policy ensures that new development is focused in the settlement boundaries within Loggerheads village. The village envelope of Loggerheads village defines the areas where growth would be sustainable and acceptable, subject to compliance with other policies.

Mixed use development, or development that adds to the local mix of uses, is particularly encouraged.

The policy does not deal with consideration of exception sites, which are covered by policies in the Local Plan.

The scale of housing appropriate for infill is small gaps in otherwise built up frontages for one or two properties at most.

The location of community and employment development is dealt with in later policies.

## **6.2 Housing Mix**

### **6.2.1 Purpose**

**To ensure that new housing development contributes to creating a balanced mix of housing in the area, to meet identified local needs in a sustainable manner.**

### **6.2.2 Rationale and Evidence**

Paragraph 50 of the National Planning Policy Framework seeks to:

"deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities", and that local planning authorities should "plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community", and "identify the size, type and tenure and range of housing that is required".

Documented local evidence, listed below, indicates that there is currently a mismatch between local housing needs – which are very specific, and include the need to cater for an ageing population, and the needs of young people and families – and that which is currently being provided, or is in the pipeline, which is in the main larger homes.

- the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2015 Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme
- the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council June 2017
- the Parish of Loggerheads Housing Needs Assessment 2016 and update July 2017

Policy LNPG2 is intended to ensure a diverse housing mix that addresses local housing needs as identified in the Parish of Loggerheads Housing Needs Assessment. This identifies a shortage of smaller homes for younger people and downsizing. In addition, there is a shortage of properties to allow independent living opportunities for the elderly, for example bungalows. The policy will be used to influence those outline applications that have not yet been submitted as full applications,

extant planning permissions already meet the local housing need according to the Housing Needs Assessment for Loggerheads.

Around a third of all new housing needs to comprise smaller homes (one and two bedrooms) to address identified needs. In particular there is a need to create housing accessible for younger people and older people. This is reinforced by the local demographics, as shown in the Parish of Loggerheads Housing Needs Assessment, which indicates that the population is rapidly ageing.

It would be unreasonable to apply such a detailed mix to smaller sites i.e. those fewer than 10 dwellings, as this would give rise to viability issues.

Loggerheads is a popular village in which to live. There has been a significant increase in the number of residents over 60 (53% between 2001 and 2011). As a result Loggerheads has a disproportionate number of older residents (30% over 60) compared with the English average of 16%. This disparity is likely to become more marked in coming years, with 17.7% of residents in the 55 – 64 age bracket, compared with 12% in England. This threatens the vitality of the community and places extra and different demands on local health, transport and housing. Loggerheads housing stock is dominated by detached owner-occupied properties. 67% of Loggerheads houses are detached (22% in England) and 81% owner-occupied (64% in England).

House prices in “the rural south” are below the national average but above the average for Newcastle Borough.

- National £320,000
- Newcastle £145,800
- Rural south £250,000

Only 30.5% of houses are placed in Council Tax bands A to C as against 65% in England. This points to a relative shortage of small homes that can be afforded by people on relatively low incomes.

This is confirmed by the following:

- Proportion of terraced housing & flats, Loggerheads 5.5%, England 47%
- Social rented housing Loggerheads 6.1%, England 18%

Loggerheads needs more young people and families for the community to retain its age balance but the current shortage of affordable housing and public transport to centres of employment denies young people and families the opportunity to live in the village where they grew up. The area needs smaller homes for older people wishing to downsize and remain in the area and for young singles and couples. This is evidenced by the Housing Needs Assessment.

With 315 existing permissions in Loggerheads parish, at June 2017, of which the majority (283) are in Loggerheads village and Ashley/Ashley Heath (31); only 1 is in another part of the parish, Knighton; Loggerheads has met the housing needs for 19.6 years with the majority of permissions located outside the current village envelope. The Housing Needs Assessment shows that current supply and potential supply from planning permissions is not matching local need. Loggerheads has 2.2 times the number of detached homes compared to the English average and an under-representation of semi-detached homes (26.5% compared to 30.7%) Only 6.8% of homes are terraced or flats compared to the English average of 41.2%. This reduces the supply of less expensive homes in a village where, in local terms, housing is relatively expensive.

In 2012, a survey on affordable housing in Loggerheads undertaken jointly by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council and Aspire Housing, the main social housing provider in the area, confirmed that there was a need for affordable housing and that the number of social houses within Loggerheads is extremely low and limited. The greatest need was for two bedroom homes (43%) and three bedrooms (26%). A significant number of single persons responding wanted to meet their housing need through private ownership, whereas a significant number of older households (57%) wanted to meet their need through the rented tenure. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the development of affordable housing in Loggerheads for rent, shared ownership and for sale to local people.

Of the 315 permissions only 76 would be for “affordable” homes, but of these only 11 were for 2 bedroom homes. The significant majority are for 4 bedroom homes, which do not provide for the needs of single person households (age 60 years and above and for young people).

### 6.2.3 Policies

#### **LNPG2: Housing Mix**

**To be supported, proposals for ten or more houses must include a mix of types of accommodation to meet requirements identified in the latest assessment of local housing needs including accommodation suitable for first time buyers and the elderly. At least a third of new homes, unless it can be demonstrated there is not a need for this level of provision must comprise a combination of:**

- **One or two bedroomed properties and**
- **One or two bedroomed properties suitable to provide independent living for the elderly**

#### **Interpretation:**

Evidence of local need suggests an under-supply of smaller housing, indicating a need for a high proportion of smaller properties in new development; however, viability must also be considered. Therefore, to comply with the policy, at least a third of new homes must comprise smaller (one/two bedroom) accommodation, unless it can be demonstrated by developers that there is not a need for this level of provision. This should include starter homes to meet the needs of first time buyers, small families and local workers, including agricultural workers. A proportion of this should be suitable for the elderly, for example single floor.

Developers should base the mix on evidence of local need and this should be demonstrated as part of the planning application.

The policy does not seek to modify the requirements of the Local Plan in terms of proportion of affordable housing. This is not an additional requirement on top of affordable requirements under the Borough Council's CSS Policy CSP6: Affordable Housing. However, it does make clear that affordable housing should be provided as part of the development, rather than developers making financial contributions towards affordable housing elsewhere.

Development providing in excess of these requirements for smaller and elderly accommodation will be welcomed in particular.

The Parish Council would encourage compliance with Lifetimes Homes standard.

## **6.3 Place & Heritage**

### **6.3.1 Purpose**

**To ensure that new development is safe, inclusive, functional and sustainable. To preserve and enhance local heritage and green infrastructure.**

### **6.3.2 Rationale and Evidence**

Paragraph 56 of the NPPF states:

"Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people".

Paragraph 58 refers to different design issues, including the need for developments to be well functioning, have a strong sense of place, have an appropriate mix of uses, respond to local character whilst not discouraging innovation, create safe and accessible environments, and have good architecture and landscaping.

Chapter 12 identifies various aspects of the historic environment, including archaeology, as a material consideration within the planning system

NPPF themes for achieving sustainable development include:

- promoting sustainable transport
- delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
- requiring good design
- promoting healthy communities
- meeting the challenge of climate change
- conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- conserving and enhancing the historic environment
- protecting all designated heritage assets

Policies LNPP1, LNPP2, and LNPP3 have been formulated to address these themes.

Quality of environment is a key factor in an area's ability to attract economic growth and in creating quality of life for residents. Creating high-quality and well-functioning places is therefore an important element in attracting population and investment to the area. Ensuring that new

development is well-designed, inclusive and sustainable is not just about environmental protection, but also about consideration of social and economic sustainability.

Heritage not only has cultural value and adds to the distinctive character of the area, but is also in productive use for the most part, e.g. housing, business, enterprise space, recreational facilities. It is essential that heritage adapts to remain fit for purpose and realises its economic potential, whilst also being careful to preserve its special architectural, archaeological or historic interest and the character of the area. The loss of heritage assets is not just a cultural loss, but also an economic loss. The National Planning Policy Framework also seeks the protection of the character and setting of listed buildings and Conservation Areas. Heritage assets are located across the area. Listed buildings and scheduled monuments and conservation areas are designated and protected assets (as are registered battlefields) and are all covered by the term designated heritage assets. This is also the terminology used in the NPPF.

Recorded monuments such as farmsteads are non-designated heritage assets. This would also cover archaeological assets such as earthworks and more general concepts such as village characters and views. The heritage book includes all of these types of asset except the general concepts but these are dealt with elsewhere in the plan.

Through evaluation, there is a good understanding of the distinctive character of the villages in the parish, and the surrounding landscape. Evidence of this can be seen in the Character Area Assessment (available at [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)).

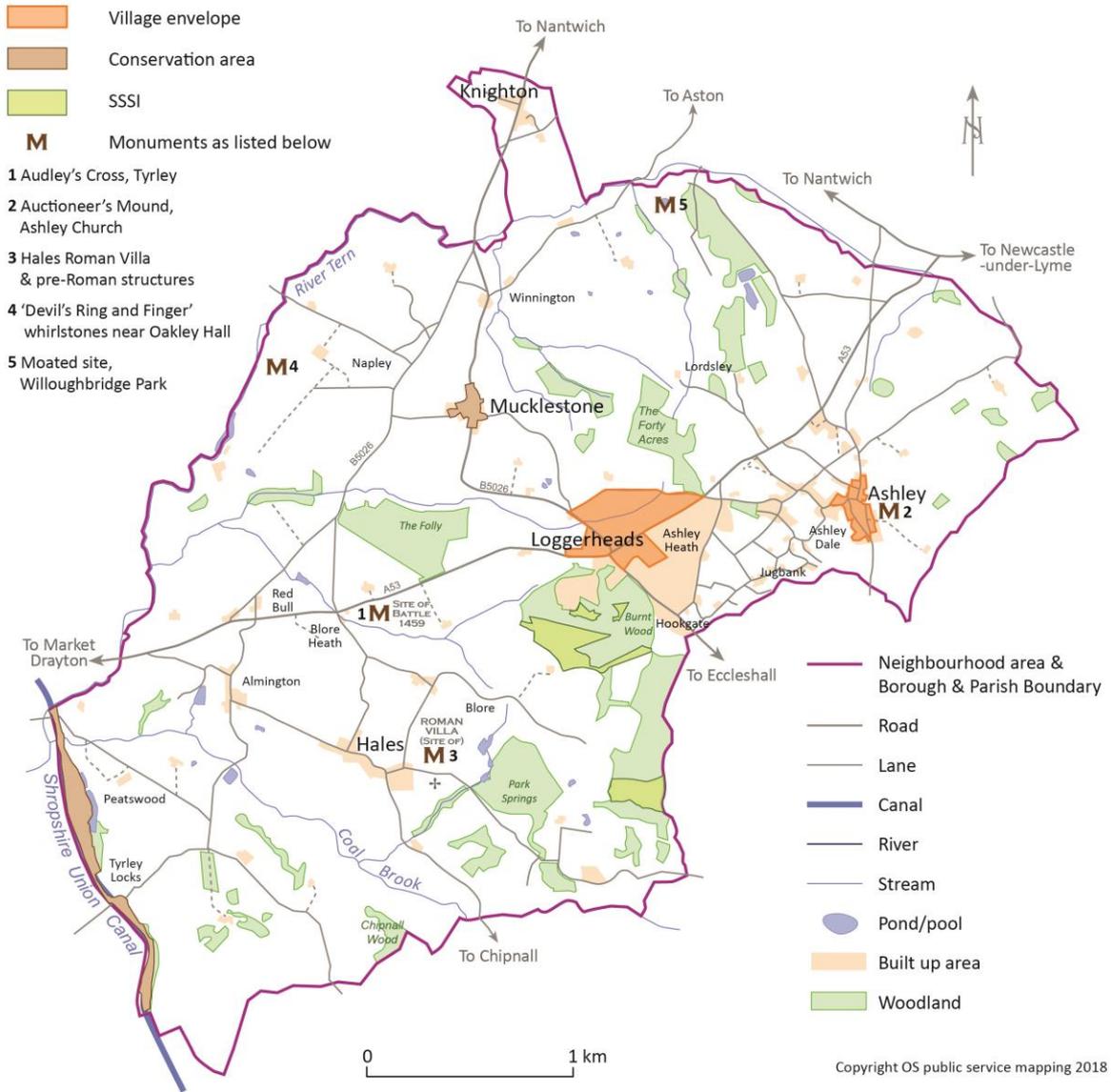
The best thing about living in the Parish was considered to be the essentially rural nature of the area with nice scenery and a quiet, peaceful atmosphere, which the Neighbourhood Plan Group have termed “the ruralness” of Loggerheads. The area contains a range of designated and non-designated heritage assets, as set out in section 3.3.2. The strategy is to protect sensitive areas from the adverse impacts of inappropriate new development and to ensure new development is of a design and quality so as to contribute to heritage of the future. To protect the wealth of heritage in the parish the plan will allow historic buildings and sites that are at risk to take on new uses.

The value and sensitivity of the landscape, the setting of the villages and the distinctive heritage assets have been taken into account in assessing the suitability of development opportunities.

The maps in the Character Study on the parish council website ([www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)) show the key areas that will be conserved by the policies in this plan. Map 4 shows the location of scheduled monuments, conservation areas and SSSIs in relation to the village envelope. (Note the old village envelope of Ashley is included).

The policies are consistent with the adopted Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026, Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan, 2011 – schedule of saved policies beyond 2007, the Emerging Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Local Plan, 2013-2039, Newcastle-under-Lyme Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017) and Newcastle-under-Lyme Open Space Strategy (2017).

Map 4: Location of Village Envelope boundaries, two conservation areas, four SSSIs and five Ancient Monuments



### 6.3.3. Policies

#### **LNPP1: Urban Design and Environment**

To be supported, new development must demonstrate high standards of design. This includes:

1. Designing buildings, streets, spaces, landscaping and planting to create attractive, safe and well-functioning environments, with a sense of place.
2. Comprising site-specific design solutions to complement, but not necessarily imitate, the surrounding context.
3. Complementing the established character of the surrounding context in terms of scale, density, massing, height and degree of set-back from streets and spaces.
4. Providing active frontages to overlook public streets and spaces from inhabited rooms.
5. Creating attractive, safe and convenient environments for pedestrians.
6. Responding positively to local topography.
7. Retaining trees and hedgerows (unless it is demonstrated the need for, and benefits of, development in that location clearly outweigh the loss or they are judged to be poor specimens or species not appropriate to the area) and providing high quality planting and landscape design.
8. Creating a strong green infrastructure buffer on the interface between urban and rural to buffer surrounding landscape from development
9. Providing a mix of overlooked parking provision, as an integral part of layout, so that parking does not dominate streets and space.
10. Designing open spaces to be safe, attractive and functional as an integral part of layout.
11. Clearly distinguishing between public and private spaces, avoiding placing rear garden fences adjacent to street frontages.
12. Provide convenient, well-screened storage space for bins and recycling.
13. Include high quality materials, to complement those used in the surrounding context.
14. Designing residential garages so that they do not obscure or dominate frontages and are in or behind the building line.
15. Providing shop-fronts to commercial and retail properties, reflecting the character of the area.
16. Ensure fencing and lockable gating is used to deny unauthorised access to the rear of properties, positioned as close to the front of the building line as possible.

**Interpretation:**

This policy applies to residential, commercial, industrial and other forms of development. It seeks to promote social and environmental sustainability by addressing public safety, character, amenity, protection of landscape, pedestrian convenience and local distinctiveness.

The policy applies to all scales of development. Obviously, for very small-scale development, requirements referring to layout or the wider public realm would not be applicable. A proportionate approach will be taken in applying the policy, depending on the scale of development.

It is essential that the design process is based on an analysis of the site and context and that the design solution responds to the key characteristics of that analysis.

Active frontages means development elevations containing windows and doors in habitable rooms, so that adjacent streets and spaces are overlooked.

Parking should comprise a mix of garage space, driveway spaces, on-street and other kinds of provision. Providing a mix of approaches helps to ensure that development and the public realm is not dominated by parking.

Shop windows should be conditioned so that they are not obscured by pictures or advertising.

The policy avoids any kind of stylistic prescription, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. Indeed, creative and innovative design solutions are especially encouraged. These will be the heritage of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In particular, designs that incorporate low or zero carbon use are strongly encouraged.

## **LNPP2: Local Character & Heritage**

New development must complement and reinforce the local character of the area and non-designated heritage, including conserving buildings and their setting and comprising high-quality, site-specific design. A balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss to a non-designated heritage asset and the significance of the heritage asset. Potential non-designated heritage of particular sensitivity is listed in the Loggerheads Heritage book. This includes taking account of the following requirements for the main Character Areas (see map 5).

- **Loggerheads Village: opportunities must be taken to improve legibility by creating distinctive new townscape and buildings.**
  
- **Ashley Heath: in complementing local context and character, particular attention must be paid to:**
  - **complementing the established character, based on housing set-back from the road, often with front boundary hedges**
  - **Preserving protected trees.**
  
- **Ashley: must complement the immediate context, including:**
  - **the Radburn layout of housing off Charnes Road**
  - **Adding to the diversity of character created by a number of listed buildings.**

### **Interpretation:**

Whilst Policy LNPP1 deals with general principles of good urban design and context, Policy LNPP2 focuses on the different characteristics of local settlements. The policy highlights particular contextual characteristics that must be taken into account in different settlements.

It is especially important in historic areas that new development comprises site-specific designs, based on an analysis and understanding of the historic context.

This policy is not intended to require stylistic imitation. Historic environments should not be a barrier to creative and innovative design solutions. Imitation can be harmful, in particular to historic environments, where authenticity is important. For landmark buildings in particular, parody or imitation can harm the setting. The policy should enable and not prevent a new heritage of the 21<sup>st</sup> century being created.

Map 5 shows these character settings.

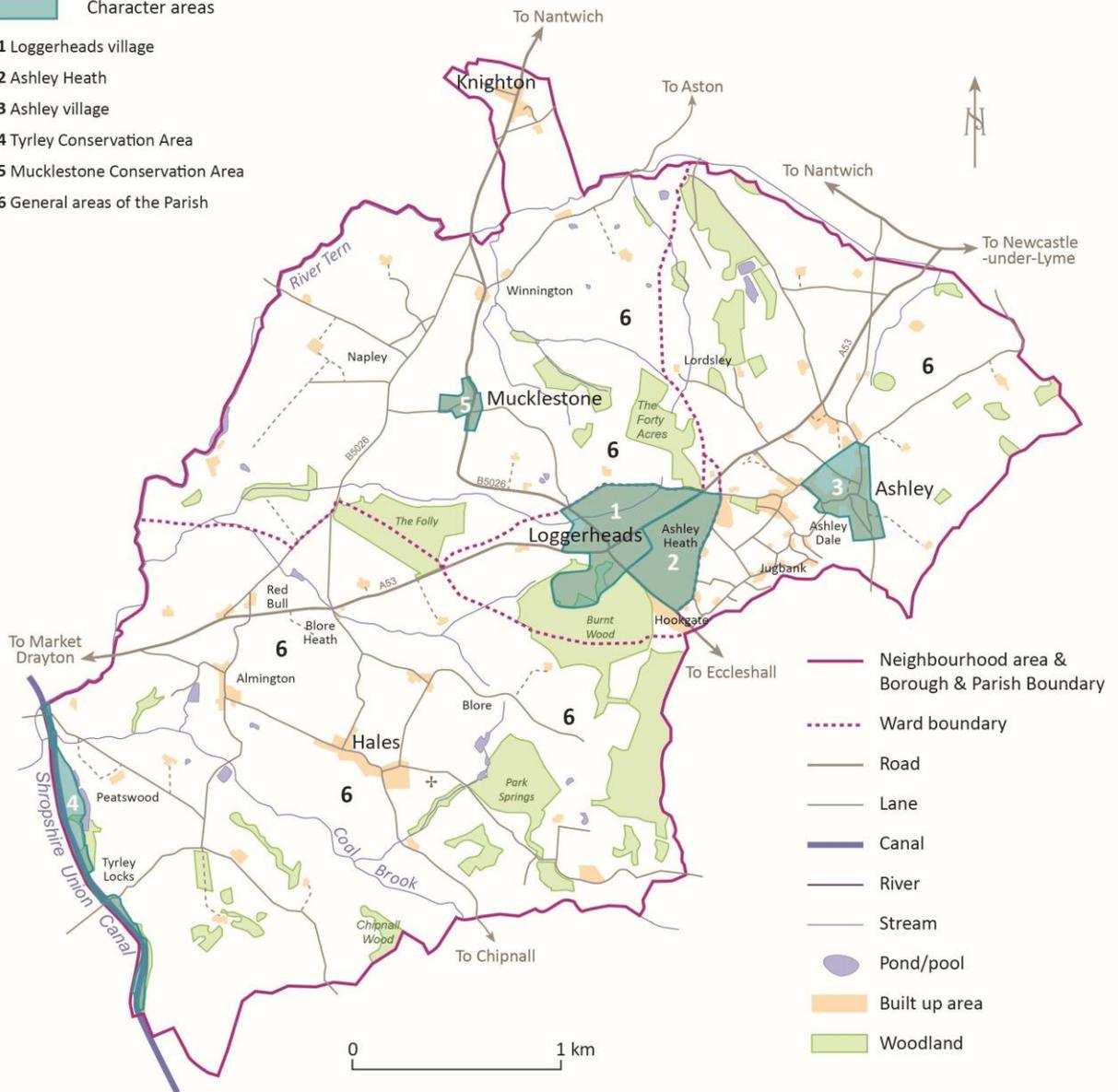
The requirement to complement the historic character of Loggerheads does not imply that schemes should not have an impact or change the character or appearance of the area. The existing historic environments are a result of change over time. Being visible does not imply harm in all circumstances. A judgment will be taken based on the specific proposal and the characteristics of specific heritage assets affected. Any applications that related to farmsteads will be considered by reference to the Staffordshire Farmsteads Guidance.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council holds a Register of Locally Important Buildings and Structures. In 2018 this contained 3 of the non-designated heritage assets for Loggerheads: War Memorials at Waterside Cottage, Tyrley, St John the Baptist Church, Ashley and St Mary's Church, Hales. The Borough Council reviews this list annually and seeks nominations for additions. The Borough Council has published criteria and a scoring system including weighted criteria relating to: authenticity; architectural interest; historic interest; visual importance; and community value. The Parish Council nominated 13 non-designated heritage assets identified in the Heritage Book for inclusion in the Register in June 2018. The Borough Council reviewed the nominations and adopted 7 in their Register. These are Ashley Methodist Church, Ashley Surgery, Loggerheads Inn, War memorial at Hugo Meynell School, Providence Chapel, Hookgate, Knighton Village Hall, and Skelhorn's Anvil in St Marys Churchyard, Mucklestone. Six potential non-designated assets were not adopted in the register, namely; Oddfellows Hall, Ashley, Ashley Memorial Hall, Former Methodist Chapel, Hookgate, War Memorial inside Mucklestone Church, Broomhall Lodge and Hales Club. In the future, if these and other buildings and structures are identified as important non-designated heritage assets in the parish, a similar process would be followed to nominate them to the Borough Council for inclusion in their Register of Locally Important Buildings and Structures.

# Map 5: Character Areas

 Character areas

- 1 Loggerheads village
- 2 Ashley Heath
- 3 Ashley village
- 4 Tyrley Conservation Area
- 5 Mucklestone Conservation Area
- 6 General areas of the Parish



-  Neighbourhood area & Borough & Parish Boundary
-  Ward boundary
-  Road
-  Lane
-  Canal
-  River
-  Stream
-  Pond/pool
-  Built up area
-  Woodland

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**LNPP3: Local Green Space:**

**The following areas (identified on the maps below) are designated as Local Green Space where new development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances consistent with policy for Green Belts:**

- **Land along Tagedale Brook between Chestnut Road and Brookfield;**
- **Land at Kestrel Drive;**
- **Land at Hugo Way;**
- **Allotments behind Eccleshall Road;**
- **Turner Hodgkiss Nature Reserve on Ashley Heath;**
- **Bell Orchard Play Area, Ashley**
- **Almington Play Area; and**
- **Knighton Play Area.**

**Interpretation:**

The policy protects Local Green Spaces and ensures that they are not developed. The policy also deals with nearby development, ensuring that it does not harm the community value of the space. Examples of harm could be through encroachment, noise, and disturbance or in terms of visual impacts. The policy also encourages better green infrastructure linkages between open spaces. The designated green spaces are at Tagedale Brook, Kestrel Drive, Hugo Way, and allotments in Loggerheads, Turner Hodgkiss Nature Reserve on Ashley Heath, and play areas at Bell Orchard, Ashley, Almington and Knighton railway cutting. These are shown on Maps 6 to 13. The supporting document “Local Green Space Designations v3” is available on the Parish Council website at <http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk/Pages/116/Evidence+for+the+Plan>

Examples of small-scale development that could be allowed by the policy include:

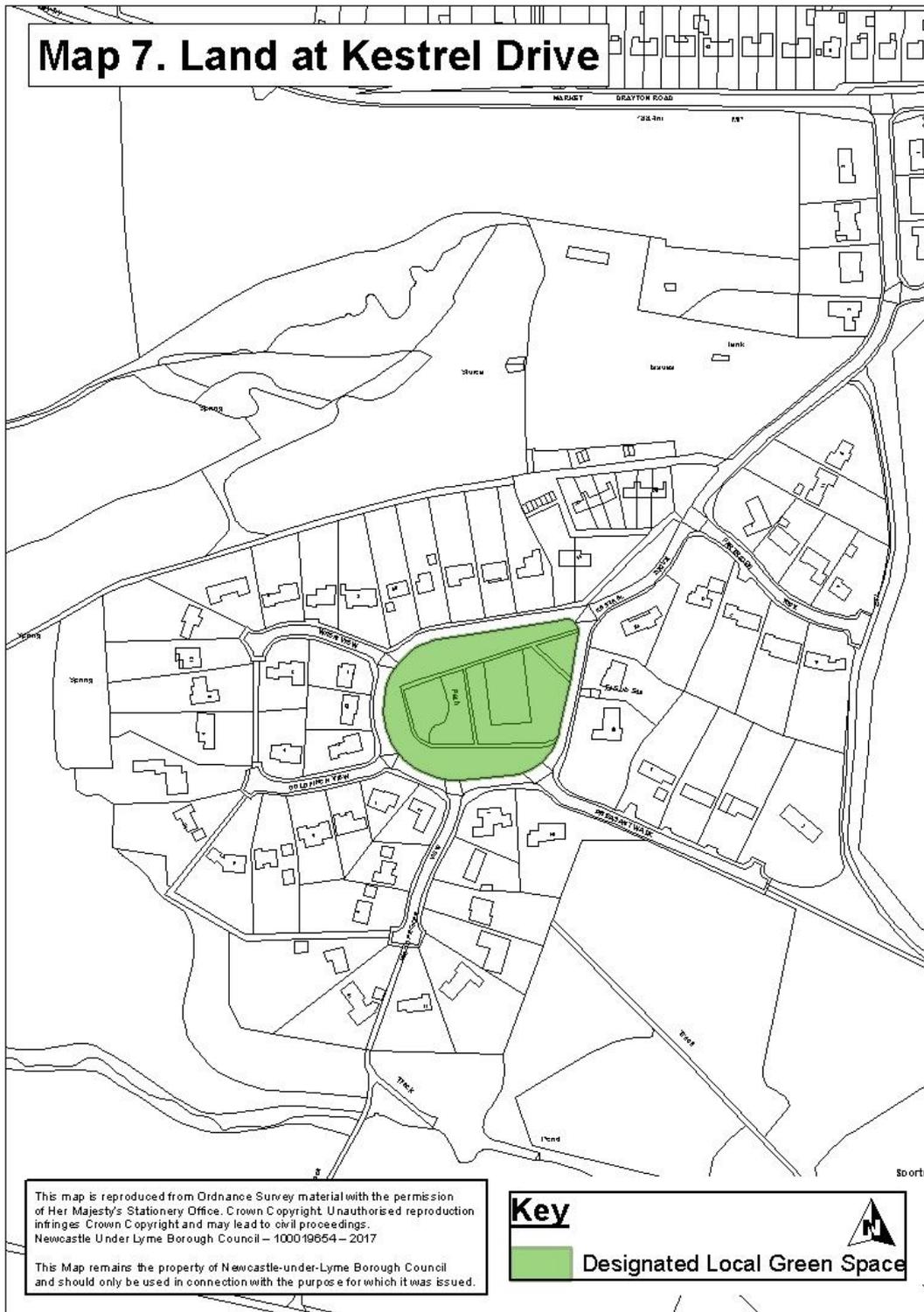
- A sports pavilion, to support the use of sports pitches
- Storage facilities for tools and equipment used for maintaining green space
- A small refreshment kiosk to support the recreational use of space

A summary of each site setting out its community value and how it meets NPPF Criteria and a map to show the location is below.

Green space, along **Tadgedale Brook**, between Chestnut Road and Brookfield in Loggerheads village is within walking distance of 250 houses. It is a grassed open space 84 feet wide along both sides of the brook for walking dogs and access for residents on estate on north of brook to reach south side for shops and school, 0.25 mile in length, with 8 points of access. Play equipment at 4 locations close to access points to Chestnut Road, Fox Hollow, Sharplands and Chartwood. Total 2 hectares. This attractive and tranquil space acts as a focal point for people living locally.



**Kestrel Drive**, Loggerheads village, has an informal green space for tranquility and amenity for surrounding houses of 0.4 hectares. With a historic value as this was the centre of the site for the Cheshire Sanatorium. It is effectively a small park with many mature trees. A beautiful and relaxing area it provides a focal point for the nearby households and offers an area where people can socialise and enjoy fresh air. In addition, this area provides a welcome habitat for birds, insects and small mammals.



**Hugo Way**, Loggerheads village has a narrow strip of green space up both sides with a wide lay-by on one side of the road and a small play area on a tarmac base at top of road with more green space on two sides of play area. It is used for play and totals 0.3 hectares. Hugo Way play area and surrounding green space is situated between two housing estates; this attractive and tranquil space acts as a focal point for people living locally.



**Allotments** in Loggerheads village off B5026 Eccleshall Road, between Hugo Meynell School on one side, Hugo Way on two sides and behind the houses on Eccleshall Road. Registered as an Asset of Community Value, 2 hectare site with 40 allotments all in active use and within walking distance of all houses in Loggerheads village and Ashley Heath. Loggerheads Allotments provide the community with a green and tranquil environment where people can socialise whilst indulging in healthy activity in the fresh air. In addition, home grown produce encourages a healthy lifestyle. The maintenance of the allotment encourages biodiversity and enhances the local ecosystem.

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Open Space Strategy (2016) supports its designation as it identifies a shortfall in allotments in the borough.



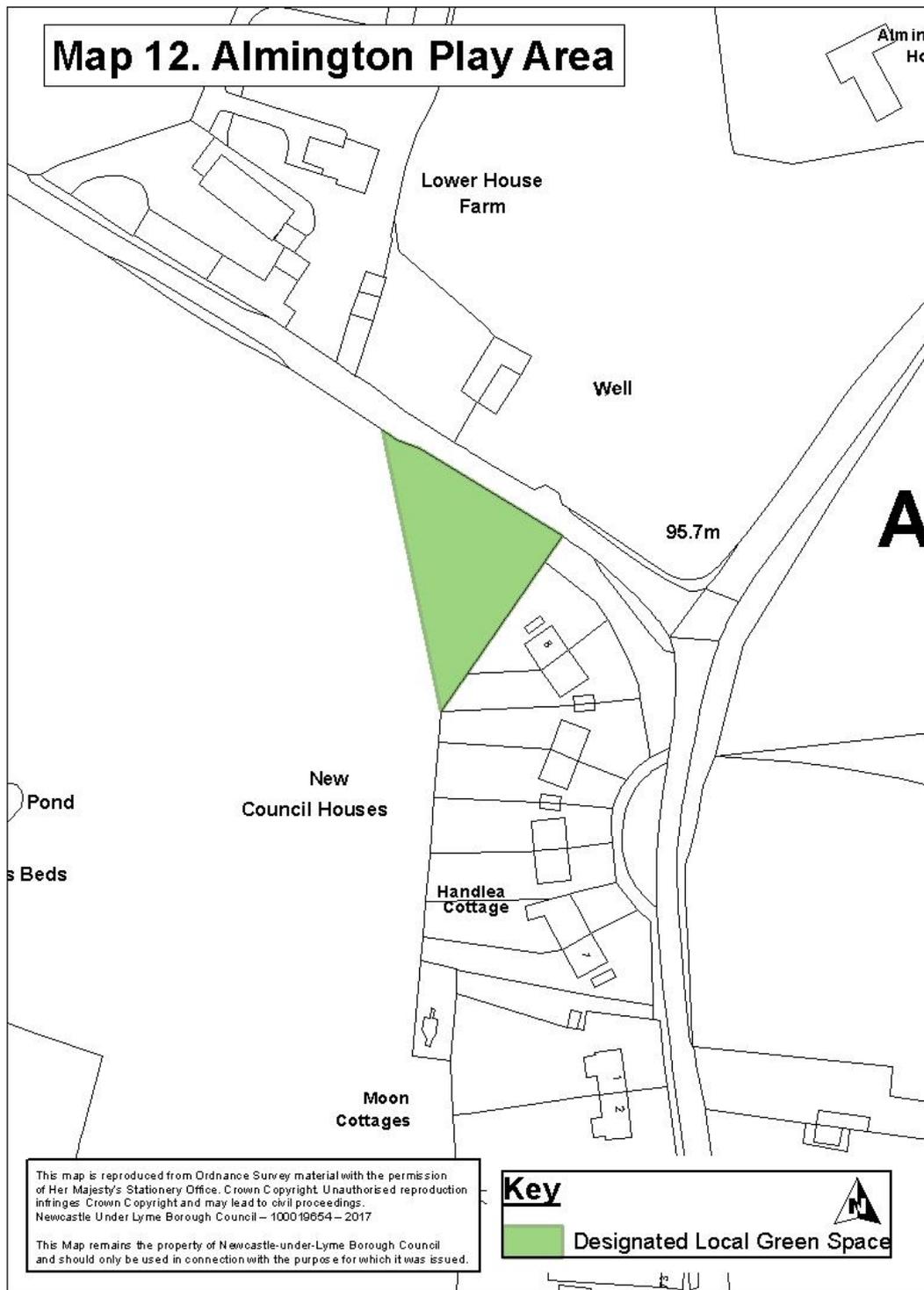
**Turner Hodgkiss Nature Reserve** on Pinewood Road, Ashley Heath is a 2 hectare site with pond and wooded area. It is within walking distance for Hookgate, Ashley Heath and part of Loggerheads village and is maintained throughout the year by an active group of volunteers. It is a tranquil area with many mature trees wild flowers and a pond. It is a relaxing environment where the local community can enjoy nature and wildlife. The reserve has become a haven for birds, small mammals insects and reptiles; it also has a positive effect on the local ecosystem.



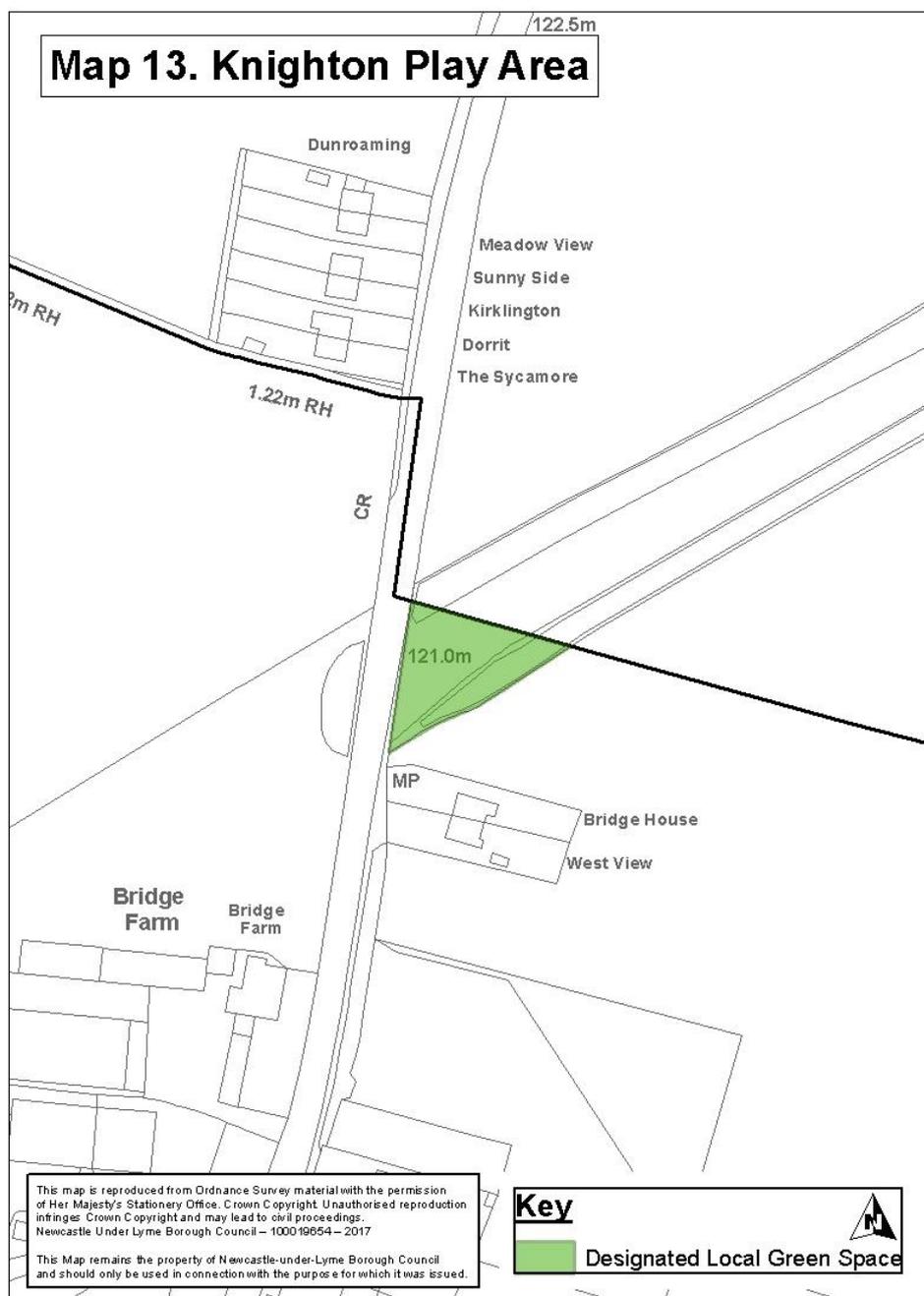
**Bell Orchard** play area in Ashley is 0.3 hectares, is adjacent to 22 houses and a short walking distance for 100 more and is the only play area in Ashley situated close to social housing. This attractive and tranquil space acts as a focal point for people living locally. It provides a meeting area for children and parents alike. This play area encourages social interaction whilst children play and make new friends; at the same time it encourages a healthy and active lifestyle.



**Almington** play areas is 0.3 hectares and is situated in a remote rural area adjacent to a small settlement of houses; this attractive and tranquil space acts as a focal point for people living locally. It provides a meeting area for children and parents alike. This play area encourages social interaction whilst children play and make new friends; at the same time it encourages a healthy and active lifestyle.



**Knighton** play area is a short walking distance to the centre of Knighton village and the only play area in the village. It is grassed open space situated at one end of part of a disused railway line with play equipment for children’s play, roughly square, 0.25 hectares. This leads into a grassed walkway along the old disused railway for 0.3 mile. This attractive and tranquil space acts as a focal point for people living locally. It provides a meeting area for children and parents alike. This play area encourages social interaction whilst children play and make new friends; at the same time it encourages a healthy and active lifestyle. The tranquil walkway allows residents in Knighton to walk away from traffic in a village with limited pedestrian pathways.



## 6.4 Transport & Movement

### 6.4.1 Purpose

**To encourage mixed transport provision, including more sustainable forms of transport, cycling and walking.**

### 6.4.2 Rationale and Evidence

Due to the peripheral location of Loggerheads, it is served by limited public transport services and there has been a strong reliance on car-based travel. This policy seeks to ensure that there are opportunities for using more sustainable forms of transport and walking.

Paragraph 29 of the NPPF states:

“The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes, giving people a real choice about how they travel”.

Paragraph 34 states:

“Plans and decisions should ensure developments that generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximized”.

The transport situation in Loggerheads Parish is similar to many other villages in rural areas:

- High car ownership and an increase in car traffic
- Limited public transport to centres of employment
- No cycle ways

Development brought forward through the Neighbourhood Plan will have an impact on the transport situation of the Parish. Pathways are needed to fill the gaps in existing provision on Muckleston Road, Muckleston Wood Lane and from Knighton to Woore to allow residents to walk safely from their homes to the retail facilities and local schools in Loggerheads and Woore. Public transport is limited and only connects Loggerheads and Ashley to Market Drayton and Newcastle daily (Monday to Saturday, once an hour, from 8am till 6pm) and Loggerheads to Stafford on a Thursday and Saturday only, once a day. (This service is due to cease in March 2018).

There is no longer any bus service to Knighton and the other villages in the area have never had a service. It is impossible to commute by public transport from Loggerheads to any locality for work that starts at 8am. Any improvement in service would provide a vital lifeline between communities, especially for the young and elderly and also help to boost the rural economy as people would be able to access local shops and services, instead of commuting into the urban conurbations. It would also help to reduce the load on the infrastructure within the urban areas and improve opportunities in rural areas.

There are transport infrastructure pressure points in the parish at:

- the A53 mini roundabouts in the centre of Loggerheads Village (a hot spot for minor collisions and near misses, not recordable statistics but well known by local residents, only 4 recorded slight collisions in last 5 years)
- the A53 crossroads with Gravelly Bank and Mucklestone Wood Lane (the scene of 2 fatal and 3 serious collisions in the last 5 years)
- The A53 junction with the A51, just outside the parish boundary (congestion at peak times, supported by traffic flow assessment). A traffic assessment for the A51/53 junction is on Parish Council website [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk)

### 6.4.3 Policies

#### **LNPT1: Sustainable Transport**

**To be supported new development comprising new homes, employment units or community facilities must, subject to viability considerations, demonstrate a balanced and sustainable approach to transport, including:**

- **Providing for different modes of transport, including walking and cycling including incorporating secure, covered storage space for cycles**
- **Providing electric car charging points**
- **Ensuring there is no significant negative impact on road safety and severe traffic congestion**
- **Providing safe and suitable access for both vehicles and pedestrians**
- **Incorporating well-connected and permeable pedestrian networks; where not already in place, footways (pavements) are provided to link the site to the existing footway network**

#### **Interpretation:**

The policy requires new development to cater for walking, cycling and cars, including electric vehicles. The policy applies to all sizes of development; for example, even a single dwelling may incorporate storage space for a cycle. A proportionate approach will be required in applying the policy.

By accommodating growth, the Neighbourhood Plan may help to make sure public transport services remain viable.

There may be opportunities for improving transport infrastructure using Section 106 contributions or any future Community Infrastructure Levy.

Priorities for improving transport are:

- Highways improvements at the A53 mini roundabouts in the centre of Loggerheads village, the A53 crossroads with Gravelly Bank and Mucklestone Wood Lane and the A53 junction with the A51 just outside the parish boundary
- Pathways are needed to fill the gaps in existing provision on Mucklestone Road, Mucklestone Wood Lane and from Knighton to Woore

## 6.5 Sport, Health & Community Facilities

### 6.5.1 Purpose

**To enable and encourage a balanced mix of uses, including a range of local community and sport facilities accessible by walking, cycling or short car journeys.**

### 6.5.2 Rationale and Evidence

Given the location of the parish in the urban fringe and remoteness from urban areas, it is necessary to create a balanced mix of uses, including local community and sport facilities. This is important in terms of quality of life, health and well-being and the creation of a more sustainable settlement.

The National Planning Policy Framework encourages planning policies to:

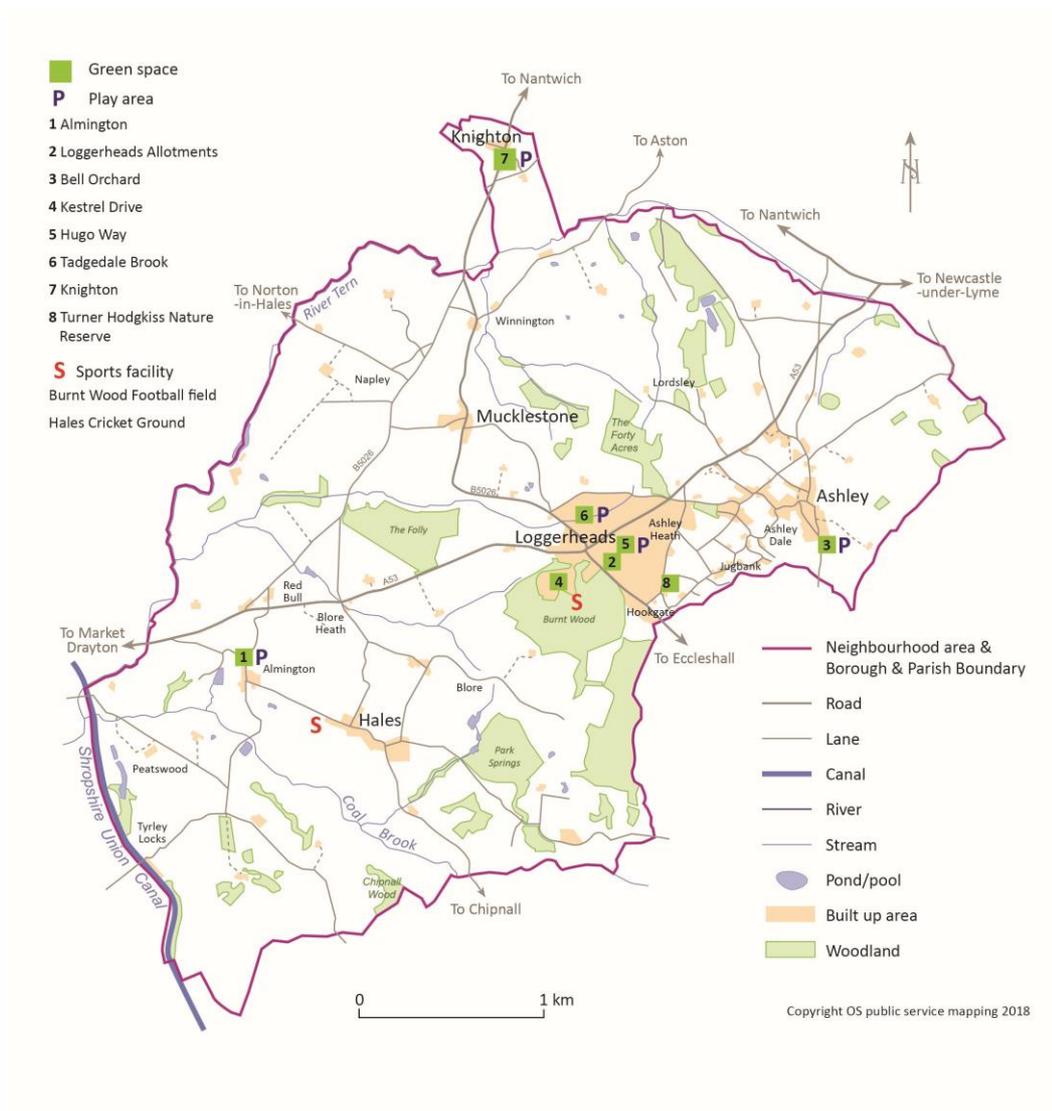
- Aim to achieve places which promote opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other and plan positively for the provision and use of community facilities (such as meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. Policies should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
- National Planning Policy Framework Para 73: Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

National Planning Policy Framework refers to Open Space Policy guidance; this policy is expressed by Fields In Trust, and adopted by Sport England. They refer to the 6 Acre Standard, which says there should be 6 acres of open space per 1000 people. This is then further refined to say, that

within the 6 acres, there should be 3 acres of sports fields per 1000 people. For Loggerheads village with a population of over 2,800 that is in excess of 8 acres of sport pitches not the current 1.49 acres.

Loggerheads currently has one football pitch, located in the Burntwood (approximately 1.5 acres) and a cricket pitch at Hales (approximately 2 acres). The football pitch is located in ancient woodland, next to a SSSI and has no spare capacity; it cannot be developed and does not meet FA League standards. The Cricket Pitch does meet MCC standards but is remote from the main conurbations and is not accessible to pedestrians, and is a 10 minute car journey from Loggerheads village. Map 14 shows the football and cricket pitch, play area and green spaces.

Map 14: Location of Sports Facilities, Play Areas and Green Spaces



There is no other recreational space apart from a number of small play areas (Local Areas for Play (LAP) and Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) for children under 11, located in Ashley, Knighton, Almington and Loggerheads. Loggerheads does not have a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) or a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

The nearest sporting and leisure facilities are located in Market Drayton, 5 miles from Loggerheads, with only 1 bus per hour between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

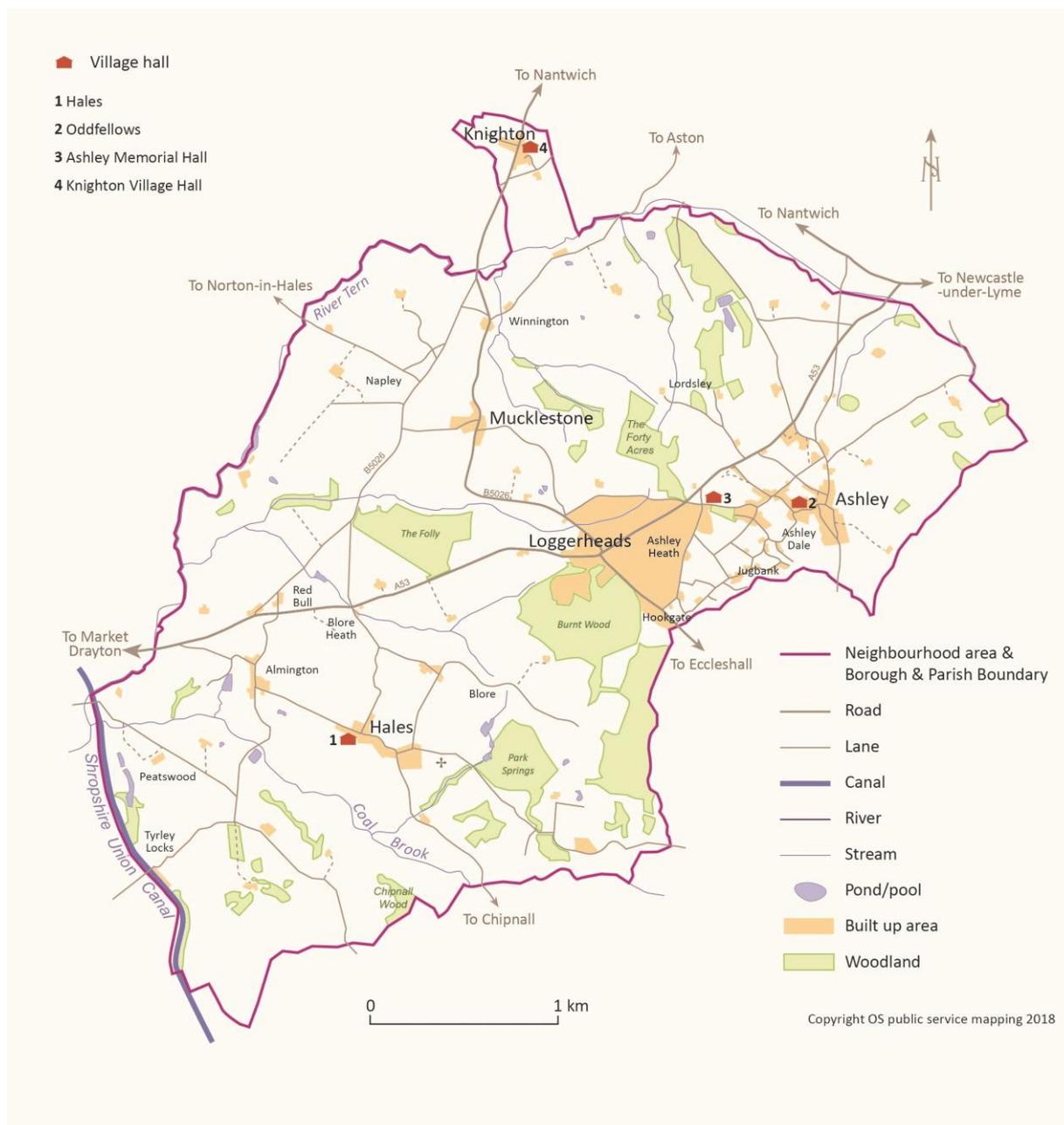
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council has a Playing Pitch Strategy, (Newcastle under Lyme Playing Pitch Strategy 2015). The NULBC Playing Pitch Strategy notes for the rural area that there is “No demand for additional football pitches” and a “growing demand for the use of central venues in the area for mini and youth football”. There is “high demand area for cricket in the Area resulting in a shortfall of six pitches, predominately due to overplay and latent demand to be met by new wickets (not pitches) on existing club sites and opening up school sites.” The cricket pitch at Hales is not included in the list of available pitches. The football pitch at the Burntwood in Loggerheads village is assessed in the strategy as “standard quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. Pitch is minimum size and is not serviced by changing rooms”. The recommended action in the strategy is: “Spare capacity should be retained to help protect/improve quality. Support the Club in its aspirations to develop the site and ensure long term security is agreed and put into place”.

The pitch actually measures 93 yards by 60 yards. The FA dictates that a pitch must be between 100 and 120 yards long, for this reason the local team has to play home matches at Eccleshall Football Club. In addition, parents are reticent to allow children to play on the pitch as it is remote, in local woods. Staffordshire Police responded to the draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation to say that “Facilities located in poorly overlooked, enclosed or out of the way places are ill-advised. As demonstrated, there can be a reluctance to allow children to use them resulting in under-use. In some circumstances they can attract anti-social behaviour and other unwanted attention that can have implications for child safety.”

Looking to the future and anticipating population growth land needs to be set aside that is fit for the Government’s new “Sporting Future” strategy, along with open space and sports facilities.

There are four “village halls” in the parish, in Ashley, Knighton and Hales, shown on Map 15. There is no dedicated facility in Loggerheads village where over 60% of the population lives. Local groups such as Scouts and Brownies use the school hall at the Hugo Meynell School in Loggerheads. The Community Fire Station in Loggerheads, opened in April 2015, is also available for use for meetings and events such as coffee mornings, with a capacity of 40 people.

Map 15: Location of Village Halls



In 2016 Loggerheads Parish Council commissioned Urban Vision to conduct a Feasibility Study into the viability of creating a Community Hall and sports facility. As part of this study a Sporting

Needs assessment was carried out using Fields in Trust Benchmark guidelines. The study considered the needs of the whole Parish; the results of this assessment follow:

**Need and Demand**

In order to determine the level of need for the proposed facility, the settlement of Loggerheads has been assessed against Fields in Trust benchmarking guidelines, as shown in table 14 below:

**Table 14: Fields in Trust recommended benchmark guidelines for formal outdoor space**

**Table 1: Fields in Trust recommended benchmark guidelines – formal outdoor space**

Open space typology	QUANTITY GUIDELINE (hectares per 1,000 population)	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE
Playing pitches	1.20	1,200m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.</li> <li>* Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.</li> <li>* Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.</li> <li>* Appropriately landscaped.</li> <li>* Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.</li> <li>* Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.</li> <li>* Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.</li> <li>* Provision of footpaths.</li> <li>* Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.</li> <li>* Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>* Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the <a href="#">Children's Play Council's Quality Assessment Tool</a>.</li> </ul>
All outdoor sports	1.60	1,200m	
Equipped/designated play areas	0.25 See table 4 for recommended minimum sizes	LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m	
Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks)	0.30	700m	

*From "Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard" (Fields in Trust)*

The guidelines have been applied to the projected population of Loggerheads Parish by 2033 (the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period). This has been calculated as **5,512**, as shown in Table 15.

**Table 15: Projected Population for Loggerheads at 2033**

Item	No.
Current Population (as per 2011 Census)	4,480
Extant Residential Planning Permissions	182
Tadgedale Quarry Appeal	128
Proposed Site Allocations	120
Total New Homes Pipeline=	430
Increase in population (430 x 2.4* = 1,032) *Average UK household size	1,032
Loggerheads population at 2033	<b>5,512</b>

This figure could increase depending on the final development option for the residential element of the Market Drayton Road site.

Using the projected 2033 population, and applying the Fields in Trust benchmarking guidelines in terms of quantity, the calculation in Table 16 provides the quantity benchmark for the Loggerheads settlement moving forward.

**Table 16: Required Quantity of sports and play acreage for Loggerheads for 2033**

Typology	Required Quantity Guideline
Playing Pitches	6.61ha (16.33 acres)
All Outdoor Sports	8.82ha (21.79 acres)
Equipped/Designated Play Areas	1.38ha (3.41 acres)
Other Outdoor Provision	1.65ha (4.08 acres)

The feasibility study concentrated on the provision of sports facilities with a community facility that includes medical health care on land at Market Drayton Road. The study highlights the very significant shortcomings in sporting provision within the Parish. The site at Market Drayton Road is owned by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council and subject to a planning application for housing leaving insufficient capacity for the sports facilities required. The site being considered has been extended to include the adjacent field to secure the acreage needed for a community facility and sports provision. Funding opportunities are being considered.

From the residents’ survey it was strongly felt that if further housing development were to take place it must be conditional upon other improvements. Most important were thought to be the local infrastructure and roads (70%), followed by health facilities (65%) and bus services (60%) and 55% wanted the inclusion of community facilities.

The following three policies are designed to enable new community and sports facilities and to protect existing sports pitches.

Policy LNPS2 allocates sites on the edge of Loggerheads village for community and sports purposes (Sites LV1 and LV2 – see Maps 16 & 17). The choice of these sites is based on various factors:

- Loggerheads village is expected to accommodate housing development that will increase the number of houses in the settlement by roughly a third (from around 1,200 to 1,600 houses). This necessitates the provision of additional community facilities.
- Loggerheads village is the main settlement in the parish and the most sustainable location for significant new community facilities.
- Feasibility and needs assessment has also indicated that new sports facilities are needed and would be viable.
- The sites are outside of the Loggerheads village settlement boundary, but immediately adjacent to it.
- The sites would allow pedestrian access to all parts of Loggerheads village.
- Site LV1 is immediately adjacent to the planned built area, and close to the Community Fire Station, so is a logical and sustainable location for a new community health and sports complex.
- Site LV2 is adjacent to LV1 and will form the transition between the built area and the surrounding countryside, so is suitable for sports pitches.
- Site LV1 may not have the capacity to deliver the full scope of the project, but is the nearest to meeting locational and capacity requirements.
- The sites are close to an existing, unsatisfactory football pitch (Burntwood has poor access and safety issues). The allocation of site LV2 is intended to provide the village with a better facility.
- Allocating two adjacent sites provides the opportunity for the two to be linked, operationally, if required.
- Site LV1 is on the boundary of a permitted application for housing with appropriate transport and environment assessments which would apply to this site.
- There is no other site available of this size in the village.

It is acknowledged that this site will have impacts on landscape character, visual impacts, environmental, traffic and access residential amenity light pollution and is in proximity to wooded areas. These would all be considered in detail when the project progresses.

### 6.5.3 Policies

**LNPS1: Community Infrastructure**

**To be supported new development in excess of 10 dwellings must demonstrate that existing community infrastructure (meeting and activity space, medical facilities, open space, highway infrastructure including footways) is adequate to accommodate the new development, or subject to viability considerations provide or support new community infrastructure where necessary.**

**Interpretation**

This policy refers to community infrastructure such as meeting and activity space, medical facilities and access to open space, and highways infrastructure, including footways. The policy seeks to ensure that new development does not exacerbate existing infrastructure problems.

There may be opportunities for financial contributions made under Section 106 to be used to support new community infrastructure. In future, if Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council puts in place a Community Infrastructure Levy, there may be opportunities for some local infrastructure requirements to be funded by this.

The priorities for community infrastructure would be:

A new Community and sports facility for Loggerheads Village to support sports and community activities, medical requirements and physical activity.

Transport infrastructure requirements are dealt with by policy LNPT1.

**LNPS2: Site Allocation for Multi-Sport and Community Facility and Sports****Pitch**

**Sites LV1 and LV2 fronting Market Drayton Road in Loggerheads Village (See Maps 16 & 17) are allocated for community sports and recreational uses, subject to the following:**

- **Site LV1 is allocated for built development for a mixed use community and sports facility, which may include uses falling within planning Use Classes D1 and D2, together with ancillary uses, including a cafe.**
- **Site LV2 is allocated for sports pitches, where the open character of the site is maintained. Limited built development may be considered for approval immediately adjacent to Site LV1, where it is directly related to the primary use as sports pitches and where it would not compromise the open character of the site.**

**The sites will be protected for community and sports purposes.**

**The impact on residential and visual amenity, highway safety and on features of the natural environment adjacent to the sites, are acceptable.**

**The sites will incorporate sustainable / natural drainage systems.**

**Interpretation**

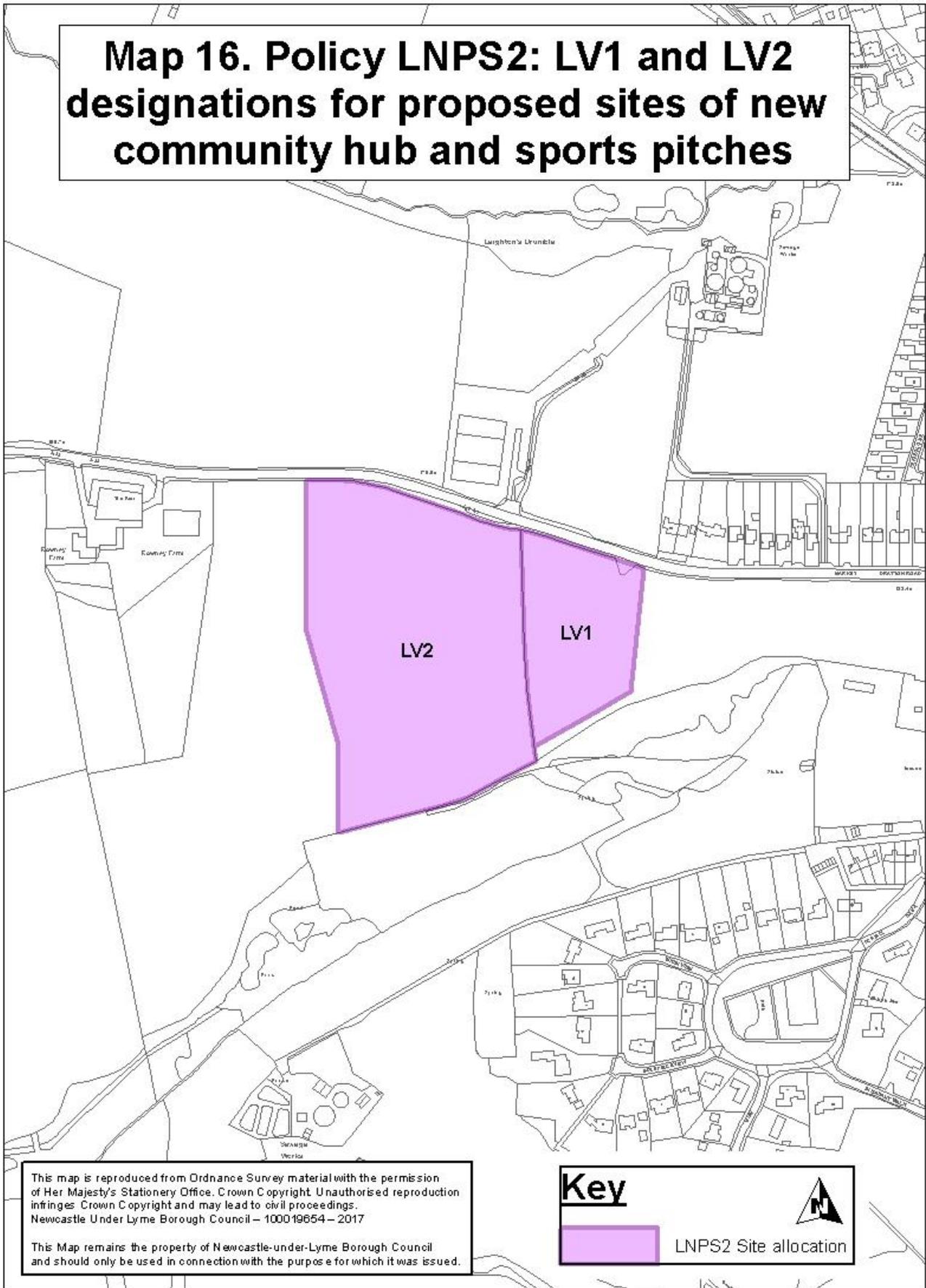
This policy enables the development of two adjacent sites fronting Market Drayton Road. Sites LV1 and LV2 are required for community and sports facilities and are reserved for these uses. The sites are outside of the settlement boundary. The settlement boundary marks the extent of housing development. Housing must not encroach onto these allocated sites.

The development of the sites should create a suitable transition between the built area of Loggerheads and the surrounding rural area. This should inform the design of development, which is subject to the design policies elsewhere in this plan.

Site LV1 could accommodate a multi-sport, health and community building. Suitable uses for Site LV1 include indoor sports, performance, health and recreational uses, as part of a sustainable and viable local facility. Flexible, multi-purpose space would be particularly welcomed.

The site allocation for Site LV2 is intended to provide sports pitches. The policy would allow a small building, such as storage and changing facilities, adjacent to Site LV1. This could be a separate building or a slight encroachment of a building on Site LV1 (which could incorporate facilities to support the sports pitch). However, it is essential that the primarily open character of Site LV2 be maintained, to prevent urban sprawl into the countryside.

# Map 16. Policy LNPS2: LV1 and LV2 designations for proposed sites of new community hub and sports pitches



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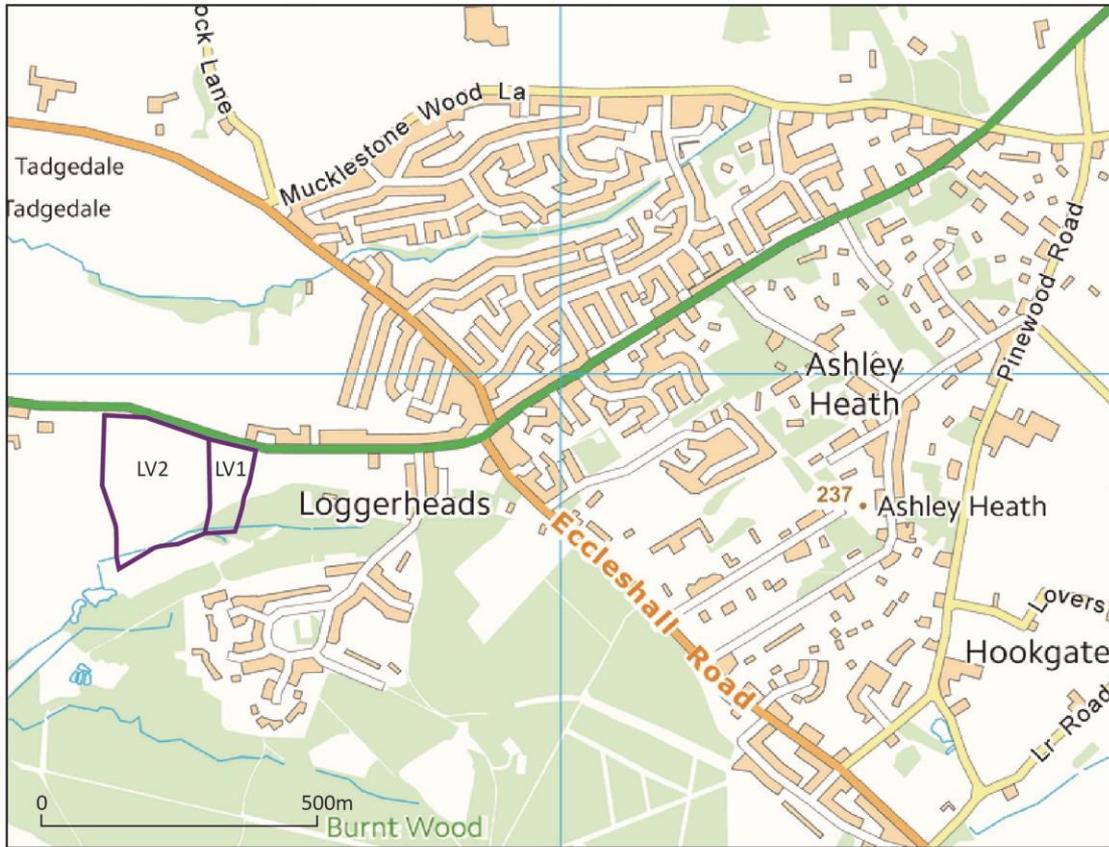
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**Key**

  
 LNPS2 Site allocation

Map 17: Location of LV1 & LV2 in relation to village of Loggerheads

 Proposed site



**LNPS3: Sports Pitches**

**Planning permission for development on existing open space and sports pitches will be supported only where it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer required to meet local need or where an equivalent similar or better facility is provided in a sustainable location elsewhere in the Loggerheads area or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.**

**Existing pitches subject to this policy are:**

- **The football field at the Burntwood**
- **The cricket pitch at Hales**

**Interpretation:**

The policy seeks to prevent the loss of existing sports pitches, where there is a continuing local need. However, it allows flexibility to move such facilities to other sustainable locations.

Inclusion of any sports pitch, or any other sports or community facilities, on the register of community assets will be a material consideration, as set out in the NPPG.

## 6.6 Economy

### 6.6.1 Purpose

**To create a balanced mix of uses, including employment opportunities, to create more sustainable live/work patterns.**

### 6.6.2 Rationale and Evidence

New employment is required to create a balanced mix of uses locally, including work opportunities. For rural settlements to remain viable and sustainable, it is essential that local employment be allowed to grow. The intention is to encourage and enable more sustainable live/work patterns.

The most recently available census shows that in 2011, 66.7% of Loggerheads residents were economically active compared to 69.9% in England. 52% of Loggerheads economically active residents were working in the sectors shown in Table 8 above, many outside the Parish. Only 4% work in agriculture.

Most local employment is to be found in the village centre shops and services; community services such as schools and the doctors' surgery as well as those working from home.

21% travel less than 10km to work compared to the Newcastle under Lyme average of 60%. Over double the Newcastle average travel up to 30km to work.

Following national trends we have experienced a growth in self-employment and home businesses. Double the number of people work from home (14%) compared to the national average (8.7%).

Fast broadband is necessary to enable business and home working. Fast broadband is also important to quality of life and inclusivity. The introduction of Superfast Broadband in 2016 to parts of the area is helping some of these businesses and will hopefully give an opportunity for new enterprises to develop and grow. Broadband and mobile phone coverage is poor in some parts, which could impact on the above average number of businesses run from residents' homes.

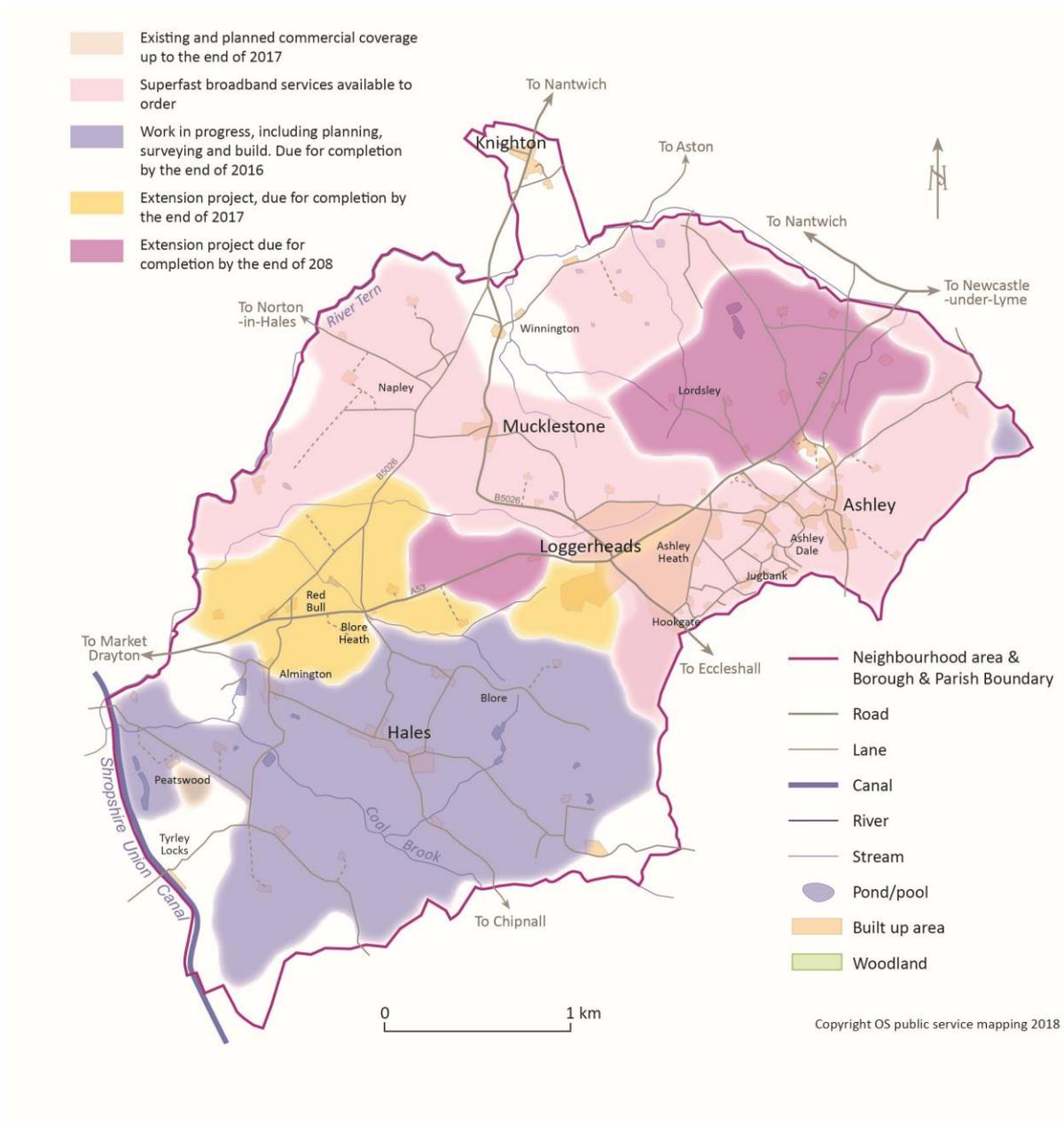
Broadband speed was usually in the range of 4-15 megabits per second (the higher the speed the better). There is a commitment to extend Superfast Broadband to more areas by 2018 but an acceptance that some parts of the rural area are not subject to any plan at this time to provide access. (See map 18).

Access to Superfast Broadband had the highest level of criticism for service provision in the area, 66% regarding it as inadequate; that it was slow or occasionally “dropped out” or that there simply was no Superfast Broadband. Criticism was least in Ashley (50% inadequate), which perhaps suggests that the on-going works are having some impact. Those residents who also run businesses (69 people) were a sub group more critical than the average, 78% regarding the service as inadequate.

The final question in the business survey asked whether there was anything that could be provided within the Parish which would help their business to develop over the next ten years. The response was given predominantly by those whose business is currently based within the Parish, either at home or in premises. The overwhelming requirements were for better Broadband speeds (88%) and improved mobile signals (88%).

Whilst a high proportion of residents have to commute to work outside Loggerheads it is clear from the residents", business and young people questionnaires that residents would like their area to develop and grow in a sustainable way. This includes supporting the development of employment opportunities to ensure that the area continues to thrive with the retention and enhancement of existing retail provision in Loggerheads village and rural diversification such as farm shops and re-use of redundant buildings.

Map 18: Current and planned broadband coverage



### 6.6.3 Policies

#### **LNPE1: Employment**

**New development or change of use to create enterprise and employment space (Use Class B1) will be supported, providing it has no significant adverse impact on residential amenity or on the local environment and open character of the rural environment.**

**Suitable locations for B1 employment development are:**

- **within existing employment sites**
- **in the Mucklestone Nurseries & Business Centre**
- **agricultural buildings, to support diversification**
- **on existing brownfield sites**
- **within the Loggerheads village envelope**

**Within Loggerheads village envelope development comprising new or expanded B2 and B8 uses will be supported on existing industrial or brownfield sites, where there would be no adverse impact on residential or visual amenity and the open character of the rural environment.**

#### **Interpretation:**

This is an enabling policy, for B1 development to support economic development, create local job opportunities and to encourage more sustainable live/work patterns. B2 and B8 development is enabled in certain locations, away from residential areas. Such applications will require careful consideration in terms of amenity, traffic and environmental impact.

Consideration of impacts would include noise, disturbance, traffic movement, visual impacts, dust, vibrations and other impacts.

**LNPE2: Retail**

**New retail development will be supported within or immediately adjacent to the existing retail area. Development proposals involving existing retail sites will be supported where the retail use is retained as the primary use of the site.**

**Interpretation:**

The existing retail area is in Loggerheads Village: Hairdressers, Chinese Restaurant, Takeaway, Coop, Vets, Gents Barbers, Post Office/Pharmacy, Butchers, Dance Studio, Library, Public House, and Car Sales.

**LNPE3: Broadband**

**To be supported, residential and commercial development proposals must, unless it can be demonstrated to be not viable, establish that on-site provision for high speed broadband connection will be made prior to occupation of any building.**

**Interpretation:**

This policy applies to all kinds of development, including commercial, industrial and residential. Planning permissions should be conditioned to ensure compliance with the requirements of this policy, before the occupation of new development.

The intention is to ensure that development is ready for faster services, when available.

## Section 7: Non-Neighbourhood Plan Issues

This section is not part of the statutory Neighbourhood Plan and not therefore subject to independent examination and referendum. This section deals with issues raised that are not matters for planning policy to address but covers those issues that residents have said are important to them. These include the following initiatives, which the Parish Council will take the lead on:

### **7.1 Place and Heritage: To develop a case for a Conservation Area on Ashley Heath**

**Rationale:** The protection of the area known as Ashley Heath is important to residents and Conservation Area status will provide extra protection of the area's special architectural or historic interest.

**Evidence:** The residents of Ashley Heath supplied information about the land use and history of this area as part of the evidence gathering for the Neighbourhood Plan, which highlighted that this area has special architectural or historic interest.

**Timescale & Resources:** Collection of information to prepare the case was commenced in 2016 by the Parish Council. Any work on the formal process of designation will require the assistance of the Conservation Officer at the Borough Council and continue through 2018. The designation can only be done by the Borough Council, not the Parish Council, though the Parish Council can help with preparation.

### **7.2 Place and Heritage: Encourage opportunities for improving the appearance of the centre of Loggerheads village, including the car wash area, car sales area and bus shelters.**

**Rationale:** The centre of Loggerheads village looks untidy and run down and this affects the way residents feel about their local area.

**Evidence:** Feedback was received during pre-submission consultation that the Plan did not address the major eye sore that was the car wash and the damaged bus shelters. From the Residents Survey results, receiving the most single mentions when asked about the “worst thing about living in the area” is the appearance of the centre of the village around the mini roundabouts, particularly the car wash and the semi-derelict building behind it. From the young people’s survey results, 16% of young people did not want the car wash.

**Timescale & Resources:** Working group of Parish Council to work with Borough and County Councillor’s in 2018 to consider options for improvements.

### **7.3 Transport and Movement: Speak to the education and highways authorities on problems with school parking at Hugo Meynell School**

**Rationale:** Inconsiderate parking near the school has been raised by residents of adjacent estates and by customers at the Co-op as a safety issue for children.

**Evidence:** From the Residents survey one in three people indicated problems concerning parking and there were two main areas: inconsiderate and dangerous parking around the school which affected both the main road and Hugo Way and parking on pavements causing obstructions with Chestnut Road mentioned a number of times. A few people also referred to parking at the Co-op being inadequate at times but this was of much less concern than the school parking issues.

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions will be held in 2018.

### **7.4 Transport and Movement: Discuss the potential for traffic calming with the Highways Authority**

**Rationale:** Issues of concern from residents relating to the road network were primarily speeding, and the layout of some roads and junctions.

**Evidence:** From the Residents survey the topic of greatest concern (70%) was speeding on the roads within the Parish. It was mentioned relatively more often by the women in the sample and those over 60. Additional comments highlighted the A53 in particular, especially through the

village itself, and there were some specific mentions of the motorbikes, which frequently pass through the village. There were also a few mentions of speeding in particular areas of the Parish, Hookgate coming up most frequently. Another issue, which was mentioned by almost half the sample, was the layout of roads and junctions. Much of the additional comment was about the mini roundabouts in the centre of Loggerheads so it is no surprise that as many as 61% of those living in Loggerheads expressed concern. There are perceived to be problems of poor visibility when approaching from certain routes, Mucklestone Road in particular. However, the basis of most comment was the danger caused by those on the main road, especially lorries, failing to stop at the roundabouts. There were several stories of “near misses” and people described this as “an accident waiting to happen”. Another junction which attracted quite a lot of comment was that for Mucklestone Wood Lane/A53 and Gravelly Hill where visibility is particularly difficult.

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions will commence with Highways in 2018.

## **7.5 Transport and Movement: Speak to bus service providers about improving services**

**Rationale:** Issues relating to inadequate bus service and a need to improve the balance of transport options.

**Evidence:** Also receiving significant criticism from residents were the local bus services, which 45% felt were inadequate. A number of issues were raised; the service was too infrequent, did not run on Sundays and in the evenings and did not run early enough to be suitable for work travel. This was all felt to limit opportunities for employment, leisure and social activities. Most of these comments related to the Newcastle route but some people also commented on the lack of options to travel to other destinations such as Stafford or Shrewsbury. For those residents in Mucklestone and Tyrley there was often reference to there being no service at all.

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions will commence in 2018.

## **7.6 Transport and Movement: Examine the potential for car sharing arrangements**

**Rationale:** This would help to reduce the number of single occupancy journeys to centres of employment.

**Evidence:** Congestion at key junctions could be reduced and this could assist with the poor public transport provision.

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions will commence with Highways in 2018.

## **7.7 Transport and Movement: Progress the project for community transport provision**

**Rationale:** Some areas have access to a mini-bus that helps to reduce the impact of poor public transport. Loggerheads parish does not currently have such provision.

**Evidence:** The Parish Council set up a Community Transport Working Group in February 2016 to review the need for such provision and consider the options for providing community transport in the parish. In 2016 the Group gathered evidence to look at demand.

**Timescale & Resources:** Parish Council agreed to lease a minibus for community use and took delivery in September 2017.

## **7.8 Sport, Health & Community Facilities: Contact health providers to encourage expansion of services in the area**

**Rationale:** This would help to offer resident's improved health services in the local area.

**Evidence:** Another key area of concern for residents was local health services; some 58% described services such as chiropody, physiotherapy and blood test arrangements as inadequate. The main problem is that residents need to travel outside the area for these services, sometimes

quite a distance. This was both time consuming and also potentially difficult for older people and/or those without their own transport. There was some awareness that Ashley surgery was now doing blood tests but the overall impression was one of inconvenience in relation to these services. The older age groups were more critical than those under 45 (60% of those 45 – 60 and 59% of those over 60 compared with 52% of the under 45's). Also those in Tyrley were less likely to regard these services as inadequate, possibly because they obtained more in Market Drayton than in Loggerheads. In addition, there seems a good deal of frustration with local GP services at Ashley Surgery; one in three people regard these as inadequate. Quality does not seem to be in question; the issue is one of capacity. Comments were made about how difficult it was to get an appointment in a reasonable time, how the lists were now closed and people had to go to doctors in Market Drayton, which some suggested were now also becoming stretched, and how physical access and travel to Ashley surgery could be difficult. These factors lead some people to suggest that what was needed was a health centre situated in Loggerheads itself, nearer to the main base of population.

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions to continue with Health in 2018.

## **7.9 Sport, Health & Community Facilities: Develop projects to improve sports, recreation and community facilities**

**Rationale:** Sports facilities in Loggerheads Village do not meet the Fields in Trust standard. There are no dedicated community facilities in Loggerheads Village. Any improvements would give residents opportunities within walking distance of their homes.

**Evidence:** A feasibility study for improving sports and community facilities in Loggerheads Village has been written. Work on accessing grants is underway.

**Timescale & Resources:** Work on accessing grants to continue in 2018.

### **7.10 Economy: Lobby providers to install faster broadband throughout the area**

**Rationale:** Access to Superfast Broadband had the highest level of criticism for service provision in the area, 66% regarding it as inadequate.

**Evidence:** There was a great deal of comment but all on the same theme, that it was slow or occasionally “dropped out” or that there simply was no Superfast Broadband. Criticism was least in Ashley (50% inadequate), which perhaps suggests that the on-going works are having some impact.

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions will continue with providers in 2018.

### **7.11 Economy: Lobby providers to encourage improved mobile coverage**

**Rationale:** The final question in the business survey asked whether there was anything that could be provided within the Parish which would help their business to develop over the next ten years.

**Evidence:** Response was given predominantly by those whose business is currently based within the Parish, either at home or in premises. The overwhelming requirements were for better Broadband speeds (88%) and improved mobile signals (88%).

**Timescale & Resources:** Discussions will continue with providers in 2018.